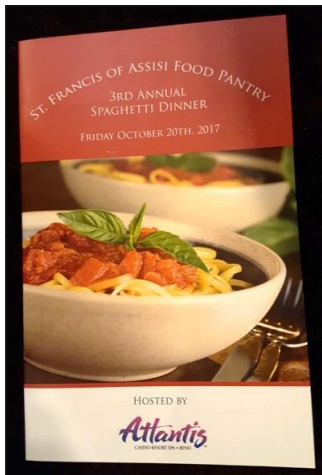


Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry Newsletter January, 2018

"We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers"

3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner the Best Ever!

Our 3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner was held on Friday, October 20th at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno and was our biggest and best ever! Over 300 pantry supporters attended and enjoyed a memorable evening of superb Italian food complemented by two outstanding guest speakers, live music, 58 Silent Auction items, 38 raffle items and lots of good fellowship throughout the evening. We raised over \$30,000 which will be used to continue our mission of providing healthy fresh and non-perishable food to the needy in our area. Our heartfelt thanks to all who came to support the pantry – we couldn't do it without your help!



Silent Auction and Raffle Item tables



The stage in the Ballroom at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa



From L: Dick Johnson; Michele Johnson; Cathy Johnson



Guest speakers Fayth Ross of Urban Roots & Chris Needham of Renown Regional Medical Center



From L: Mary Ann Henry; Deacon Don Korson; Don Eberlein



From L in foreground: Ed Rousseau; Carol Rousseau



From L: Cathy Cecil; Beverley Smith; Shirley Bennett



One of our happy Raffle winners!



From L: Susann Boley; Nona Lee Biale, Stana Stefani

Santa Visits the Pantry!

Santa made an unforgettable visit to the pantry in mid-December and gave toys to nearly 350 very excited and girls, and left more toys to be given to children the following week before Christmas. Toys were provided thanks to generous donations from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Cindy Becher, and Cathy and Dick Johnson, and many hours of assistance were provided by dedicated volunteers including a hardworking group from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We can still hear faint jingle bells every now and then in the clothing room where Santa did his magic!



From L: Renee Stone, Corazon Hand, Santa & Lynette Prina Duclos



Santa with a few of his delighted admirers



From L: Santa's special helpers Terri Sadler & Lori Jeppson

Green Solutions Offers Recycling Solution

We have been seeking a low-cost way to recycle the large amount of cardboard we generate each week, and are thrilled that Green Solutions Recycling in Reno has offered to pick it up every week at no cost to us! We couldn't be more pleased and grateful for their generous assistance in keeping the pantry green on the inside and the outside too!



Green Solutions Recycling dumpsters

New Prescription Pantry Program Has Begun

We are proud to announce that Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is now a Prescription Pantry, collaborating with Renown Health, Northern Nevada Hopes, Community Health Alliance and Northern Nevada Food Bank to help connect food-insecure patients with much needed healthy food critical to battling diabetes or cardiovascular disease. We have been selected as one of the pantries to pilot this innovative new program, which will last for 2 years. It began in September, 2017 and will go through September, 2019. We are excited to see clients arriving with their "prescription" in hand for the healthy food we can provide, which should lead improved well-being and better long-term health.



Urban Roots Partners with the Pantry

One of our newest partnerships is with Urban Roots, a non-profit organization in Reno committed to growing healthy minds, bodies and communities through its place-based gardening and seed-to-table education. They operate a large community garden including a big greenhouse, sponsor Farm Camp in the summer for kids to learn about growing produce, and offer family gardening workshops throughout the year. They provide our food pantry with a steady supply of delicious fresh fruits and vegetables for our clients. Thank you!



Cindy Becher in the Urban Roots greenhouse

A Big Thank You to Stantec!

In mid-December, the pantry was blessed with a very large donation of non-perishable food and a Sclaris gift card from the generous employees of the Reno office of Stantec, Inc. Stantec is a large engineering design consulting firm that tackles major projects all around the world. Our heartfelt thanks to Stantec for their kindness and generosity!



From L: Nolwenn Helou & Dave Titzel from Stantec, Inc.



Our Food Barrels Get Around!

A big thank you to these local organizations who allowed us to place our food barrels at their locations including:

- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Incline Village
- Girl Scouts of Sierra Nevada office in Reno
- 24 Hour Fitness at 6155 Neil Road in Reno
- Reno Bridge Center on Wrondel Way

Together We're Making a Difference

We are thrilled to report that in the past 6 months we have received generous grants from the following foundations which will allow us to continue with our mission of 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!
- ♥ **Terry Lee Wells Foundation**, established in 1999 by Terry Lee Wells, a native of Reno. During her lifetime and subsequently through her foundation, Terry supports organizations in Northern Nevada that help to improve the quality of life for the underprivileged, with a special emphasis on women and children.

