

Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry Newsletter September, 2020

"We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers"

Sharing Hope Gathering Postponed Until 2021

Because of restrictions on large gatherings due to COVID-19, pantry founder Cindy Becher has deferred our traditional in-person Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, recently renamed

Sharing Hope, until Saturday, November 13, 2021.

The Atlantis Hotel Resort Casino will once again host our 6th annual Sharing Hope/Spaghetti Dinner gathering *next year*, depending on the pandemic situation at that time.



In the meantime, the pantry remains open and your support is needed more than ever to assist those in our community who need fresh healthy food and other items during these perilous times. We are accepting donations of the following:

- ♥ Baby supplies including diapers, baby blankets, baby clothing and baby food
- ♥ Clothing for kids and adults, including shoes and socks
- ♥ Food, both perishable and non-perishable. Be sure to check the dates on cans and packages; only unexpired food can be accepted.
- ♥ Paper goods including paper towels and toilet paper
- ♥ Pet food
- ♥ Small household goods and linens including blankets, sheets, towels, etc.
- ♥ Toiletries and cleaning products (unopened)

Of course, you are always welcome to make a financial donation as well! Instructions for on-line giving are on Page 3 and your support is always needed to ensure the pantry shelves are stocked with a variety of food needed by clients, especially for those with chronic and serious health issues who are eager to obtain low sodium, low sugar and other healthy foods that provide good nutrition. With your help, we will get through this difficult time together . . . and we will sure miss seeing all of you in November at the Atlantis!



Sharing Hope *Apart* Fall Fundraiser

Since we have had to postpone our in-person Sharing Hope Fundraiser until next year, this year we are simply asking our supporters to donate to the pantry what they would have spent in November at our regular Sharing Hope dinner. We will recognize funds raised between September 1 –

December 31 of this year as belonging to our **Sharing**

Hope *Apart* fall fundraiser and will surprise you with a small but special token of our appreciation along with your Thank You note and donation receipt.

To kick off our fall fundraiser, the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa has donated \$5,000 to the pantry. We hope this gift is the first of many donations given to the pantry this fall from our caring supporters in the community.

All of us have been negatively affected by COVID-19, but there has generally been a greater impact on the poor, elderly, disabled and various marginalized groups. We have kept our doors open to ensure that healthy fresh food is available at no cost to those who need it and are struggling to cope with the sudden loss of jobs and greater risk of illness due to underlying health conditions and living situations that make them more vulnerable.



*Apart for now, but together in our
commitment to feed the hungry.*



We appreciate any donation you can offer in these troubled times and thank you in advance for your ongoing interest in and support of the pantry. We couldn't do what we do without *you*! We look forward to seeing you in person at our **Sharing Hope** gathering at the Atlantis next year. In the meantime, stay safe, be well and take good care of each other.

SHARING  HOPE

New Shopping Carts for the Pantry

We are really excited about our recent purchase of sturdy new shopping carts for use by clients when they are at the pantry. Each client's food is temporarily stored in a cart while they are progressing through the pantry, saving clients the hassle of carrying heavy and often bulky bags of canned goods and other items through the various rooms at the pantry.

The pantry has 4 rooms including the Clothing & Household Goods room, the Canned Goods & Non-Perishable Food room, the Bread and Snacks room, and finally the Fresh Food room, which is the last stop and includes fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs, meat, poultry, fish and other perishable food as available. The food collected for each client in a cart is easily transported to their vehicle or to their own cart when they have finished shopping and the numbered cart remains at the pantry for the next client.



Volunteer Spotlight On

Wayne & Karrie Backlund

for their exceptional and outstanding service to the pantry since our doors opened back in 2016. They have picked up and delivered pet food and other supplies several times per week every month of the the year, always coming through for pantry clients despite blizzards, scorching heat, rain, a global pandemic and every other obstacle in their way! They are unstoppable and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their dediction and commitment to helping those in need in our community.

We salute you two heroic volunteers
for your hard work and dedication the past 6 years!



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!



New AC Units Keep Us Cool!

As luck would have it, the air conditioning in the pantry suddenly stopped working in mid-July, on a very hot day in the middle of a very bad pandemic! We were fortunate that our caring landlords, Doug and Brenda Wolfe, were able to purchase new air conditioning units for pantry Suites E and F. Local Carson City contractor Brown Heating & Air Conditioning came to our aid quickly to install the units and we are happy to report that we are all now keeping *cool* once again! ❤️



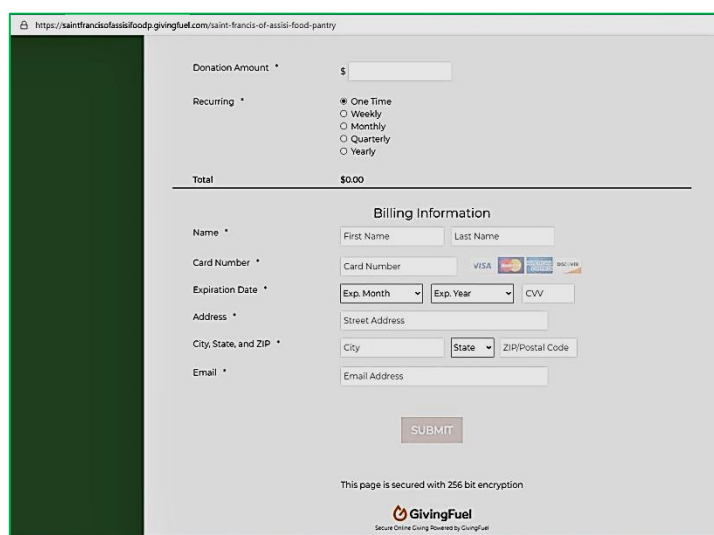
Online Giving is Greatly Appreciated!

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.

In light of our postponed **Sharing Hope** fundraiser, it is especially critical at this time that we continue to obtain financial support from the community. We are delighted to receive a one-time donation, or regular monthly donations. Having regular donations allows us to better control our finances and ensure we can meet our monthly obligations of food, rent, utilities, insurance, 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://saintfrancisofassisifoodpgivingfuel.com/saint-francis-of-assisi-food-pantry>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://saintfrancisofassisifoodpgivingfuel.com/saint-francis-of-assisi-food-pantry>. The form includes fields for Donation Amount, Recurring (One Time, Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly), Total (\$0.00), Billing Information (Name, Card Number, Expiration Date, Address, City, State, ZIP, Email), and a SUBMIT button. A security notice at the bottom states: "This page is secured with 256 bit encryption" and "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.



Fresh Greens Donated to the Pantry

We are excited about our new partnership with Reno Food Systems, a local non-profit organization whose stated mission is to cultivate community-based food systems through education, research and civic engagement. They have partnered with Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space to operate a 5 acre vegetable farm at the northeast corner of the Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park along Mayberry Drive, just east of the historic Crissie Andrews Caughlin family ranch house. In 1990, this property was donated by Betsy Caughlin Donnelly, a descendent of the original ranching and farming family, to Washoe County to be preserved as open space.

Reno Food Systems provides their farm interns working on the "park farm" with hands-on experience growing high-density, organic crops in Northern Nevada's arid climate through natural and regenerative methods. The produce is sold locally and any excess produce is donated to local food pantries including Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry. We are delighted to obtain fresh locally-grown produce at no cost for our clients. It has been a big hit and magically disappears as soon as clients arrive and find it in the pantry.

We are very grateful to Park Farm Manager Lyndsey Langsdale and her hardworking crew at this innovative non-profit for their generosity and energetic commitment to improving the health and farming knowledge of our local community.



Food Deliveries for Access Medical Clients

We have joined with the Access to Healthcare Network to provide fresh healthy food to a select group of their clients who cannot otherwise obtain this type of food. This local non-profit creates healthier communities by developing innovative services and programs, such as offering a medical discount program to uninsured and underinsured Nevadans who pay a small monthly fee to gain access to network of providers who offer their services at a significant discount.

This many-faceted non-profit offers numerous other programs including care management, non-emergent medical transportation, the Women's Health Care Connection program that provides free breast and cervical cancer screening for low income uninsured and underinsured woman, a Colorectal Cancer Screening Program, Aging and Disability Resource Centers that provide services to seniors and the disabled, and many more helpful programs in our area.

We are proud to partner with Access Medical Director Dena Miguel and her team to supply fresh healthy food to some of their most deserving clients.



The Pantry Doors Are Still Open!

We are proud to say that the doors of Saint Francis of Assisi Food Pantry have not closed during this pandemic. We have kept to our same operating schedule without fail since COVID-19 made its initial appearance in our area March, other than the normal holiday closures.

We know that our clients rely on the pantry to obtain fresh healthy food each week and are happy we are there to assist 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 we will continue to cheerfully fulfill 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 recent 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 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 \$22,000 to support food purchases for our clients from January, 2020 – April, 2021.



United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra