

# NUTLEY NEIGHBORS

## CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

### Nutley Family Service Bureau: The Food Pantry Comes 'Home' for the Holidays *By Joyce Corey*

While many of you may prepare for Thanksgiving the traditional way, like making sure you have enough cranberry sauce or defrosting the turkey in time, Nutley Family Service Bureau (NFSB) did something extra special this year. After eleven and a half months of concerted effort, the food pantry totally relocated from their temporary site and is fully functional back 'home.'

The food pantry had been housed at St. Paul's Congregational Church, but the renovations at their Chestnut Street location were finished and it was time to return. What exactly did that mean? Well, it meant moving the entire food pantry from one place to another; every single food item was transported down three flights of stairs and across town.

This was a monumental undertaking but the staff and volunteers of NFSB were up to it. The sheer organizational effort and physical manpower to accomplish this task was truly phenomenal. The food pantry could not have attained progress toward its relocation without the resources of community partners. A special round of applause goes to St. Paul's for their generosity in storing all the food contents on their third floor which allowed a non-interrupted schedule of food distribution. NFSB is also thankful for the 150 volunteers from Liquid Church who, along with a group of dedicated NFSB volunteers, provided the manpower to move the food pantry back home.

The newly redeveloped location for the food pantry



has a whole new look and some changes that maximizes and utilizes the space more effectively.

One of the major additions to this area is the elevator. It provides universal accessibility for program patrons, volunteers, staff, and community. It also increases efficiency, optimizes safety, and improves functional movement of supplies and stock.

The elevator was made possible through two foundational grants: Partners for Health Foundation and Investors Foundation (Investors Bank).

Last year, the food pantry distributed Thanksgiving baskets to 100 households, but NFSB projects that the number of families will double this holiday season. The food baskets are all made possible through the generosity of local individual donors and community partners. The improve-

ments at the redesigned facility are also contributing to the efficiency of this project and are expected to make a positive impact as well.

The push to get the food pantry home in time for Thanksgiving is truly a labor of love and commitment. Since food has always been an integral part of this holiday, the staff at NFSB feels that having this service back home is a strong statement of their dedication to the community.