



# News from the Food Closet

SOUTH SACRAMENTO INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ♥ FEBRUARY 2021

The Food Closet will hold its main fundraiser, Full Plates, Full Hearts, online on Thursday, March 11 from 6:30 pm–7:30 pm. This pledge-a-thon and silent auction will be on Zoom for everyone to watch. Log into the event from the Food Closet’s home page ([www.ssipfoodcloset.org](http://www.ssipfoodcloset.org)).

Emcee’d by Rev. Jesse Larson from Bethany and Rev. Madi Elsea, retired pastor from Centennial, this fun event will feature videos telling the stories of people who come to the Food Closet to feed their families, of our wonderful volunteers, and an interesting virtual tour of the Food Closet itself. A silent auction will be running online before and at the same time as the pledge-a-thon.

Go to <https://www.32auctions.com/ssip> to bid on auction items, like a guided trip to the Gold Country for your family,

or a virtual yoga class where you can invite all your friends!

We are looking for items or services for our auction so if you have something you can offer please contact Leonor Alvarez at [leonormedina44@netscape.net](mailto:leonormedina44@netscape.net) or (916) 531-6815.

Pledgers can give during or before the event three ways. Go online to [www.ssipfoodcloset.org/give](http://www.ssipfoodcloset.org/give) (make a note that your donation is for [Full Plates](#), [Full Hearts](#) or buy writing FPFH on the memo line). You may also send us a check with FPFH written on it. If you have a business, please show your commitment to ending hunger in our community by joining us as a business sponsor of this 2021 event! (Go to [www.ssipfoodcloset.org/fpfh-business-donors](http://www.ssipfoodcloset.org/fpfh-business-donors) to find out how.)



Thank you to our business sponsors who support the work of the SSIP Food Closet through this event at the \$1,000–5,000 level!

## NEWMARK

Jeff Kvarme, Director, NEWMARK KNIGHT FRANK  
Lic. Real Estate Broker, Industrial/Commercial Real Estate



## Sutter Health

### We Plus You

SUTTER HEALTH VALLEY AREA

### ONLINE BIDDING IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!



#### Visit Our Auction Page

Visit our auction page at <https://www.32auctions.com/ssip> to create a login and verify your account.



#### Bid on Your Favorite Item

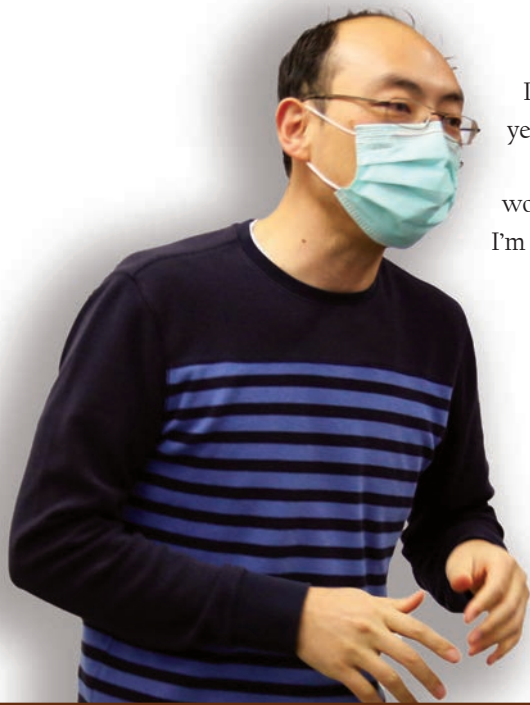
Bid on your favorite items from your computer or cell phone (there isn't an app, so you will use your phone's browser.) You'll receive email updates if someone outbids you. Or you can set up a bid proxy to set your maximum bid, and the system will automatically bid for you up to the amount you choose.



#### Pay Safely & Conveniently Online

Pay safely and conveniently online. You can pay for your auction items by PayPal or credit card. There's also an option to contribute directly to SSIP by clicking the green "DONATE" button.

Online Auction Starts March 7 and Ends March 12



I joined SSIP Food Closet exactly a year ago in January, 2020. What an incredible year it was, and what an unforgettable ride it's been for me.

New to the non-profit world and I survived. People ask me "where do you work?", and I reply, "at SSIP". Yet I don't feel like I'm *working* at SSIP. It's more like I'm *servicing* at SSIP.

**"A YEAR LATER AND  
... STILL HERE."**

As we start a new year, 2021, I look forward to serving the volunteers, the donors, and the clients that are at the heart of what is SSIP.

Together, we'll continue to "*do good, and do it well.*"

*Simon Yeh, Food Closet Manager*

## In Appreciation for Trader Joe's

Trader Joe's (TJ) at 5000 Folsom Boulevard has provided thousands of pounds of food to the SSIP Food Closet since they opened seventeen years ago. As the store neared opening, Betty Park, Faith Presbyterian member and longtime SSIP volunteer and sponsor, arranged for food pick ups by SSIP on Tuesdays and Sundays. We haven't missed a pick up in all these years.

Through the years the TJ manager and staff have been helpful and supportive. In a recent phone conversation, a store representative expressed their appreciation for SSIP, its staff and the opportunity to work in partnership to serve the community.

TJ sometimes makes food available for pick up on additional days so that nothing goes to waste. Often, two large trucks or vans are needed to transport what is donated!

We are grateful for their continued support of the Food Closet and the clients served. The next time you are in this Trader Joe's store, please extend our appreciation for what they do for the community. We know they will be happy to hear your feedback and the extent of support SSIP receives from the community at large.

*By Margaret Brown, Chair,  
Communications Committee*



## Faith Presbyterian Youth Make Christmas Special for Others!

On December 20th, members of the Faith Presbyterian Youth Group met in the Bethany Fellowship Hall to pack Christmas goodie bags for the SSIP Food Closet. Nine youth and six adults assembled 500 decorative bags full of snacks in record time! The bags were distributed to clients on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Christmas.

Thank you to Faith and Bethany for making this possible.

*By Wally and Jim Hoffsis, Co-Chairs Food Closet Operations  
Committee*



### Board Notes

Board of Directors for 2021: Loretta Fransham, Chair; Tom Busch, Vice-Chair; Shigeko Shibata, Treasurer and Kathy Anderson, Secretary.

The approved budget for 2021 is \$159,600.



## 2020 Impact Report for the SSIP Food Closet South Sacramento Inter-Faith Partnership

### *Executive Summary*

Your generosity fed 105,324 individuals in 2020, representing 27,010 households in our community. The Food Closet had to provide food for 135% more people than it helped feed in 2019. Donors' generous contributions helped avert an even worse crisis among those whose need for food increased exponentially during the pandemic.

The Food Closet survived with your help by raising \$89,434 from individual donors in 2020 and by being awarded several one time grants to help nonprofits dealing with the pandemic (\$41,585). Together we met the challenge of recruiting new volunteers to replace some of our volunteers over 65 by putting out a call which was answered by younger people.

Finally, Manager Simon Yeh spearheaded a strict campaign to keep the Food Closet sanitized, clean and safe for volunteers. This was another challenge that requires ongoing vigilance. Many volunteers are still over age 65 and risking their own health to keep the Food Closet operating. Volunteers logged an estimated 14,400 hours working for the Food Closet in 2020.

See the full Impact Report on our Website: [www.ssipfoodcloset.org](http://www.ssipfoodcloset.org)





# VOLUNTEER REFLECTIONS

During the pandemic we often hear, “We are all in this together.” While this might ring true, the pandemic does not affect us all the same. As months passed I wondered what I could do to help those severely impacted by the virus in my community. I answered a call for volunteers at SSIP that came through my church.

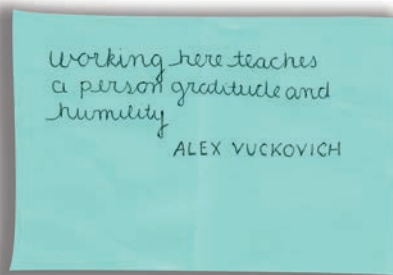
After my first day distributing food to the hungry, I understood that SSIP was a place where miracles happen. I was part of a team filling a real need, feeding families one box at a time. After volunteering I return home tired, a good tired, because of the knowledge that today I made a difference.

*Mary Lou Hanzlik*

I began volunteering with SSIP nearly ten years ago, initially picking up baked goods from a grocery store on the weekend. When I retired at the end of 2014, I began working at the Food Closet on Monday mornings.

I have gotten to know and appreciate the Marvelous Monday crew of volunteers, as well as our efficient and ingenious paid staffers, and I always find it a distinct pleasure to be with them on Monday morning.

*Tom Busch*



Before March 2020 I had never heard of SSIP Food Closet. It was a fellow community leader that reached out and informed me that because of the COVID-19 outbreak they needed help.

As my normal volunteering with the City came to a halt because of the virus, I was glad to be able to help with this noble cause.

My experience with this well-run organization has been very fulfilling. Simon Yeh is an outstanding leader able to multi-task flawlessly, he and his staff never fail to thank their volunteers. Feeling appreciated is like getting paid for me, and Simon never fails to express his gratitude.

As a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), I volunteer at various events and functions. Another local food bank reached out to the CERT for help in packing and distributing food for Thanksgiving. It was a little disappointing compared to how wonderfully operated SSIP is and what a joy it is to volunteer there. It has been a pleasure and heartwarming to help those less fortunate.

*Michelle Fortes*

Our website has been completely renovated and updated. Please go to [www.ssipfoodcloset.org](http://www.ssipfoodcloset.org) and take a look and marvel at the creativity and initiative taken by our volunteer designer, Leslie Thompson. We appreciate all of her hard work to make the website and newsletter professional communication platforms that help us find what we need to know about the Food Closet.

Thank you, Leslie!

## The chart below tells a story of phenomenal growth over the last two years in households and individuals served.

	2019		2020	
	Households	Individuals	Household	Individuals
January	1,241	4,438	1,937	7,038
February	1,298	4,678	1,969	6,848
March	1,258	4,339	2,084	7,164
April	1,409	4,909	2,253	8,679
May	1,476	5,102	2,160	8,633
June	1,283	4,440	2,038	8,224
July	1,458	5,049	2,320	9,341
August	1,478	5,072	2,149	8,536
September	1,458	4,960	2,447	9,833
October	1,969	7,347	2,510	10,236
November	1,620	6,137	2,423	9,764
December	1,250	4,694	2,720	11,028

We are grateful for you, our supporters. Without your donations, time and prayers the Food Closet would not exist. You make it possible for us to face the challenges of responding to all who come to us when in need. Thank you!

## How Can I Help?

- **Amazon purchases:** Did you know that by using Amazon at <https://smile.amazon.com> .05% of your purchases could be donated to SSIP? At the top of the Amazon Smile page, in the left corner, click on: *Supporting* and type *South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership*.
- **Volunteer:** Please help us to recruit willing volunteers for a variety of tasks needed to keep the Food Closet doors open. Please contact Simon Yeh at (916) 428-5290 or [volunteers@SSIPFoodCloset.org](mailto:volunteers@SSIPFoodCloset.org).
- **Donate Funds:** SSIP needs your monetary donations to keep our doors open and overhead expenses paid. Your dollars are leveraged to purchase food at incredibly low cost. We appreciate your donation through our website [www.SSIPFoodCloset.org/give](http://www.SSIPFoodCloset.org/give) or send your checks using the enclosed envelope.
- **Food:** We accept recently purchased canned goods and staples, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables from home or community gardens.

Thank you to all of our donors who make it possible for SSIP to “do good and do it well”.



[SSIPfoodcloset.org](http://SSIPfoodcloset.org)

5625 24th St  
Sacramento, CA 95822

### Paper or Digital?

You have received this newsletter in a mailed, hard copy. If you prefer to receive only an electronic version, please email your request to [info@SSIPfoodcloset.org](mailto:info@SSIPfoodcloset.org)

## THE SSIP MISSION

The primary mission of the SSIP Food Closet is to maintain and operate an emergency food distribution to help alleviate food insecurity for South Sacramento residents. Partner faith-based organizations, with assistance from local businesses and other community members, provide the support and resources for the SSIP mission. In carrying out its mission the Food Closet adheres to the values of service, integrity, stewardship and accountability.

A big thank you to our partner grocers and a hero's salute to the SSIP volunteer drivers that pick up food every day at these grocers:

- Grocery Outlet (Florin Rd./Riverside Blvd.) provides a variety of food products, once a week.
- Nugget Market (Florin Rd./Greenhaven Drive) provides bread and pastries, 7 days per week.
- Raley's (Freeport Boulevard) provides eggs, dairy, bread, dry goods and staple products, 5 days per week.
- Safeway (Rancho Cordova) provide a variety of food products, once per week.
- Smart and Final (Florin Rd./Freeport Blvd.) provides a variety of food products, twice a week.
- Trader Joe's (Folsom Boulevard) provides fruits, vegetables, meats and sometimes fish, 6 days per week.

The South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership is comprised of these local congregations:

- Bethany Presbyterian, 5625 24th St
- Centennial United Methodist, 5401 Freeport Blvd
- Faith Presbyterian, 625 Florin Rd
- Florin United Methodist, 7560 Florin Rd
- Hope United Methodist, 6161 Valley High Dr
- Parkside Community Church UCC, 5700 S. Land Park Dr
- Sacramento Japanese UMC, 6929 Franklin Blvd
- Saint Anthony Catholic Church, 660 Florin Rd

#### Associate members

- Fruitridge Christian Church, 4445 Fruitridge Rd
- Lutheran Church of the Master, 1900 Potrero Wy
- Prince of Peace, 7501 Franklin Blvd
- Wesley United Methodist, 5010 15th Ave