



## Fall Conference Volunteer Project: Healthy Worthington Resource Center & Food Pantry

By Magistrate Ann Weatherhead

*Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court*



*Thirty-six OAM magistrates volunteered for two hours at the Healthy Worthington Resource Center & Food Pantry in Worthington, Ohio.*

The 2012 OAM Fall Conference volunteer project was at the Healthy Worthington Resource Center & Food Pantry. Thirty-six members and friends of the OAM checked expiration dates, and weighed and sorted food, some of which we donated, for distribution at the food pantry. OAM members who were not available to volunteer with us also contributed food and money, and as a result we were able to donate \$205, and 593.8 pounds of food, which can feed 42 people for three days.

The food pantry offers, food, personal care products and pet items to families who live in the six Worthington zip codes. Healthy Worthington gets some of the food which they distribute from the Mid-Ohio Food Bank, which was where we had our Fall Conference volunteer project two years ago. We were able to compare the differences and similarities in how the two facilities operate; the actual work we did was similar, mostly sorting donations, however the facilities were very different. Mid-Ohio Food Bank is housed in a huge former mattress factory, all of which is used for the storing and distribution of food. Healthy Worthington is housed in a much smaller building only

a portion of which is devoted to operating the food pantry. They also provide a resource center where Worthington residents can meet with volunteers to learn about programs and agencies which can assist them. It was interesting to be working in a different phase of the same food chain as we had worked before, this time closer to the distribution end.

Our volunteer efforts caught the attention of Court News Ohio TV, who produced a video of our work at the food pantry, which 5,735 people have watched as of this article. (That's more than 10 people for every member of the OAM, a fact which I find unsettling. You will understand why when you see the person in the video who looks a lot like me who apparently doesn't care for the taste of the English language.) You can join the thousands (!) of other viewers by searching the video archives for 10-04-2012 at [www.courtnewsOhio.gov](http://www.courtnewsOhio.gov).

Having contributed almost 600 pounds of food, more than \$200, and most importantly many man (and woman!) hours, we broadened our knowledge of how food is distributed to those who need it, and hopefully left Healthy Worthington a little bit healthier! 🍴

