

## **Interfaith AIDS Ministry (IAM) Living Pantry**

As seen on the Connecticut Food Bank  
Website recently

*by Melinda Storey Weisberg, IAM Executive  
Director*

Connecticut Food Bank consistently provides food to the Interfaith AIDS Ministry (IAM) Living Pantry. Approximately seventy three families affected by HIV/AIDS in the Danbury area are served through our pantry and participate in our nutritional enhancement program.

This year, The Living Pantry model became a Shopper's Choice program and, with the assistance of our nutritionist, staff and volunteers, our care receivers now choose fresh produce, meat, dairy products and non-perishable items such as rice, beans, pasta, canned vegetables, canned soup and juice that best suits their family's nutritional needs.

Food distribution takes place twice a month and we provide emergency food as needed. We also provide personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies whenever available. We appreciate that during the summer there is an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables available to the agency through the Connecticut Food Bank. This enables us to provide our clients with a wider variety of foods.

On Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, we provide the necessary food supplies for our families to be able to celebrate with dignity. Although The Living Pantry is fortunate to receive much local support particularly through area congregations of faith, without the help that we receive from the Connecticut Food Bank, our pantry would not be able to provide consistent service to our families struggling with a physically and financially devastating disease.

*CFB applauds the  
Interfaith AIDS  
Ministry. They have  
a dedicated  
compassionate  
team of employees  
that work hard to  
educate the public,  
especially young  
people and people  
from different  
countries on  
HIV/AIDS  
prevention. --  
Sherry Grant, CFB  
Programs  
Coordinator*

