



Photo by Max Borsuk

Crews from the West Valley Demonstration Project stand in front of the West Valley Food Pantry during its annual food drive to local pantries.

## WVDP donates to local food pantries with annual 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, Concord and Springville. With the food donations, monetary donations and inkind donations the pantries received because of the food drive, WVDP Facility Manager and Food Drive Coordinator Lettie Chilson said it was equivalent to 120,000 pounds of food donated this year.

"It's a privilege that we have the pantries that we have around the area serving the communities and that we keep doing [the food drive] because of the generosity of the people that I work with," Chilson said. "Now more than ever as I talk to the food pantries, especially this year, the need is high. The food pantries are not just about food, they

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are about a connection to wider services. It is that first step to getting other things that people might need. They really are an outreach so we are happy to be able to support them.”

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 open twice a month and located at the Ashford Town Highway Barn at 5640 Fox Valley Road, normally serves around 20-25 families every two weeks and averages around 2,000-2,500 meals every month.

“We really appreciate all the help from the **West Valley Demonstration Project**. It really keeps our food bank going and not only do they provide food, but they provide monetary donations for our food pantry,” Aldrow said. “Without their assistance, we probably couldn’t do all of this.”

The West Valley Food Pantry is open the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month from 1-4 p.m. and is open by appointment only or the food pantry will have days where they host a drive-thru. With the donations from the **West Valley Demonstration Project**, along with donations from Walmart, Tops, local churches and people in the community, the West Valley Food Pantry appreciates all the support from the community over the years. Thanks to all the community support, Aldrow said the West Valley Food Pantry is looking into a bigger space and hopes to continue supporting those in need for years to come.

“The community’s involvement is tremendous,” Aldrow said.

For more information on the West Valley Food Pantry or if people have emergency food needs, contact Aldrow at 942-6690.



*Photo by Max Borsuk*

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