

### The Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry Through the Years

2010

### The Beginning

January: Kiwanis learns about the Boonton Food Pantry closure, impacting Montville residents. Linda Gannon and Joe O'Dowd volunteered to explore Kiwanis establishing a food pantry.

February: A location is secured, and volunteers, including the Braden brothers, transform the clothing closet into the new pantry space.

April 25, 2010: The Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry is officially dedicated at the Montville United Methodist Church.

2013

#### Renovation & Relocation

John Entholt, Home Depot manager, coordinated a renovation project with donated materials and over 30 volunteer laborers. This contribution, estimated at over \$30,000, remains the largest we've received.

The Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry moved to "The Little House" at 91 Passaic Valley Road.

2020

## **Pandemic Response**

Our pandemic response began with swift action, launching drive-up food pickups of pre-packed groceries on March 21st, 2020. We prioritized safety by enforcing strict social distancing between clients and volunteers while remaining open to serve those in need.

2024

# **Fresh Options**

Montville Township High School Key Club to establish a Garden Committee and secure a plot at the Community Gardens to cultivate fresh herbs and vegetables specifically for donation to the Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry.

## Organization of the Year

On March 24, 2012, we were awarded the 2011 Organization of the Year by the Montville Chamber of Commerce.

2012

### 501(c)3 Status

April 17, 2012: Obtained 501(c)3 public charity tax-exempt status approval. This enabled Home Depot to donate supplies and labor for the renovation project for the Pantry's relocation.

#### Deane Driscoll Honored

2017

Long-time Director Deane Driscoll is recognized as Kiwanian of the Year for his exemplary service and dedication to the Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry. This highlights his crucial role in the pantry's success and the impact he has made on the community.

Service Area Expansion

2023

Upon Jim Sandham's motion, the Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry Committee approved expanding the service area to include surrounding neighborhoods.

## Adopt-A-Shelf Program Launched

To address the anticipated increase in demand and foster community involvement, the innovative Adopt-A-Shelf program was launched.

### **Future Outlook**

2025

As the Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry approaches its 15th service year, it's supporting a record number of households, highlighting its vital role in the community. To meet this growing need, expansion plans are underway to increase space and offerings.