



**BCFP Volunteer Spotlight: Norma and Mary Allen**  
*Fall 2015*

**Q:** *How did you come to the pantry?*

**Norma:** I've been volunteering at pantry Tuesdays every other week for the past few years. It seemed like something fun to do and I've really been enjoying it. I only wish it was every week instead of every other week.

**Mary Allen:** I started volunteering at the pantry in the 1990s shortly after I retired. I was sort of a substitute at first, but I stayed. We have a good time together.

**Q:** *What do you do at the Pantry?*

**Norma:** They call me "the Bag Lady" because I bag all the breads every other week on pantry Tuesdays. The loaves of bread come in one big bag, and Mary Allen and I individually bag each one. Recently we had as many as 70 families coming to the pantry, so we had to refocus on just residents. Now we're at more like 25 families.

**Mary Allen:** After we bag the bread, I come back from 3 to 6 on pantry Tuesdays and stand in the kitchen window and hand out all the bread to all the clients. But we did have to focus on just serve Bethel, because last Thanksgiving, we gave out more than 90 turkeys!

**Q:** *What keeps you coming back to volunteer at the BCFP?*

**Norma:** I feel like I'm coming and doing something good. I like being a part of it all – for the sociability of it, but also you're working with a great group of people doing something good that helps people and makes a difference.

**Mary Allen:** The need of the people who come here for ample food so they can eat a balanced meal. We do give out everything – cereal, canned goods, staples, and fresh foods, and whatever they need. Our clients are thrilled to get all of the food – they leave with big heavy bags. It's nice to do something for them that's going to help.

*For more information about the BCFP, including how to become a client, how to connect, support, or volunteer, visit [www.bethelcommunitypantry.org](http://www.bethelcommunitypantry.org)*