

## Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry Newsletter July, 2021

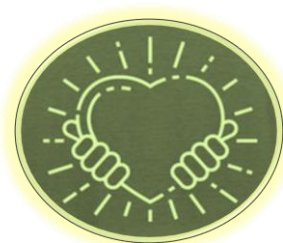
*"We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers"*

### Serving Hope is Coming Next Year

We have exciting news! We have given a new name to our annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser that more closely describes our mission of helping to eradicate hunger in our area.

We believe our new **Serving Hope** theme more authentically reflects our mission of **serving** our clients by providing them with fresh, healthy food and inspiring **hope** for a brighter future.

### Serving Hope Spaghetti Dinner



We are planning our first **Serving Hope Spaghetti Dinner** for the Fall of 2022 when we optimistically anticipate the risk of COVID-19 transmission will be dramatically reduced and mandatory limitations on large gatherings will be relaxed or eliminated.

Until then, we will continue to serve our clients and humbly ask for your continuing support throughout the remainder of this year while we eagerly await a return to normal next year.



### Golden Groceries Program is a Go!

In coordination with our partner, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, in June we began offering seniors age 60+ a special time for them to shop at the pantry at a more leisurely pace in a less crowded environment. Seniors can also come to the pantry twice a month during regular pantry hours.

Our new **Seniors Golden Groceries** time is **THURSDAYS from 11 – Noon**. During this hour, our senior clients can pick up pre-bagged food items we have prepared for them and/or may choose their own food from the pantry shelves. They may also obtain other pantry items such as used clothing and household goods, toiletries and pet food when the pantry is less busy.



### Welcome to New Donors Costco and Sprouts

We would like to welcome two new corporate donors to our growing list of loyal pantry supporters:

- ♥ **Costco Wholesale** Reno store at 2200 Harvard Way
- ♥ **Sprouts Farmers Market** Reno store at 299 E. Plumb Lane

We pick up donations from Costco and Sprouts Monday through Thursday which include bread, pre-made meals, pasta salad, deli items, pies, cakes and frozen meat.

We couldn't be more thrilled to be partnered with these two outstanding local donors. They are generous good neighbors who are committed to helping the less fortunate among us.



## Grocery Outlet July Program Give \$5, Get \$5

From now through July 23, local Grocery Outlet stores are running a special program to support their "Independence from Hunger" program. When a customer either donates \$5 or purchases a prepackaged bag of non-perishable food, they will receive a coupon printed on their receipt for \$5 off a future purchase, generally within the next week. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year of this beneficial program that has generated more than \$5 million nationwide. Drop into Grocery Outlet before July 23 to join in eradicating hunger in our area.



Prepackaged bags of food donated to the pantry by Grocery Outlet

## Pantry Items Needed

The pantry is always in need of these basic toiletry items:

Dish Soap  
Deodorant  
Laundry Soap  
Razors & Shaving Cream  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Soap – Bar or Liquid  
Toilet Paper  
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste

If you are able to donate any of these items to the pantry, we and our clients would be most grateful!

## Generous Donation Received from Longtime Pantry Supporter

We were saddened to learn that one of our generous longtime pantry supporters, Larry Germain, passed away last fall due to COVID-19 at age 65. Although he never came to the pantry, he always came to our annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to support our work. Larry was a devoted fan and faithful donor since the pantry opened in 2016.

To our great surprise, we just learned that Larry made a final gift to the pantry through a bequest in his estate plan. The first payment from the executor of his estate arrived recently. We are humbled and grateful for his good heart and sincere commitment to helping those in need.



July 31, 1955 – October 22, 2020

## Pantry Volunteer News

We are very sorry to report that Eric Dale, one of our pantry volunteers, passed away on April 30, 2021. Following a successful career in local casinos, Eric became a steady volunteer at the pantry until his untimely death.

Eric died peacefully at home surrounded by his family and friends. We will miss seeing his cheerful face at the pantry. We are grateful for his service to the pantry and send our deepest condolences to his family.



We are always looking for volunteers to pick up donations, unload trucks, place items on our shelves and/or assist clients. Contact Cindy Becher at 772-2759 if you would like to help. COVID-19 safety protocol is followed at all times.





## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Draws a Happy Crowd

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for pantry volunteers was held on Thursday, May 13 at the pantry. A big crowd of happy hungry volunteers gathered together to celebrate another year of good work at the pantry. The luncheon was catered by Carson City BBQ and the food was outstanding! Carson City BBQ is the winner of many awards over the years and did an awesome job feeding the crowd with plenty of delicious food for all.



**Top L** from left: Shirley Bennett; Sister Keele; Melva Ford  
**Bottom L:** Joanne Wulff; Susan Britt, Don Parrillo

**Top R** from left: Karrie Backlund; Wayne Backlund, Don Eberlein  
**Center:** Kerry McKinney **Bottom R:** Cake to celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary







*Elders from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*



**From L:** David Becher; Roy Ballen **Top Center** from L: Jose Gonzalez; Chris Padgett **Bottom Center:** Sister Keele; Susan Britt  
**Top R** from L: Dan Miller; Phil Hyatt, owner of Carson City BBQ





Cindy Becher



Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Veronica Morrison & her son Leo

Our sincere thanks to all of our hardworking volunteers!  
We couldn't do it without each and every one of you!



*And hearty thanks to Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry  
for providing an awesome lunch for its exceptional volunteers!*



## Support the Pantry While You Shop!

If you are like many who shop online at Amazon, especially during this time of staying safe at home, we encourage you to log into Amazon Smile and choose St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry as your designated charity. When you shop at Amazon Smile, which is identical to the regular Amazon website, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate .5% of the dollar value of your eligible purchases to the pantry, at no cost to you.

Here's how to set it up:

1. Using your usual Amazon sign on information, log into <https://smile.amazon.com/>
2. Amazon will prompt you to choose a charity.
3. Search for **Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry Reno** and select it. It will remain your selected charity until you change or delete it.
4. Log in and shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/>

That's it! Very easy and you will be helping support the pantry with every purchase you make. On a quarterly basis, the Amazon Smile Foundation combines donations generated from all purchases designated for the pantry during the previous 3 months and automatically sends a donation to us. Just be sure to always log into <https://Smile.Amazon.com> to make the magic happen!



## Together We're Making a Difference

We have received generous grants from the following organizations which allow us to continue providing the less fortunate in our community with healthy food and other items at no cost to them.

- ♥ **Food Bank of Northern Nevada** - their 2020 grant of \$5,000 allowed us to purchase 80 new heavy duty folding shopping carts for our clients to take home with them.
- ♥ **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** – for their gifts in 2020 of food and household goods, and strong support from LDS volunteers, we cannot thank this exceptionally giving and caring church enough for all the outstanding assistance they have provided to us from the beginning. Their help has always been extraordinary!
- ♥ **United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierras** – for generous grants totaling \$22,000 to support food purchases for our clients from January, 2020 – April, 2021.

