

Giving Back Food Pantry receives two grants

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SOUTHINGTON – Giving Back Food Pantry, based out of The Tabernacle, has received two grants to assist its efforts to address food insecurity in the community.

Giving Back Food Pantry, which operates out of The Tabernacle at 1445 West St., recently received a \$5,000 grant from Farmington Bank and a \$4,000 grant from the Main Street Community Foundation in support of its efforts.



The Giving Back Food Pantry at The Tabernacle -FILE PHOTO

Sally Farrell, who co-directs Giving Back Food Pantry with her husband Bob Farrell, said that the pantry was founded in 2007 and was inspired by the Los Angeles Dream Center.

“We found that while Southington is not exactly a poor community, food insecurity is definitely an issue that some face,” she said. “Right now the need is greater than ever. This year, we’ve given out 174 tons of food, which is more than ever before. More people have been coming to us and saying that they can’t make it on the budget with food and gas becoming more expensive.”

Farrell said that Giving Back Food Pantry is open every other Thursday and every other Saturday of the month. While they used to have a community room where people could come in and get food, this was closed due to the pandemic. People are now able to drive-up and receive their food.

“On Tuesday, people can drop-in and receive fresh food brought in by the Foodshare truck,” said Farrell. “To receive assistance on Saturday, you are required to provide information for the state. This can be done in person.”

On Fridays, approximately 40 volunteers assist with sorting the food that is brought in. This food is then bagged up to give out to clients.

“We usually give out 8 to 9 bags of food, which are about \$100 worth of food each,” said Farrell. “The volunteer support that we have been getting from the community has been tremendous. While we are based in a church, we don’t only get church members.”

While Farrell said that 95% of what Giving Back Food Pantry provides is food assistance, they have also recently begun to provide clients with paper goods and toiletries as well.

Giving Back Food Pantry coordinates their efforts with other organizations in town, including Southington Bread for Life and Southington Community Services.

For more information, call 860-276-0400 or visit tabernacleonline.com.

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