Wheelabrator Saugus donation makes big impact for United Parish Food Pantry

SAUGUS, Mass. — Nov. 20, 2012 — Wheelabrator Saugus Plant Manager Eric Lucier has the holiday spirit. Lucier and his fellow employees made a special delivery of food to the United Parish Food Pantry in Cliftondale Square last week, just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Lucier, Plant Controller Stephen Pugliese and Scale Operator James Catizone dropped off $1,500 worth of canned goods and other items Friday morning to a delighted food pantry director, Carol Cashman, and her crew of volunteers.

“This delivery will last well into the winter,” said Cashman, who leads a team of two dozen volunteers every Friday morning, when food is distributed to those in need. “We are very appreciative for Wheelabrator’s support and generosity. People are in great need of support this time of year.”

Lucier contacted the food pantry with the hope of making a donation of food that would have an immediate and lasting impact in the community.

“People in the Saugus community directly benefit from the great work being done by the food pantry staff and volunteers,” Lucier said. “We’re happy to help in any way we can, especially during the holidays.”

The food pantry is a collaboration of the churches in Saugus. Each month, Cashman, who has worked there since 1989 and been the director since 1995, and her volunteers distribute 600-800 bags of food. The greatest need is in the fall. Last year, the pantry distributed 132 bags of food and turkeys at Thanksgiving.

The food pantry relies on donations from individuals, organizations and schools in the community, and works in conjunction with the Greater Boston Food Bank, which purchases food for it and provides guidelines for distributing it.

“We’re excited about getting involved with the food pantry,” Lucier said, indicating he and his crew would return with another delivery prior to the December holidays.

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