

## West Valley Demonstration Project hosts annual food drive



*Photo by Max Borsuk*

**Crews from the West Valley Demonstration Project and food pantry volunteers stand in front of the West Valley Food Pantry during the annual WVDP Food Drive.**

**Max Borsuk**  
Editor

With many people in the local community in need of food this holiday season, the workforce at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** did their part to help the families this winter. The **WVDP** hosted its annual food drive, donating food to nine food pantries across the area.

During this year's food drive, food donations were given to the **WVDP's** home pantry, the West Valley Food Pantry, along with food pantries in Little Valley, Ellicottville, Cattaraugus, Dayton, Delevan, Franklinville and two in Springville. Each food pantry received 40 turkeys and a large pallet of seasonal and basic food needs. With the food donations, monetary donations and in-kind donations the pantries received because of the food drive, WVDP Facility Manager and Food Drive Coordinator Lettie Chilson said it was equivalent to 118,000 pounds of food donated this year. "It was a really good year this year," Chilson said.

"It's a great thing at **West Valley** that we can make sure our neighborhoods are taken care of. So we do the neighborhoods surrounding the **project** and all the employees are involved in the whole thing."

Kris Aldrow, who runs the West Valley Food Pantry, said the donations from the **West Valley Demonstration Project** food drives have always been a big help for local families. The West Valley Food Pantry, which is located at the

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Ashford Town Highway Barn at 5640 Fox Valley Road, serves 1,200 - 1,500 meals per month and feeds between 20-25 families every two weeks, which includes around 67 adults, 47 children and 20 seniors every two weeks.

“We are so thankful to the **West Valley plant** for all their support,” Aldrow said. “Especially during the pandemic it fills a big need in our small community and we are very grateful for all they do. Thank you very much to the plant and all of their employees because they not only donate money, but they also donate a lot of groceries. They make our food pantry possible.”

The West Valley Food Pantry is currently open by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Aldrow at 716-942-6690 or Amy Frank at 716-942- 6657.

A blessing box is also available for families in need at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 9372 Route 240 in West Valley, which is open to the Town of Ashford and West Valley Central School District to take food items they need for free. The blessing box is open all day and evenings.



*Photos by Max Borsak*

**A variety of food donations were given to local food pantries during the WVDP Food Drive.**



**Employees from the West Valley Demonstration Project unload food donations at the West Valley Food Pantry.**