

Walpole Food Pantry gets a makeover

By Betsy Crumb
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The Walpole Community Food Pantry has a new look – and it's all thanks to the generous donations of Rockwood, Inc., Harvey Industries and contributors to the food pantry.

"Even as we've done something which is noticeable and we've gotten some publicity, the regular volunteers certainly deserve more credit because they're doing it all the time," said Bob Rockwood, owner of Rockwood, Inc.

Bill Ryan, a member of the board of directors at the food pantry, said the Washington Street facility had new windows put in a few years ago; it was decided that now was time to update the outside of the building.

Between various contributions and a substantial discount from Harvey Industries, Ryan said, the food pantry obtained the materials to re-side the building. Interested in helping out, Rockwood, Inc. put up the siding free of charge.

Bob and his son, Erik, said donating time to the community was something that Alan Rockwood

(Bob's brother and business partner until his death in 2003) would have loved. Alan, who died of cancer, was very active in town politics.

"This is a project he would have approved of," Bob said.

Erik said Rockwood, Inc. has been in business since 1970, so it's great to give back to the town that's given so much to them.

"There's no better feeling than having a customer come back at the end of the day saying they love the work, and in this situation, there's 140 customers saying thanks," Erik said.

Because the food pantry had the building re-sided, Ryan said they are currently negotiating with the town for an extension of their lease at no charge. Food pantry treasurer Robert Cook will be working with Town Administrator Michael Boynton soon to finalize the lease agreements.

On April 24, Ryan said he and the board of selectmen will present a plaque to recognize Rockwood, Inc. and Harvey Industries as a thank you for their time and donations.



Photos by Christine Cochrane

The above photo shows what the pantry's exterior looked like before the renovations, while the below photo shows the finished work. Below left: Erik Rockwood of Rockwood, Inc. cuts a piece of siding.

