



Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry Newsletter June, 2020

"We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers"

Fresh and Healthy at the Pandemic Pantry!

Despite the difficult times we are in, the pantry has remained open and continues to serve the needy in our community. Our dedicated and fearless volunteers continue to provide fresh, healthy food for our clients and their pets. We have also received a generous donation of toiletries from **Brett and Morgan Bargaquast** as noted below. These are always tremendously appreciated by our clients!

With your help, we will get through this difficult time together and hopefully someday will return to a new normal.



New Coronavirus Procedures at the Pantry

As the Stay-at-Home orders have continued, our pantry President Cindy Becher has redesigned previous standard procedures at the pantry to safely distribute food to our clients, and keep our volunteers safe, in this difficult time.

As in the past before COVID-19, clients can again come into the pantry to shop for their food, but with these changes:

- Clients are urged to wear a mask. If they do not arrive with a mask, one is given to them.
- If a group of family members arrive, only one family member is allowed into the pantry to shop. The others must wait outside.
- Social distancing is enforced both outside the pantry for those waiting in line, and for those inside the pantry shopping. Xs mark the spot on the floor!
- Instead of coming once per month, clients can now come to the pantry once a week.



Soap and toothpaste donated by Brett & Morgan Bargaquast
Pet food donated by the SPCA of Northern Nevada



Brett & Morgan Bargaquast with their generous donation of toiletries, paper goods and diapers. ❤️



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our shelves are stocked and ready when clients arrive. More clients are returning to the pantry for assistance every week and we are very happy to see them safe and well!

Support the Pantry While You Shop!

If you are like many of us 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!



Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to thank **Rachael Blanchard** for her outstanding service to the pantry for the past 4 years, but most especially during the COVID-19 lockdown. Rachael was at the pantry every time we were open, shelving food, checking in clients and helping in many other ways. In addition, she sewed masks at home for our volunteers as well as for local hospitals and businesses. Rachael is a real **HERO** and we couldn't be more proud to recognize her as one of our very best and most committed volunteers.



Carrying Food to Carriage Stone

Three committed pantry volunteers delivered several cartloads of food to the Carriage Stone Apartments in Reno, which provides affordable housing for seniors, including a few of our clients.



From left: Kathy Doyle and friends

New Delivering with Dignity Program

Launched on May 1 by Nevada Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall, the State of Nevada has created a new temporary program to bring high-quality meals at no cost directly to the most vulnerable individuals and families in the Reno-Sparks and Las Vegas areas. In our area, the program is managed by the United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierras with local community partners, particularly Liberty Food and Wine Exchange, who prepare and deliver the meals. The intent is to keep the most vulnerable in our community safe by reducing their exposure to COVID-19.

St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry has recommended selected clients for this program based on various criteria, such as disability, lack of transportation, lack of family support and nutritional needs. We are proud to participate in this caring and compassionate program.



Happy Thanks to China East Restaurant!

We are very grateful to the big-hearted owners of China East Restaurant at 1086 S. Virginia St. in Reno for their generous donation of 100 meal vouchers to the pantry in May. During May, clients using these vouchers were invited to select from several entrees plus either chicken chow mein or fried rice. This kind gesture is much appreciated. We are big fans of China East Restaurant!

China East Restaurant

Online Giving is Convenient, Easy & Secure!

Everyone is dealing with many uncertainties during this time of pandemic and the pantry is no exception. We have kept our doors open wide for clients to come and obtain free food, although our process has changed somewhat to ensure the safety of clients and volunteers, as described in the preceding article.

We would like to encourage you to consider online giving as a way to provide continued financial support to St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry. Having regular donations allows us to better control our finances and ensure we can meet our monthly obligations of rent, utilities, insurance, pantry truck maintenance, and mailing costs.

Online giving is also a green solution saving envelopes, checks and other paper. It reduces our cost and time in printing and mailing envelopes. And it's quick and easy to get started! Just grab your credit card, go to our Donations page and complete the simple online form, which is shown below the link:

<https://saintfrancisofassisifoodp.givingfuel.com/saint-francis-of-assisi-food-pantry>

Donation Amount * \$

Recurring * ☒ One Time
☐ Weekly
☐ Monthly
☐ Quarterly
☐ Yearly

Total \$0.00

Billing Information

Name * First Name Last Name

Card Number * VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

Expiration Date * Exp. Month Exp. Year CVV

Address * Street Address

City, State, and ZIP * City State ZIP/Postal Code

Email * Email Address

SUBMIT

This page is secured with 256 bit encryption

GivingFuel
Secure Online Giving Powered by GivingFuel

Once your online donation is set up, it will continue until you notify Cindy Becher at 775-772-2759 to stop or change it. We are also very willing to take your check! Just make it out to the pantry and mail it to the address at the top of Page 1.

As always, we thank you for your kindness and generosity in helping our neighbors during this especially difficult time.



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.

- ♥ **Dermod Properties Foundation** – their recent grant of \$1,500 allowed us to purchase sturdy new folding shopping carts for our clients.
- ♥ **Food Bank of Northern Nevada** - their recent grant of \$2,500 allowed us to purchase sturdy new folding shopping carts for our clients.
- ♥ **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** – for their many gifts in 2019 and 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 been invaluable!
- ♥ **United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierras** – for generous grants totaling \$16,000 to support food purchases for our clients from January, 2020 – April, 2021.



Our Fearless Volunteers in Action!

Below are photos of our brave volunteers who have continued coming to the pantry to help despite the COVID-19 lockdown orders. We cannot thank them enough for their courage and commitment in this challenging time. Special thanks to **Nancy Lund and her family** who organized a food drive collecting from all the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints churches. Through their caring generosity, hundreds of pounds of food and hygiene products were donated to the pantry. ❤️



Left: Rick Lund with Abby and Nancy Lund

Top Right: Abby & Alicia Lund

Bottom Right: Abby Lund

Top Left from front: Rachael Blanchard; Myra Parks; Kerry McKinney; client volunteer, Julie Williams; Mary McKnight

Top Right from front: Rachael Blanchard; Nick Wilson; Jenny and friend; Shirley Bennett; Myra Parks; Mary McKnight; Myra's grandson Rylie

Below from left: Beautiful masks made by Pat Madariaga and her angels and Rachael Blanchard



Left & Right: Luke hidden behind stacks of bread and Luke revealed!

Top Middle from front: Rachael Blanchard; Cindy Becher; client volunteer; Julie Williams; Mary McKnight

Bottom Middle: Vivian Mollison