



Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry  
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## Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry Newsletter April, 2019

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

### Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday to the Pantry!

The pantry will be celebrating the anniversary of its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of operation on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The pantry doors opened for the very first time on April 4, 2016 and we proudly served a grand total of 204 households that month. Three years later, in March 2019, we served a total of 1,043 households! That represents more than 5 times as many needy families assisted and our numbers are still growing.

Our clientele has grown because we offer a generous amount of fresh, healthy food and other useful items including baby food, toiletries and pet food, as well as assist those with chronic medical issues through the Prescription Pantry Program. A contributing factor to our growth is the improving economy in Reno/Sparks, which although positive in many ways has also resulted in a housing crisis, causing sky-high rent costs. The typical cost of rent in Reno today is just under \$1,700 per month, up about 30% from 5 years ago. Because wages are not increasing at that rapid rate, the higher cost of housing has become a major hardship for many in our area. We are glad we are here to help those whose income doesn't stretch far enough to buy healthy fresh food for their families.



### Save the Date!

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, October 26 at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno. This year you will hear from some of our clients who will explain what the pantry means to them, how Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is different from other pantries in our area, and other thoughts they want to share with you, our loyal supporters. We expect this video presentation will provide informative, meaningful and unforgettable insights to all who will be joining us for this very special evening. Our clients speak from their hearts with gratitude for the help we all provide.

The needs in our community are greater than ever and the loyal support of our many friends allows us to continue providing food and other assistance to all in need who come to the pantry for help.



To benefit  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FOOD PANTRY**  
Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
5:00-9:30 PM  
at the



ATLANTIS CASINO RESORT SPA 3800 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89502

Come and win some great  
**DOOR PRIZES, RAFFLE PRIZES and SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**  
Enjoy Live Music!  
Hear from our clients about the impact the pantry has on their lives  
MC: Deacon Don Korson from the Diocese of Reno

For Tickets:  
Call Cindy Becher at 775-322-5853 or  
Email Cindy Becher at [cdbecher@aol.com](mailto:cdbecher@aol.com) or  
Purchase tickets online at Eventbrite.com



**MENU:**  
Spaghetti & Meatballs  
Vegetable & Gluten Free Pasta  
Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Dessert  
2-glasses of Wine or Beer  
  
**COST:**  
\$55.00 per Person  
\$100.00 for Couples  
\$600.00 for a Corporate Table  
that seats 10

### Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is Coming Soon

The 3rd annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be happening in May or June. This is an opportunity to visit with other volunteers and share experiences, as well as to recognize those who go above and beyond in their efforts to assist the pantry. Look for the invitation soon in your mailbox!

## Commodities are Cool

Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry participates in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) sponsored by the US Department of Agriculture. This program provides a wide variety of fresh and shelf-stable foods, referred to as "commodities", to low income Americans at no cost. The food is provided to food banks in each state, which then redistribute the food to food pantries such as ours. We obtain commodities from our partner, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, which serves all of Northern Nevada and the Eastern Sierra region of California. The commodities we receive supplement the rest of the fresh and non-perishable food available at the pantry.



Wayne & Kerry Backlund arrive with a truckload of commodities



LDS volunteers help unload and shelf food arriving at the pantry



Toiletries, Baby Food are available at the pantry

## Together We're Making a Difference

In the past 12 months we have received generous grants from the following foundations which allow us to continue providing the less fortunate in our community with healthy food at no cost to them.

- ♥ **Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation**, which has provided us with donations this year that are critical to sustaining our programs and allow us to keep the doors open for all in need. Their steadfast generosity and ongoing support have been invaluable - they are our angels!
- ♥ **Food Bank of Northern Nevada**, Northern Nevada's premier hunger relief agency providing emergency food services to more than 95,000 people each month through a network of more than 140 partner agencies in Northern Nevada and the eastern Sierra slope in CA.
- ♥ **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, for their generous gift of \$5,000 in food from the Bishop's Storehouse starting in Jan., 2019 and additional gift of \$2,500 in food in April. We are elated and our clients love the hearty and nutritious food!



**BD WOLFE INVESTMENTS, LLC**  
Douglas and Brenda Wolfe

