

## Article 9.

# The long list of people who make Calvary Food Pantry's mission possible

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A volunteer found 50 unique angel ornaments and thought the crafting charming. She gave them to me as a gift. I thought these unique ornaments should be given to individuals and businesses who donated food, time, clothing, personal items and money during this Christmas season. I put up an angel Christmas tree where I was able to give ornaments to individuals and businesses that helped me. Now it seems wise to keep my angel tree up all year long. It is so beautiful and reminds me of all the kindness showered on my pantry.

Now I want to give angel ornaments to those who help me during the whole year long. If you read your name, I invite you to come in and take a “thank you” ornament from my tree. This “angel tree” reflects the year-long progress my pantry makes towards each Christmas season.

Please remember, it will always be a challenge to feed my families each week. In past articles, I have told you of my work, with the help of many partners: First and foremost, there is the CNY Food Bank, then Audrey and Ken Mochel and the Calvary Food Pantry garden's efforts for fresh vegetables each summer, and my Retired Senior Volunteer Program helpers. Additionally, these Auburn churches give so much to me, each month: Auburn United Methodist, St. Luke’s United Church of Christ, Westminster Presbyterian and Eileen Winter’s Thanksgiving day commitments at First Presbyterian Church. Finally, there is David Wilcox, who makes it possible to inform the community of my mission.

But I would be remiss without telling the community of the extraordinary efforts by individuals and business to help hungry people. Here is my yearly list of thanks, starting with Rick Martinez and his extraordinary ship at Halloween; the farmers who help me with food and in the gardens; Bob Horsford, who gives us seeds and volunteers in the gardens; Bradtke Farms, Burtless Farms, Bibbens Farm, Hewitt’s Owasco Valley Farms, Owen Orchards, Gary Pepe Peaches and Sharon and Ben Vitale; and, finally, Panera Bread’s weekly donation of bread and baked goods.

Then there are the 230 turkey meals given out at Thanksgiving. Here's who donated, and what they gave: Welch Allyn, money; Bass Pro Shops: 30 turkeys; Tessy Plastics: 10 turkeys; Auburn Armaturer: three turkeys; 40 turkeys from the community; and, of course, the indomitable Sue Anne Cunliffe and her help with First Presbyterian’s Turkey Trot.

Alphabetically, I have a list of individuals and businesses that support me through out the year. Of them, 192 individuals and four local foundations wish to remain anonymous.

- The Honorable Gary Finch’s office
- Aldi
- The Allyn Foundation

- AmeriCu Credit Union.
- Auburn band boosters
- Auburn Correctional Facility
- Auburn Firehouse
- Auburn leadership
- Auburn Public Theater
- The Boyle Center
- The Boy Scouts' November can drive
- CCC criminal justice students
- Calvary Food Pantry board of directors
- Calvary Food Pantry gardens volunteers: Auburn United Methodist Church Work Group, Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES board of directors and personnel such as Bill Speck, Julia Smith and Steve Woodard, plus Woodmen of the World and Welch Allyn volunteer day's work of eight beds
- Casey Park Elementary School
- Cayuga County legal secretaries
- Chapel House
- Church Women United
- Churches who donate through out the year: Auburn Alliance Church, Fleming Federated Church, Half Acre Union Church, Sacred Heart, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Hyacinth, The Episcopal Church of SS. Peter & John, St. Nicholas, St. Mary's, Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church and the Unitarian Universalist Society
- Doug's Market
- Community Computers
- The Christmas Elf Program
- Family Transitional Services
- Finger Lakes Radio Group
- First Love Ministries
- First Niagara Bank
- King Ferry Food Pantry
- Kinney Drugs on State Street and Owasco Street
- Lions Club
- The Liberty Store
- Herman Avenue Elementary School
- Lowe's, Grant Avenue, for its manager/employee coat drive
- Meyer Bookbinding,
- Moravia Correctional Facility
- Finger Lakes Mud Run
- Nucor Steel
- NYSEG
- Auburn Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine
- Prison City Ramblers
- Rose Bakery
- The Rescue Mission
- Seneca Foods
- The Finger Lakes SPCA of CNY
- Dr. Simmons, DDS
- St. Joseph School children's drive
- St. Joseph School Honor Society

- Sun Auto,
- Tinker's,
- Tops Friendly Markets
- TOPS 625 weight loss
- Tompkins Trust
- TomatoFest
- Union Springs School District
- U.S. Post Office May can drive
- Unity House
- Walmart
- Wegmans
- Welch Allyn Foundation

My families are still hungry, but I am comforted with the assistance from the community list above. In this historical town, volunteering is an act of fellowship and faith. I am glad of my part. My pantry perseveres. The angel tree is now called my "Faith, Hope and Charity Tree." As I hope to alleviate my families anguish and despair. I look forward to thanking you in person.

Thank you.

Remember: Volunteer, donate or reciprocate, in kind, by giving back.