



30 Partners in 30 Days



NNEMAP: Answering the call for 50+ years

The Near Northside Emergency Material Assistance Program (NNEMAP) has been assisting folks since the 1950s, though Pantry Director Roy Clark says the official pantry opening date is listed as 1969—predating Mid-Ohio Foodbank’s existence by more than a decade. Much like the Foodbank, NNEMAP got its start when area churches joined forces to help their neighbors in need.

“We are supported by 32 churches throughout the city,” Clark says. “We offer grooming kits, school supplies, holiday baskets and several health services.”



The food pantry portion now serves 800 families each month across three different zip codes (about 2,000 people in all). Clark says that’s a 30-percent increase over last year. Fortunately, the community on the Near Northside has helped answer the call.

“Recently, King Avenue United Methodist Church responded to a late call to support our school supply effort,” Clark recalls. “With the help of the fourth and fifth graders in the Youth Ministry, the church donated 185 book bags full of supplies.”

Clark adds that there’s a group of well over 100 volunteers who support the NNEMAP mission and several have been involved for more than two decades. The pantry is open three days a week and, to keep up with the rising demand, adds extra days to the schedule later in each month.

For all of the hard work that is involved, Clark says it’s the gratitude of the clients and their outlook on life that keeps him inspired.

“Our clients are really struggling, and you can tell how grateful they are for the assistance,” he says. “Many take a moment to say ‘God bless you, and thank you for everything!’ I overheard one client last week say ‘I am blessed. I haven’t had a day without food for as long as I can remember!’ It makes one think about the blessings we have in life.”

Learn More

NNEMAP
www.nnemappantry.org
614-297-0533

Mid-Ohio Foodbank
www.midohiofoodbank.org
614-274-7770