

Knock on Wood concert raises \$1.5K for the Pantry of Hope



HOWIE NEWMAN'S family pitched in during Knock on Wood's rendition of "Hannah's Song." Pictured are (from left): Joe Kessler, granddaughter Hannah, daughter Jen Newman and Newman.

MELROSE — Melrose resident Howie Newman and Joe Kessler, who make up the folk-rock duo Knock on Wood, performed their sixth annual community fundraising concert on Sunday, August 2 at the First Baptist Church of Melrose.

The event raised more than \$1,500, the most ever, for the Pantry of Hope, the church's food pantry. Partnering with other organizations — such as the Boston Food Bank, The Food Drive and Stop & Shop — the Pantry of Hope serves about 100 needy families in the greater Melrose area each month. This benefit concert has raised nearly \$4,000 the past three years.

Combining classic rock fa-

vorites with Newman's original songs, Knock on Wood played a lively 90-minute show that featured Kessler's creative work on fiddle and mandolin.

"It was a fun event for the community, as usual, and we were able to raise money for a very worthy cause," said Newman.

"Time are hard right now and the Pantry of Hope does a great job of helping needy individuals and families in this area.

"Thanks to everyone who attended and donated."

For more information about the Pantry of Hope, visit melrosefbc.org/pantry-of-hope. For more about Howie Newman and Knock on Wood, visit howienewman.com/knockonwood.

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