



## Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry Newsletter January, 2020

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

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner Was Superb!

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser was held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa on **Saturday, October 26** from 5 pm to 9:00 pm. This is our primary fundraising effort each year that provides the pantry with more than half of its income for the coming year.

This year guests at the Spaghetti Dinner saw a video featuring a variety of our clients speaking from the heart on what the pantry means to them and how it helps them. All in attendance agreed the video was informative, insightful and highly moving. These sincere and unscripted testimonials clearly demonstrated why the pantry is so necessary in our community and why we are so committed to keeping the pantry doors open to all in need. We thank you for your support and look forward to another busy year helping the neediest of our neighbors!



Upper L corner –MC Deacon Don Korson



Pantry founders Cindy & David Becher with their family

**Video & Photo Credit: Chuck Rice**





## We're Cooler than Ever!

We are delighted to announce that we have purchased a new double-door commercial refrigerator and triple-door commercial freezer for our new space in Suite E. Funding for the refrigerator was provided by the **Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation** and funding for the freezer was provided through a Humanitarian Grant from the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**. We are thrilled to have more cold storage for perishable items that we keep on hand in between days when the pantry is open for clients. The ongoing support of these caring and generous benefactors allows us to continue serving our needy neighbors all year long with a plentiful supply of food on hand at all times. Thank you! ❤️



## ... and We're Smoother Too!

Thanks to generous grants from the **Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation** and our local **Builders Association Charity**, we were able to replace the badly worn and extremely stained carpet in Suites E and F with sleek new plank flooring that will be easier to clean and maintain, as well as easier and smoother for our clients who are pushing walkers, wheelchairs, carts or strollers. Thanks to Great Basin Flooring for installing the new flooring. Our sincere thanks! ❤️



*Lower L: Brian Cassidy and his assistant with check; our new smooth flooring!*

## LDS Grants Bring Food, Clothing & Toiletries

Thanks to generous Humanitarian Grants received this year from the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, we have brought a steady supply of much-needed and greatly cherished canned food, used clothing, toiletries and cleaning supplies to the pantry. Our trucks pick up these items at the local Bishop's Storehouse in Reno and the Deseret Industries Thrift Store in Sacramento. As soon as they are placed on pantry racks and shelves, they are gone! These donated items bring immense gratitude and uplift the spirits of those who are struggling to provide daily necessities to their families. Our grateful thanks to our good friends at the Mormon churches in our area for their cheerful giving and abundantly generous hearts! ❤️



## Accolades for the Pantry

We were delighted to welcome three Hunger Relief professionals to the pantry for a visit on December 17. Two of the ladies shown below work for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada; Jessica Camacho is part of the national Feeding America organization and was in our area visiting from Chicago. We certainly appreciate all their positive feedback!



*From L: Lola, Cindy, Jessica Camacho and Kerry Kelly*

## Together We're Making a Difference

In the past year 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.

- ♥ **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, for their generous gift of \$12,500 throughout the year for food, cleaning and paper products from the Bishop's Storehouse, \$10,000 in used furniture and clothing from Deseret Industries Thrift Store in Sacramento, plus a grant of \$12,000 for a new freezer and new glass double doors for Suite E. We are elated and our clients love the hearty nutritious food. We cannot thank this exceptionally giving and caring church enough for all the outstanding support they have provided to us.
- ♥ **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 N. Nevada and the eastern Sierra slope.

We have recently received generous donations from:

- ♥ **Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation**
- ♥ **Dermod Properties Foundation**



## Freewheels for Kids a Big Hit!

Every winter for the past 10 years, the Reno Bike Project's "Freewheels for Kids" community outreach program has provided free bikes to kids from families with limited resources. Children's bikes, donated by community members, are repaired and tuned up by RBP volunteers. So far, over 1,000 bikes have been donated and refurbished! Those bikes are then donated to community organizations like St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry, who distribute them to families in need. This year we were able to provide free bikes to **70** children whose families come to the pantry for food assistance. May they ride on to plenty of fun in 2020!



## Our Clients Speak Up!

We are extremely pleased to see positive feedback about the pantry online. Here's a short sample:

- ♥ *Best place in town to get help with food and clothing! Great people and interesting conversations too! Love this place!!!*
- ♥ *The staff and volunteers are very friendly and their displays and items are great. So I'm glad I found this place, Reno needs more places like this. 😊❤️*
- ♥ *They give you a lot of food even for one person. A friend usually takes me there and the process is fast and u get anything u need more or less. They do an awesome job.*
- ♥ *They are graciously providing groceries & compassion.*
- ♥ *They do a lot to help our community.*





## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner Was Superb! ~ Continued ~



*The fantastic artwork got everyone's attention!*



*Photo Credit: Chuck Rice; Barbara Reyes*

## Happy New Year from *All of Us* to *All of You!*

We hope you had happy holidays and a joyful Christmas, and wish you a great start to 2020 and the new decade. We are endlessly grateful for your generous support and look forward to continuing our caring partnership together into 2020 and beyond!

