

Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry  
160 Hubbard Way, Suite F  
Reno, NV 89502  
775-507-4555  
[www.saintfrancisfoodpantryreno.org](http://www.saintfrancisfoodpantryreno.org)  
[cdbecher@aol.com](mailto:cdbecher@aol.com)

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

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

### Cheers to 5 Years!

Happy Birthday #5 to St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry! We officially opened our doors on April 4, 2016 and it's been an exciting and tremendously gratifying journey assisting so many in need over the past 5 years.

In fact, the pantry has served **8,506** unique households from April 4, 2016 to April 6, 2021, with **20,169** people in those households receiving food assistance from the pantry. Of those people, 5,315 were children ages 0- 18 and 3,402 were seniors age 60+. We provided assistance a grand total of **78,963** times over the past 5 years and couldn't be prouder of our volunteers and our supporters who have been essential partners in our success.



Thank you for the bottom of our hearts for your loyal support and commitment to helping those with the least. With your help, we look forward to continuing our mission of eradicating hunger in our community.



### Stories from our Clients

Over the past 5 years we have heard many stories from our clients expressing amazement, profound gratitude, relief and delight in the food they were able to select and take home from the pantry. Here are two of the latest ones:

#### Margarita and Sofia

*"Coming to St. Francis Food Pantry has helped me financially. I don't have a full-time job so we usually purchase very low cost meals. This place gives us vegetables and fruits we normally would not buy at the grocery store."* Margarita and her daughter came to the pantry on our 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday hours on 3/17/21.



#### Glenda and Isabella



Glenda and her daughter Isabella came to the pantry recently. Glenda was so grateful that she wrote this note to us as she was leaving. Our SNAP Coordinator Lola translated the note from Spanish for us: *"The help that you offer is very helpful for a home like mine with 5 children. I can't cover all my expenses as a single Mother. All the volunteers here are very kind and noble."* We are happy to help, Glenda! Come back soon!



**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.**

## Food Drive Fills our Barrel to Overflowing!

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Incline Village held a food drive for the pantry during Lent. We were thrilled to find the barrel overflowing with food donated by generous parishioners including chili beans, macaroni and cheese, quinoa brown rice mix, soups, pasta, tuna and so on. It went onto our shelves and out the pantry door in record time! Our sincere thank you to all who contributed!



## New Pantry Hour Reserved for Seniors Only

In coordination with our partner, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, we will begin offering seniors age 60+ a special time for them to come to the pantry and they will also be able to come to the pantry twice a month. Starting in June, our new **Seniors-Only Hour** will be on **THURSDAYS from 2 – 3 pm.**

During this hour, our senior clients can obtain their regular food supply plus their extra commodities and other items (such as used clothing and household goods, toiletries and pet food) and the pantry should be less busy.

Seniors over age 60 represent about **40%** of our clients. An article entitled “*Seniors Facing Hunger – Hidden in Plain Sight*” written by Jocelyn Lantrip, Director of Marketing & Communications for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, highlights the challenges many seniors face living on a fixed income as the cost of living rises around them. Of particular concern are the medical costs that tend to increase and occur more frequently with age. In our area the skyrocketing cost of housing is also a big concern for seniors who are being outpriced in the current rental market.

The article mentions the following startling statistic:

*“In Nevada, the rate of Senior hunger is one of the highest in the nation, in the top 10 states for the numbers of seniors facing this reality every day. In our state 10.7% of our seniors face this each day and many do so without letting anyone know. The other issue is that many seniors don’t want to ask for the help that may make all of the difference.”*

We are pleased to offer our seniors a special time for them to come to the pantry for food assistance. For more information, the article can be found here:

<https://fbnn.org/seniors-facing-hunger-hidden-in-plain-sight/>

This infographic from the Feeding America website illustrates some critical links between senior nutrition, health and disease.



Our grateful thanks for your support during the difficult past year. We got through it together . . . and look forward to a better and easier year ahead. We couldn’t do it without

YOU



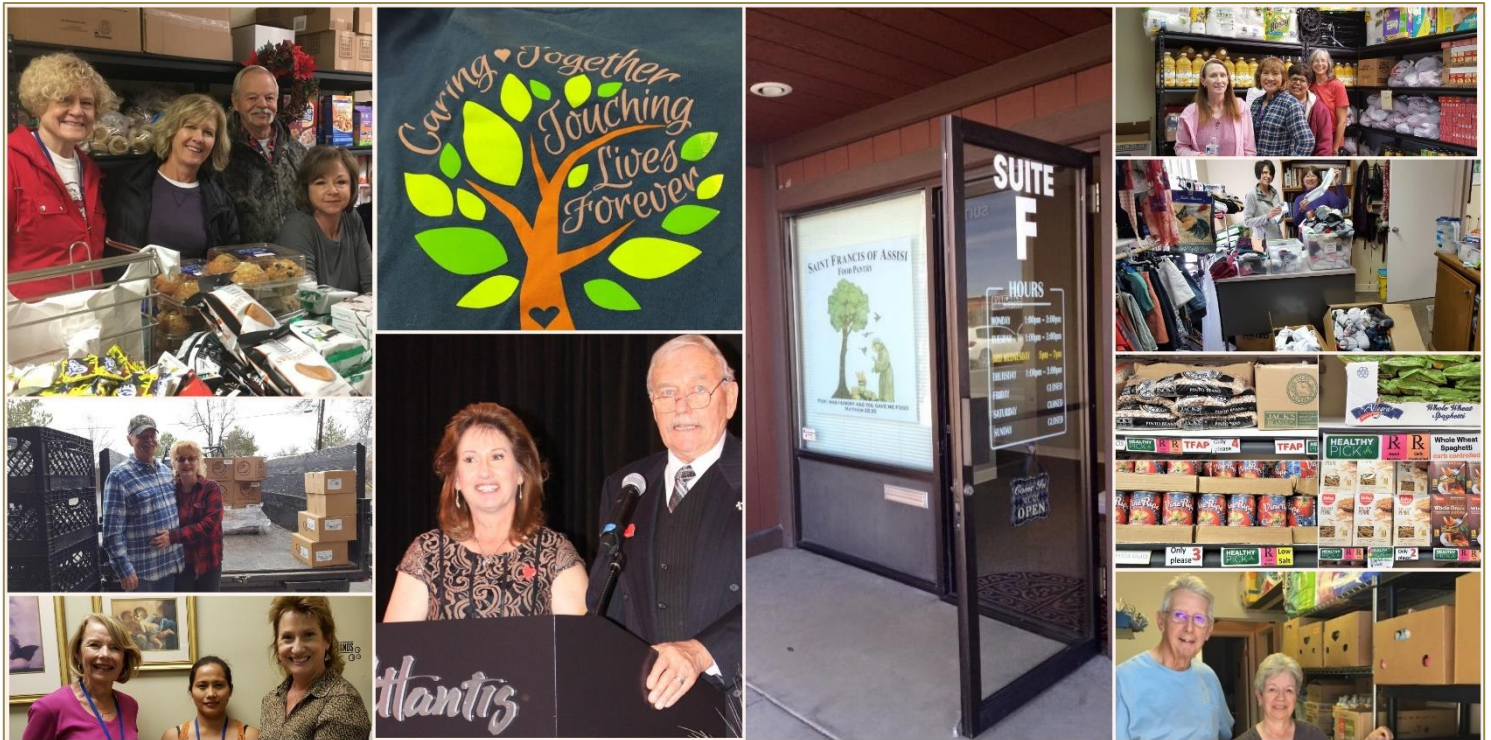


## FIVE YEARS OF PRECIOUS MEMORIES

Below is a small sample of some of the fun and meaningful moments from the past 5 years, focusing primarily on our wonderful volunteers who make the pantry possible by sharing their time and enthusiasm. It has been an outstanding journey and we aren't done yet! Here's to many more years of serving our community and having fun while doing it!



Lower left: Volunteers on Opening Day 4.6.16



Spaghetti Dinner 2018 at the Atlantis with Deacon Don Korson and Cindy





Grateful for your support  
the past 5 years!



*Spaghetti Dinner at the Atlantis 2017 and earlier*





Looking forward to  
more good years ahead!





## 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!



## The Pantry Doors Are Still Open!

We are proud to say that with only one exception, the doors of Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry have stayed open during this pandemic. We have kept to our same operating schedule since COVID-19 made its initial appearance in our area last March and are grateful for our committed volunteers who have stood strong and unwavering to help others while wearing their masks and keeping their distance.

We know that our clients rely on the pantry to obtain fresh healthy food each week during this tremendously challenging time. The pantry is considered an essential business and as such we are committed to staying open to serve our community. With your support, we will continue to be there for our clients. We look forward to the day when masks are no longer required and COVID has made its exit from the world stage, but until then with your help we will continue fulfilling our mission of being our brothers' and sisters' keepers!



## 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.



United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra

