Presidents' Community Partner Award



Food Pantry at the First Baptist Church of New London

Colby-Sawyer College

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate this organization for the President's Community Partner Award. The food pantry at the First Baptist Church of New London not only serves people and families in need from the Kearsarge area, but through the welcoming spirit of Cindy Johnson, Pastor of Christian Education and Family Ministry, opened its doors to Colby-Sawyer College student volunteers.

During the fall 2014 semester, more than ten students from Sociology Professor Kate Turcotte's Social Problems course completed required community service and learning hours at the church, including the food pantry. Cindy was accommodating from the start, and welcomed students with warmth and enthusiasm; in turn, students expressed this same positive, eager attitude in providing assistance to others.

Student work ranged from making soup in preparation for Wednesday evening pantry hours, to assisting families with carrying food and supplies to their vehicles. More important than these tasks, however, was the ability of Colby-Sawyer students, with the help of Pastor Johnson and the families they spent time with, to develop an understanding of what it means to give. Students overwhelmingly reported positive experiences from their work at the food pantry, and Cindy has expressed her enthusiasm at having students return in semesters to come. I look forward to a continued, vibrant partnership.