

Open Arms sees increase in needy families

By the LAKE COUNTY JOURNALS

ANTIOCH – Open Arms Mission Food Pantry needs donations. The not-for-profit organization is running out of food as volunteers help more Antioch, Lake Villa and Lindenhurst families in need.

“We are seeing more working families every week coming in for help,” said OAM Executive Director Rev. Scott Keenan. “All the bad economic news we hear about every day is hitting us in our own neighborhoods.”

“I know everyone is hurting financially right now, so I would not ask if the need were not critical,” said Keenan. “Hunger in our community is real, and it touches everyone from little kids to our senior citizens.”

The food pantry, open three days every week and staffed by volunteers, is serving about 250 families every week, with an average of 20 new families coming into the pantry for the first time. “We are seeing many people who are facing lay offs and seeking assistance for the first time in their lives, and we are seeing more homeowners who need assistance.”

Cash donations are down drastically at a time of the year when donations are historically low. “Donations are down but the need is increasing. For the first time in several years we haven’t been able to provide milk and other basic foods. By the end of the week we run out of those items.”

While donations of non-perishable food items are welcome, a \$1 donation can buy 10 pounds of food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank and other low-cost sources.

Tax deductible donations may be made to Open Arms Mission, PO Box 79, Antioch IL 60002.

For more information call OAM 847-395-0309