

making a difference

Take What you Need, Give What you Can



Photo by Amber Hall-Martin

Oakbay residents Mark and Lisa Hall launched their company charity Feeding Families, eleven years ago. What began as food donations to Shepherd Community Center grew this year with the launch of free outdoor food pantries in Noblesville, Cicero, and Arcadia.

“We were the face of hunger early in our married life,” says Mark Hall, founder and CEO of TalentLogistiX (www.tlxcorp.com), whose company funds this program. “There were many nights that dinner was a baked potato and a can of stew,” he remembers.

“This year we sensed many of our neighbors needed help and we knew we could make a difference serving them. We just had to start. Using company charity funds and employee contributions the goal was to build, deploy, and stock 10 outdoor free food pantries in 2020. The pantries are based on the honor system and are completely anonymous. If you need food it is available 24x7, no judgment, and no forms to fill out. The program’s goal is to provide 5,000 meals a month to neighbors in Hamilton County.”

Through a relationship with Associated Builders & Contractors, an instructor and several students went to work building the pantries. “We funded a Lowe’s account, so they’d get whatever was needed. Bill and the students did an amazing job,” says Hall.

Next, the needs and locations needed to be determined. The Halls turned to their employees and enlisted a Data Scientist. Using the American Community Survey data, a map was created of locations in Hamilton County of larger households with income levels right at the poverty line. The data reveals nearly 27,000 food challenged neighbors. Armed with the data, they went to work securing locations.

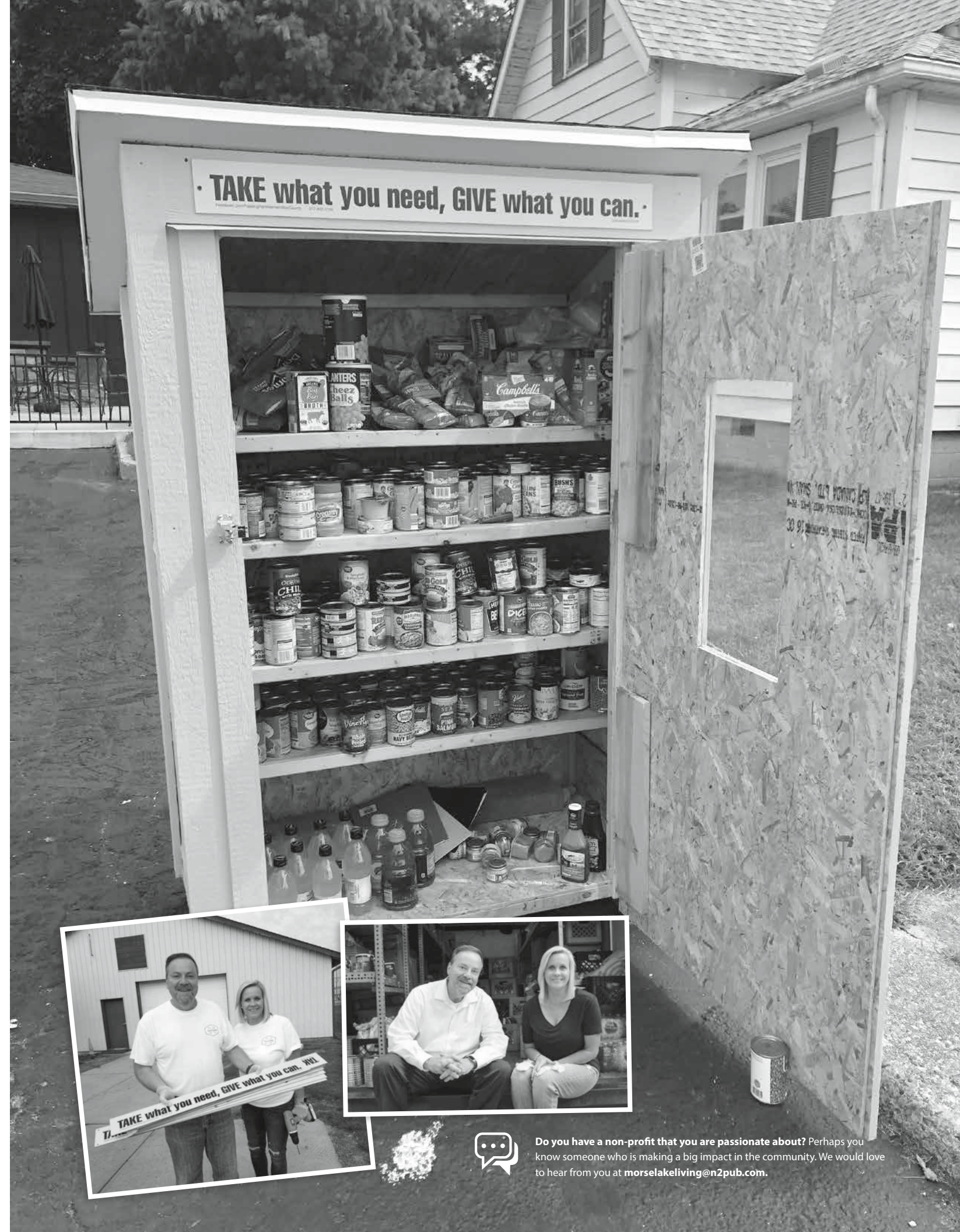
The Halls met with government and law enforcement officials to ensure compliance and to get ideas on locations. Then they started knocking on doors, talking to businesses and city officials to locate pantries close to as many hot spots as possible. The Halls

got “no” almost 100 times asking for locations in parks, at businesses, schools, and community buildings throughout the county. After a few months, they got their first yes from the Fraternal Order of Police (Lodge 103), and in the weeks that followed all the other locations were secured. With locations in hand, Gaylor Electric picked up the pantries, painted, and delivered all of them. It is one of several God orchestrated partnerships according to the Halls.

Today there are eight pantries in use with two more in production awaiting deployment. Twice a month, non-perishable grocery items are purchased then loaded for delivery. On Fridays, the Halls drive a used box truck on the pantry route loading meals and organizing each pantry. “We trust our neighbors to do the right thing, taking what they need and giving when they can,” Lisa Hall says.

How can you get involved? Do you want to make a difference by serving our food challenged neighbors? We believe in the simple concept of neighbors helping neighbors. According to Mark Hall, “This is the way it was when I was a kid, serving others was not special it was what you did because it’s the right thing to do.”

Our neighbors can volunteer, adopt a pantry, attend an event, or donate non-perishable food into any pantry. The Halls encourage any neighbor that wants to get involved to reach out to them. They can be found at Feeding Families Hamilton County on Facebook and they recently launched a program web site www.feedingteam.org.



Do you have a non-profit that you are passionate about? Perhaps you know someone who is making a big impact in the community. We would love to hear from you at morselakeliving@n2pub.com.