



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

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

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner the Best Ever!

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry was held on Saturday, October 27 at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno. Over 350 excited guests joined us for an inspiring evening filled with heartfelt comments from our guest speaker Patrick Cashell, great food, fun Silent Auction and Raffle items, and lots of good fellowship. We are very grateful to everyone who attended and especially those who made financial commitments to our Giving Tree program, which provides the pantry with sustaining funding throughout the year. 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.

We offer a special **Thank You** to the following key players who made our Spaghetti Dinner evening a success:

- ➡ **Deacon Don Korson** for his impressive and inspiring efforts as Master of Ceremonies for the evening
- ➡ **Guest Speaker Pat Cashell** for his sincere and moving remarks on his personal history of struggle with drugs and homelessness, his courageous recovery, and his current notable role as Regional Director of the Reno Volunteers of America organization
- ➡ **John Farahi**, CEO of Monarch Casino & Resort, the parent company of the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa since its inception in 1972, for providing the perfect venue for our event. The Atlantis staff made sure everything was flawless for our special evening. We can't thank John and his staff enough for their kind and generous support!



From L: Pat Cashell; Cindy & Deacon Don Korson; Deacon Don & Pat





## Reno Bike Project Donates Bikes for Kids

Reno Bike Project, our new neighbor at 216 Grove St., recently offered the pantry 25 refurbished bikes for kids. We quickly filled up the list in December and our clients will pick up their new bikes in January. We and our clients are delighted by the generosity of Reno Bike Project, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community bicycle shop. Volunteers at the shop refurbished 132 bikes for local kids in 2018. To learn more about them or to donate a bike that can be renovated, be sure to check out their website at <http://renobikeproject.org>.



From L: Darlyne Sullivan, Jeff Stone, and John Farahi of the Atlantis



## Grant Received From Dermody Properties Foundation

We are pleased to announce that we recently received a grant in the amount of \$500 from the Dermody Properties Foundation. Founded in Reno in 1960 as a warehouse and distribution company, Dermody Properties is now a nationally recognized industrial developer offering leasing services, land control, financing and construction to commercial customers. We are most grateful for their ongoing support of the pantry.



Debbie Poland of Dermody Properties presents  
a check to Cindy Becher



## The Giving Tree Continues to Grow

As a result of the generosity of our supporters, including individuals, corporations, foundations and local churches, the Giving Tree is sprouting colorful new leaves and various whimsical creatures. The ongoing donations represented by the Giving Tree help to keep the pantry doors open to all in need in our area. Giving Tree donors were recognized at the Spaghetti Dinner with a brightly blinking red heart, symbolizing their own generous hearts. It's never too late to join them!



## Our Pantry Space is Expanding!

Beginning in January, 2019, St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry will be expanding! We are leasing Suite E, next door to our current Suite F. We will use this new area to service our Commodities program, which is formally called The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and provides our clients with food given to us by the US Department of Agriculture through the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. The food we receive varies each month, but can include canned vegetables and fruits, fruit juice, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, pasta, rice, flour, milk, eggs, meat, poultry and so on.



Our new pantry space coming in January

## 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.
- ♥ **Terry Lee Wells Foundation**, established in 1999 by Reno native Terry Lee Wells. We were sorry to learn this generous Foundation has now ceased operation. We thank them for their support over the last 2 years.
- ♥ **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. We are elated and our clients will love the hearty and nutritious food!



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

## Christmas Joy and Happy New Year from Us to You!

Our pantry elves send their greetings to all of you for a joyful and blessed Christmas season and an upbeat start to 2019.



From L: Dennis LeBlanc; Beverley Smith; Marie Sanchez; Susan Britt; Tom McHugh

From L: Jared Becher; Dennis LeBlanc

Mary Challis holds boxes of "Mary's Gone Crackers" snacks



**Our Mission Statement is never more true than at Christmas!**

**Have a joyful and blessed New Year**  
**Thank you for all that you do to help our neighbors!**