

Open Arms seeks donations for holiday food boxes

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NEWS-SUN STAFF REPORT

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ANTIOCH -- Open Arms Mission Food Pantry is seeking donations to purchase 800 food boxes to distribute to low-income families for the holiday season.

"Last year we doubled the number of Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes that we provided to the neediest families in Antioch and Lake Villa Townships," said Food Pantry Director Rev. Scott Keenan. "We have never before seen such a spike in needy families than in the past three months, and we anticipate that to continue through the holidays."

The holiday meal boxes will provide enough food to feed a family of eight. A donation of \$25 provides a traditional holiday dinner, including a 12- to 14-pound turkey, potatoes, vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, dessert and coffee. Each box also provides additional nutritious foods.

This year donations can be made on-line on the mission's Web site, www.openarmsmission.org, or by sending a donation to Open Arms Mission, P.O. Box 79, Antioch, IL 60002.

"We distribute food to about 300 families weekly at the food pantry. We know the number of families we serve increases during the holidays, so we are really counting on donations from our friends in our local communities to help us," said Keenan.

The pantry provides food boxes weekly to many senior citizens and families with children who are facing financial difficulties.

"Food is a flexible expense for folks who are having difficulty paying for shelter and utilities. We help them to survive by providing nutritious foods for their families," said Keenan.

For more information, call Open Arms Mission at (847) 395-0309.