

# Kosher pantry changes name, begins outreach

**BY JO MARKS RIFKIN**

*Staff Writer*

In order to reach hundreds more people, the Squirrel Hill Kosher SuperPantry recently changed its name to the Squirrel Hill Food Pantry and will soon begin its first outreach program.

“Some of those eligible for services from the Squirrel Hill Food Pantry are not aware that the services exist, and others may be eligible but have found other ways to supplement their food needs through friends, relatives, churches or synagogues,” said Aryeh Sherman, director of Jewish Family & Children’s Service. “Still others are eligible but may not need our services for various reasons.”

The pantry, which does not have a sign marking the building in order to better provide confidential services to clients, is located at 5842 Forward Ave. It is administered by JF&CS.

The name was changed to Squirrel Hill Food Pantry because it is “straightforward,” Sherman said.

*Please see Food Pantry, page 31.*

---

# Food Pantry: Still a kosher food source

*Continued from page 1.*

Deleting the word "kosher" from its name, though, will not end kosher food distribution.

"Anyone with a kosher need can rest assured that the food they are receiving is kosher," said Becky Abrams, Squirrel Hill Food Pantry director.

Founded in 1998, the pantry's initial mission was to provide kosher food to all needy people living within the 15217 zip code, as well as those requiring kosher food outside the zip code.

It currently serves

dividuals in the 15217 zip code who qualify for food assistance.

A member of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, the pantry was always intended to serve this community regardless of religion, race, sex, ethnicity, disability or age.

"Because pantry clients do not have to disclose their religion, the pantry does not have an accurate count of how many clients are Jewish or not Jewish," Abrams said.

Nor do pantry officials know how many Jews are among the additional 1,500 people who qualify for the pantry's services.

"We try every day to ensure that



## SQUIRREL HILL FOOD PANTRY

approximately 500 individuals, although the number represents a drop in the bucket of those in need.

But according to the last U.S. Census, there are some 2,000 in-

no one in our community experiences the devastating effects of hunger," Sherman said. "Although we provide our clients with the supportive services they need to achieve and maintain stability, people come to us primarily because they can't afford to buy adequate food for themselves and their families."

*(Jo Marks Rifkin can be reached at [jrifkin@pittchron.com](mailto:jrifkin@pittchron.com).)*

### Want to help?

For additional information, including volunteer or donation opportunities, and the Squirrel Hill Food Pantry's hours, call the pantry at (412) 421-2708 or go to [www.sqfoodpantry.org](http://www.sqfoodpantry.org).