

SOUTH SHORE

After 50 years, Project Concern continues to assist Cudahy, St. Francis residents

Donations aid low-income residents

By CATHERINE JOZWIK
Special to the Post

CUDAHY — Since 1968, Project Concern, 4611 S. Kirkwood Ave., in the lower level of Nativity of the Lord Parish, has been serving low-income residents in St. Francis and Cudahy.

The organization's 50th anniversary was commemorated with an open house last month.

"We started off in a closet. Now we have the whole lower level of the parish," said Debby Pizur, agency director for Project Concern and Cudahy/St. Francis Interfaith Program for the Elderly.

Eighty regular volunteers and two part-time employees help the organization

serve an average of 1,050 Cudahy and St. Francis residents per month.

Pizur said many more volunteers help on a seasonal or one-time basis.

In addition to a food pantry, Project Concern provides job postings, school supplies for young children through college students, homebound deliveries, and even a birthday gift program for children 17 and under.

The organization also offers referrals for housing, respite care and more.

"Anyone that walks in with a question, we will try to find an answer for them," Pizur said.

The organization distributed more than 400,000 pounds of food last year. "I can't even guess how many clothes. It's a lot," she said.

Despite the improving economy, the number of residents being helped remains stable.

Unlike other food pantries, Project Concern allows those in need to select food items of their choice.

According to Pizur, the organization uses the United States Department of Agriculture's MyPlate model, which focuses on eating healthier foods containing less added sugar, sodium and saturated fat.

"We have more fresh fruits and vegetables than a typical pantry," she said.

In conjunction with the National Association of Letter Carriers nationwide food drive, Project Concern will be collecting and sorting food items from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

The organization will also host an electronic recycling drive June 2 and a free benefit concert at St. Mark's Lutheran Church June 3.

To donate to, or volunteer with, Project Concern Cudahy/St. Francis, visit projectconcerncudahy.org.



Submitted photo

Visitors help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Project Concern Cudahy/St. Francis during an open house last month at its Kirkwood Avenue location. On Saturday, Project Concern will host a food collection.

Grace Community

ANNUAL PLANT SALE!

Hanging Baskets

Geraniums

Vegetables

Foliage

Borders

Bedding Plants

Venta de Plantas

Friday, May 18 & Saturday, May 19

9am-5pm

♦ Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
3030 West Oklahoma Avenue (Parking Lot)

414-384-3520

www.grace-ok.org • Email - info@grace.ok.org

**Shop our
Pre-Memorial Day
Plant Sale**

Bring a friend
All are Welcome!