



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

# BRIAN POIRIER



### How do you help The Pantry?

For over five years, Brian has shoveled snow for The Franklin Food Pantry. Each snowstorm he makes sure that the loading areas, ramp and stairs are clear and that the parking lot is safe.

“Five years ago, someone suggested that the former Franklin Food Pantry Executive Director, Erin Lynch, give me a call. That whole winter, The Pantry hadn’t gotten a proper shoveling. She called and asked if I would mind helping just that one time. We didn’t know exactly what was involved, but we took care of it that day. A week later I got a handwritten thank you card that said, ‘In 5 years, no one has ever actually solved my snow problem and I just want to say thank you.’ After that we decided it was something we would just take care of so they wouldn’t have to worry about it anymore.”

“My mom was a single mom of 3 boys for a bunch of years when I was growing up. Due to food programs like The Pantry, we had a chance to have a good upbringing and it helped me become the man I am. If I take care of the snow needs so the food pantry doesn’t have to worry about it, I feel like that would be helpful. No one signs up to volunteer/work for The Pantry to work outside in the snow! Whenever I see the food pantry helpers during snow removal they are always very happy to see me!”

“The vast majority of the work completed by my company, Poirier Home Improvement, happens outside, so we don’t tend to work much on storm days. So during snowstorms I do have time on my hands and I actually enjoy snow removal anyway. It’s just another chance to play with my snow blower! I am happy to do my part and contribute to the community. It really is a win/win all around!”

***"I like to help people. The Food Pantry helps a lot of people and it all just kind of works. There are many different ways to help. Anyone can be a helper."***

