

Volunteer Project Rebuilds Food Pantry For York Township Church

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Tina Kinsley was a lifelong member of Christ Lutheran Church of Spry and a volunteer with the congregation's food pantry until she died of brain cancer nearly three years ago.

Memories of Kinsley are still alive among members of the church and local community, said Pastor Jim Polanzke. That's why Kinsley Education Center -- a training and apprenticeship arm of Kinsley Construction -- donated supplies and its construction services to build a new 540-square-foot food pantry in Tina Kinsley's honor at 2401 S. Queen St., located directly next to the church.

Tina Kinsley was the wife of Patrick A. Kinsley, vice president of Kinsley Construction.

Kinsley's daughter, Rebecca, remains a member of the church and opted to use her background in architecture to design a new building that meets the needs of nearly 60 families per month who rely on the services provided by the food pantry.

Christ Lutheran Church of Spry is a distribution agency for the York County Food Bank and serves families primarily living south of York and in Dallastown.

Polanzke recalled how Tina Kinsley kept the food pantry stocked with chocolate milk for families, because she remembered how her children enjoyed it.

The volunteer project, with an estimated value of \$80,000, will replace the former food pantry. It had been housed in an old chicken coop that dated back to the 1800s and was only a small fraction of the size of the new pantry, said Rebecca Kinsley.

The old pantry was in need of an upgrade and, because of the recession, a larger facility was needed in order to provide food for families in need, she said.

New features: Among the new pantry's features are windows, air conditioning, a covered porch, a drive-up location to drop off or pick up food and more shelf and walking space, she said.

The original design plan for the new building included skylights to provide natural lighting. However, the cost of purchasing the skylights put the donated project over its budget, said Kinsley.

Students from Kinsley Education Center have been working on the project for the past two weeks. They are expected to complete the work in about two weeks, and the new pantry should be open in August. A dedication ceremony will be held in the early fall, Polanzke said.

Because the former food pantry was knocked down to make room for the new building, food is being stored in a room inside the church, which serves as a temporary distribution center, he said.



Mervin Dellinger, 18, of Craley, left, and other workers from the Kinsley Education Center build a new food pantry for Christ Lutheran Church of Spry. (John A. Pavoncello Photo)

The pantry is open every Tuesday and Thursday, and donations of canned and non-perishable food items may be dropped off at the church between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays.

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