

Stop & Shop aids food pantry

by Star-Ledger Staff

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Tony Kuijpers, general manager of Super Stop & Shop, presents Carolyn Lake, community outreach coordinator for the Interfaith Food Pantry, with a check for \$2,630. The money was raised for the Pantry during the Morris Plains store's "Food for Friends" campaign.

The generous shoppers at the Super Stop & Shop, located at 145 Littleton Road in Morris Plains, raised \$2,630 -- \$1, \$3 and \$5 at a time.

Through the "Food For Friends" campaign, folks who visited the supermarket during the months of November and December were given the opportunity to purchase paper turkeys in \$1, \$3 and \$5 denominations.

The proceeds of the campaign benefited the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morristown.

"We are fully aware of the dwindling resources local food pantries are experiencing and are committed to helping those in need," said Tony Kuijpers, general manager. "We're very proud of our customers and associates."

The Interfaith Food Pantry is a non-denominational, nonprofit organization that provides non-perishable food to Morris County residents in need. And they couldn't be happier about the contribution from Stop & Shop.

"We are extremely fortunate to have the support of Stop & Shop, and all the organizations and individuals that help us raise the funds necessary to keep our program going", said Carolyn Lake, community outreach coordinator for the Pantry. "Though we receive donated food from a variety sources, funds are still a significant portion of our budget and crucial to program."

According to Lake, individual and group contributions and fundraisers such as these fuel the Pantry's ability to pay rent, purchase postage, equipment, supplies and food when donations run low.

The Pantry currently serves approximately 1,300 Morris County households; distributing 5 tons of food per week.

For more information, call the Interfaith Food Pantry at (973) 538-8049 or visit www.mcifp.org.