



August 10, 2017

Dear Friend of the Pantry –

Much has been happening at the Island Food Pantry this Spring and Summer. As many of you know, we said farewell to Armen Hanjian after 20 years of service to the Pantry. Armen expanded the pantry from a several person operation to more than 70 volunteers working together to serve over 450 families representing 1000 adults and children. His dedication was inspiration to us all.

I have been a seasonal resident of the Island for 29 years and a full-time resident for the last five, and took over for Armen on May 1 of this year. I am retired from my career in High Tech, running engineering organizations in both large and start-up firms. Giving back has always been important to me and I am privileged for this opportunity.

We have decided to keep the Pantry open this summer. Many of our clients are able to get work in the summer but they and many others are financially stressed with the increased cost of scarce housing. Many are elderly or disabled who are not able to work. We are open Wednesdays 3-6 pm and have so far had 158 clients representing over 270 individuals. We've had 30+ clients each week. We have been fortunate to have Island Grown Initiative actively working to bring us produce. They delivered over 17 dozen eggs per week in the Spring from the Good Farm, as well as weekly deliveries of greens and other produce from the Gleaners.

We've had many seasonal folks call to volunteer. It is heartening to see this interest and caring. We have also had a strong show of support from a number of realtor firms in urging their clients to drop off unused food that would otherwise be thrown away. Our summer donations are still quite low, so we have work to do in spreading the word that we need help at this time of year.

The Island Food Pantry is 100% volunteer staffed and run, as well as 100% privately funded by Island residents and friends. We would not exist apart from the care and concern of all of you. From Food Drives, to Purple collection boxes, to monetary donations small and large, you enable us to open our door every week. We appreciate all donations. Monthly donations, however small, help us to predict what we can provide for those who would otherwise go without. Please feel free to give online at www.islandfoodpantry.org.

Thank you so much for your help throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Margaret Hannemann, Coordinator

PO Box 1874, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

508-693-4764 ■ islandfoodpantry.org ■ islandfoodpantry@gmail.com