

# Article 10

## Calvary Food Pantry director thanks Auburn for its generosity

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This article is different from the others that I have written. When I have tried to form a dialogue with the citizens of Auburn, telling them how my food pantry works, I have emphasized Auburn's strengths and how the citizens have helped me, without recognition, every day.

But I had never been on the receiving end of the generosity of the Auburn citizens. Then, I faced an almost unbearable time, in October of this past year, when my beloved husband called for help from Toledo, Ohio.

He had been a long-haul truck driver for more than 30 years. He knew, near Toledo, that he was getting ill and was trying to get home to the people he cared about most in the world. He had to be rescued by the police and placed in the nearest hospital, Toledo Hospital. I immediately drove there from Auburn and found him well-cared-for, with really superlative care. He knew me at the beginning, but I will tell you now, they were tough — those countless hours on the road to be with him, (eight hours each way).

I know the pantry can manage without me for a while, but checks have to be written, deadlines to be reached on time, so I made this endless trip six times in a month. I lost track. My children made this time bearable by making my journey theirs. My husband died after five weeks, even with the exceptional care. When the funeral was over, I was bereft. I had my pantry to occupy me, but I was still reeling from the death of a man I had been married to for 48 years. Then I got the first of his hospital bills. We, as a family, were not prepared for those bills! But the people of Auburn rallied for me.

Those individuals I cherish most stepped up and gave me a benefit, on Jan. 19, at the Sicz Club. Have any of you been on the receiving end of a benefit? Let me tell you that it is herculean task and approximately 20 people spent a month working on it nonstop to get it all ready. Let me acknowledge a few: my family, Art Wenzel, Kristie Rath and her family, Marty Nortman, Ron Nortman, Pastor Dave Borthwick, Marge Rockwell, Sabrina Hesford and Jim, Cassie Catto, Martha Klymer, the Rev. Eileen Winters, Sam Franchina, Ethel Shaw, Joanne Oliver, Douglas Sheffield, Kayla Ward, David Ward, Amanda Wilczek, Stephen Wilczek, Jane Stebbins, Rick Martinez, Kathy Martinez, Anne Kukella, Nona Moore, Mary Lo Tuccillo, Thelma Onan, Janice Conaughty, Theresa Smithler, Carol Wilson, George Wilson and all of you who helped make this day a success with food, baked goods, a silent auction and just hard, hard work, especially the Sicz Club, whose members did not charge for this event. In all of the confusion of creating this article, I missed naming many of you. I will make it up next month.

Everyone I know showed up to comfort me, even clients of the pantry who gave \$10 they could ill-afford. I was very happy to see everyone and their smiling faces. As yet, I don't know how

much total money was raised, but the organizers were very satisfied at the day's outcome and they say that they met their estimated challenge.

In gratitude and humility I can only thank you in an open forum such as this article. My service cannot compare to the assistance you have all given me and my family. Auburn is an amazing historical town (we know that). But it is also a giving town to those in need. I can't thank you enough for your generosity and kindness when I needed it most.

**NEWS FROM THE PANTRY:** We are seeking new Calvary Food Pantry board members to strengthen our board for new terms, beginning July 1. I am looking for people who are committed to the success of the food pantry, able to attend monthly board meeting, usually on a Thursday, and able to participate in at least one area of the pantry programs. Contact Kristi Rath at [2kristie15@hotmail.com](mailto:2kristie15@hotmail.com) for more information or acknowledge your willingness to be nominated.

With respect and gratitude to you all, Nancy.