

## The Feinsein Challenge Helps the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry's Light Shine Brighter

Andrew, a Wednesday afternoon client remarked: *"Economy is bad. I've been injured and on SSI. Any help that this agency has, food, and their extra care is what we people need – to get some hope that there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you."*

Suburban poverty is growing at an alarming rate. Cities and suburbs in the Midwest in particular have experienced the largest poverty rate increase over the past decade (Brookings Institution, 2010). As a result an **unprecedented number of families in the United States—including our community—are seeking food from emergency food programs.** With the protracted recession and continued double-digit unemployment, many people find their resources exhausted and at a loss for what to do. At the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry, we are honored to help neighbors like Andrew in their time of need.

More than 40,000 local people received emergency food from the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry in 2009—63% more than the previous year. All 40,000 people were provided with food because the community of Oak Park and River Forest is responsive to the need. Each family received an allotment of food similar to what is pictured below.



You can help provide a light at the end of the tunnel to those in need by participating in the **13<sup>th</sup> annual Feinsein Challenge.** Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinsein will divide \$1 million among anti hunger agencies nationwide as a spur to raise funds during March and April, 2010. Mr. Feinsein divides his million dollars proportionately among all participating agencies depending on the amount of money and food each agency collects during March and April.

All schools in Oak Park and River Forest have been invited to collect food for the Feinsein Challenge. **You can help the Pantry's light shine brighter and stronger for the many people that seek emergency food by making a monetary donation to the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry via PayPal at [www.oprffoodpantry.org](http://www.oprffoodpantry.org) or mail your donation to the Pantry at 848 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60301.**