

Mission appeals for Hunger Helpers support

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By: Diana Kuyper

Volunteers from **Open Arms Mission** Food Pantry will collect donations Friday and Saturday at the Antioch Jewel-Osco as part of Hunger Helpers 2008.

Proceeds will help the food pantry purchase the low-cost food items that are distributed to Antioch, Lake Villa and Lindenhurst-area residents.

The food pantry at 1548 S. Main St. provides nutritious food and fresh milk every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to needy families, but with the rising cost of milk and food, the food pantry needs donations.

"We are providing 250 families with food and milk every week, and we deliver 45 food boxes to the elderly and homebound," said the Rev. Scott Keenan, director of the mission.

The pantry's budget is 30 percent higher than it was last year, due to a steady increase in families visiting the food pantry and the rising cost of food and milk. Its monthly cost of milk alone is \$1,900.

While donations of nonperishable food items are always welcome, cash donations go further because the pantry can buy food in bulk.

"Every \$1 donated buys nine pounds of food," Keenan said. "The donations we collect as part of this fund-raiser will allow us to pay for food items for our local families."

Tax-deductible donations may also be sent to **Open Arms Mission**, P.O. Box 79, Antioch, IL 60002. For more information, call (847) 395-0309.