



# News from the Food Closet

SOUTH SACRAMENTO INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ♥ FEBRUARY 2022

## SECOND ANNUAL FULL PLATES, FULL HEARTS Our Biggest Fundraising Event is in Full Swing!

Planning for SSIP's second annual Full Plates, Full Hearts event is in full swing with many opportunities to contribute and participate. Last year's event demonstrated our resourcefulness as we moved our biggest annual fundraising event to an online environment.

The Full Plates, Full Hearts team, led by Jan Neeley, had to become familiar with non-profit online event production and auction platforms. Needless to say, it was not without its challenges, but, with the help of volunteers and over 125 individual and 21 business supporters, we were able to raise over \$50,000!

We are excited to host this year's Full Plates, Full Heart event and give our volunteers, clients, and supporters another opportunity to shine. The second annual Full Plates, Full Hearts event, a virtual gala to support the SSIP Food Closet, will be held on March 9, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. To watch,



go to <https://ssipfoodcloset.networkforgood.com/events/38095-full-plates-full-hearts-2022>.

The virtual gala will feature stories from clients and words of wisdom from volunteers and describe the ongoing good work of the Food Closet during a global pandemic. There will also be an online auction starting at 8:00 a.m. on March 5th and ending on March 10th.

This year's auction includes a wine raffle with the grand prize drawn at the virtual gala on March 9th.

The winner will receive a case of wine!

*There are three specific ways you can participate.*

The first way is to join us for the virtual gala, participate in the auction, and invite your family and friends. You can register in advance to bid in the auction here: <http://auctions.networkforgood.com/go/FullPlatesFullHearts>.

Secondly, we are looking for the creative auction items you would be willing to donate. They could include gift baskets,

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## NEW BOARD CHAIR TOM BUSCH WANTS TO BRING MORE PEOPLE INTO THE SSIP FAMILY

Welcome to 2022! A new year has brought changes to the SSIP Board of Directors. As of January 1, Tom Busch took on the role of Board Chair. Tom is a representative for Faith Presbyterian Church. He is one of the legacies of Betty Park, who recruited him in 2011 while he was still working full time.

Prior to retirement in 2014, Tom worked as an attorney in private practice and later for the State Franchise Tax Board.

His volunteer duties started with picking up baked goods every Sunday from Safeway on Watt and Arden. He continued food pick ups until 2015 when he joined the weekly Marvelous Monday Team. Other recent positions held were Vice-Chair of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Together with Board Officers: Vice-Chair, Loretta Fransham;



Secretary, Kathy Anderson; and, Treasurer, Shigeko Shibata, Tom sees a challenging year ahead. He wants to focus the Board on securing more space for the Food Closet operations and finding funds for this expansion. "We need to find funds and take advantage of grant opportunities" he says.

He wants to bring more people into the SSIP family and link their skills and talents to our needs. He wants everyone to focus on recruiting volunteers, particularly the newly retired. He plans to delegate more tasks so that volunteers have a variety of experiences with the organization. With this engagement, opportunities for succession in various leadership roles can be realized.

Best wishes Tom, on taking the helm of this dynamic organization.



# EXCITING TIMES LIE AHEAD!

## Working Towards Site Expansion of the Food Closet

The SSIP Executive Committee established the Site Expansion Commission in November 2021, with the objective of finding a more suitable and sheltered space to meet current needs and allow for future growth. The present Food Closet building is just over 1000 square feet. However, the footprint of the Food Closet expands to about 5000 sq. ft. (mostly exposed to the elements) with the use of the alley, another building on Bethany's campus, and two storage sheds. We need a future home that is about 8500 sq. ft. and ideally

all under one roof. The commission is exploring potential off-site locations in Sacramento as well as partner churches that might be able to host the SSIP Food Closet program and discussing with Bethany the possibility of expanding our presence on-site. I chair the commission, which is comprised of 10 members: Loretta Fransham, Jim and Wally Hoffsis, Chuck Snyder, Shigeko and Victor Shibata, Devin Lavelle, Gina Guarneri, John Penfield, and Ed Hennessy. Please email [info@SSIPfoodcloset.org](mailto:info@SSIPfoodcloset.org), if you are interested in offering your talents, experience, and time to support this major endeavor. *Exciting times lie ahead!*  
*Simon Yeh, Food Closet Manager and Site Expansion Commission (SEC) - Chair*

### SSIP Administrative Assistant

It's a Happy New Year at the Food Closet! On January 3rd Jacqueline (Jacquie) Fleck joined the staff as a part-time AA. She has a background in accounting, currently working on a degree in sociology and admits to loving spreadsheets! This position replaces the Receptionist position held by Francisco Montesinos who separated from employment in October, 2021. The vacancy allowed a closer look at organizational needs and a redefinition of the job to reflect current requirements. We are confident Jacquie will be a strong addition to our team. Please join us in welcoming Jacquie.

### Announcing New COVID Policy

Effective February 1st, all staff and volunteers must be fully vaccinated against COVID to participate in any activities at the Food Closet. Fully vaccinated means having received two vaccination injections and a booster shot. Please confirm your vaccination status with Jacquie, Administrative Assistant, as soon as possible. All other COVID related protocols will remain in effect.

### Grants for Food!

SSIP is pleased to announce that we were recently awarded two grants, both earmarked for the purchase of food during calendar year 2022. The first grant is for \$6000 from the Building Equitable Communities Grant Program, offered through the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. The Food Closet also received an \$11,375 grant from the Ann Land and Bertha Henschel Memorial Fund Commission. We are very grateful for these grants, and both will help further our mission of providing nutritious food to those in need.

### SSIP Participates in KCRA3 Kids Can! Food Drive

After a one-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the SSIP Food Closet once again participated in the KCRA3 Kids Can! Food Drive in Fall 2021. SSIP's ten partner schools (Fortune School, Genevieve Didi-on K-8, Hollywood Park Elementary, John F. Kennedy High, Sam Brannon Middle School, Smythe Academy Middle School, Sol Aureus College Preparatory, Tahoe Elementary, Tecoy Porter College Preparatory, and Charles Mack Elementary) collected 449 boxes of canned goods, amounting to more than 22,450 pounds of food. SSIP volunteers picked up the boxes at the schools and transported them to the Food Closet and to the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church for storage and sorting. The pick-up at Sol Aureus was filmed by KCRA3 TV, and Food Closet Manager Simon Yeh was interviewed.

On December 22nd, ten students and adults representing the Faith Presbyterian Church youth group sorted approximately 200 boxes into various categories. The cans in those sorted boxes are already finding their way into the bags of food that SSIP provides to our clients.

Many thanks to all the schools and volunteers who made the KCRA3 Kids Can! Food Drive a big success.

### Follow Us on Social Media



facebook.com/  
SSIP Food Closet



@SSIPfoodcloset



instagram.com/  
SSIPfoodcloset

# Spotlight on Faith Presbyterian Church

Faith Presbyterian Church, a partner congregation, is located at 625 Florin Road, Rev. Jeff Chapman, Pastor. The church was founded in December 1969, with leadership from the first pastor, Rev. Walter Link.

Faith joined SSIP (then South Sacramento Ecumenical Parish (SSEP)) in the early 1970's when the original seven congregations reached out to several churches to expand the organization's ability to serve the greater community.

Rev. Link became a part of an active SSIP Pastor's Group and remained a supporter throughout his life. In 1979 construction of Faith's first building was begun. This building is now known as Link Hall. The current sanctuary opened in 1994.

Faith members have been active participants in SSIP for decades. During the 1980s and 90s, when SSIP ran four outreach programs, at least three of the part-time Executive Directors were members of Faith.



Members contribute as volunteers, food pick-up drivers, Board officers and members as well as donors and supporters. The church facilities have been used for various SSIP events including fund raising concerts, annual dinners, volunteer appreciation luncheons and the first ice cream social.

For many years the Faith youth group helped sort KCRA3 KidsCAN! food boxes and participated in holiday food distributions. Hundreds of pounds of food have been donated through their food drives and a food collection box is in the narthex of the church to this day. As a partner congregation, Faith takes its commitment seriously with annual financial contributions.

Thank you, Faith Presbyterian, for your 50 years of engagement and support. We look forward to our continued partnership in the future. We welcome your members Tom Busch, as the new SSIP Board Chair and Chong Choe Smith and Deborah Kanner, Board members.

## 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.

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popular merchandise, services, gift certificates to restaurants, and sharing of talents through lessons or shared interests.

Wine and chocolate gift baskets, restaurant gift certificates, and professional services were popular last year.

You can pledge your donation on our web site: <https://www.ssipfoodcloset.org/full-plates-full-hearts-donation> or contact one of our local representatives for more information: Centennial UMC (Marian Sheppard-Sakikahara or Jane Hing), St. Anthony Parish - Sacramento (Lionor Alvarez or Pat Ramirez), Japanese UMC (Shigeko Shibata), Parkside Community (Cheryl McDonald), or Faith Presbyterian (Chong Choe-Smith).

You can drop off auction items at the Food Closet on Friday, Feb. 18, at noon – 1 p.m. or Saturday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Food Closet is located at 5625 24th Street in Sacramento.

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, and fresh fruit and vegetables from home or community gardens.

Thirdly, if you own a business or know of a business owner who may want to participate as a business sponsor for the Full Plates, Full Hearts event, you can find the form for business sponsors here: <https://www.ssipfoodcloset.org/sponsorship>. For any questions about business sponsorships, please contact Jan Neeley at [JNeeley@SSIPfoodcloset.org](mailto:JNeeley@SSIPfoodcloset.org).

We are more than happy to show our appreciation to our wonderful business sponsors by sharing their logo, business name, and sponsorship level during the virtual event and by recognizing them throughout the coming year in SSIP emails, letters, and any press releases.

The Full Plates, Full Hearts team is excited to see how our community of clients, volunteers, individual supporters, and business sponsors come together each year to support the amazing work of the Food Closet in feeding food insecure families around Sacramento





[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 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:

- Grocery Outlet (Florin Rd./Riverside Blvd.)
- Nugget Market (Florin Rd./Greenhaven Drive)
- Raley's (Freeport Boulevard)
- Trader Joe's (Folsom Boulevard)

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
  - Sacramento Japanese United Methodist, 6929 Franklin Blvd
  - Saint Anthony Catholic, 660 Florin Rd
- Associate members**
- Fruitridge Christian, 4445 Fruitridge Rd
  - Lutheran Church of the Master, 1900 Potrero Wy
  - Prince of Peace, 7501 Franklin Blvd
  - Wesley United Methodist, 5010 15th Ave

### Business Sponsors Step Up For Full Plates/Full Hearts!



### 2021 STATS FOR YEAR

	Households	Individuals
January	2,151	8,608
February	2,051	8,254
March	2,457	9,929
April	2,275	9,134
May	1,872	7,069
June	1,950	6,613
July	2,058	6,388
August	2,291	7,135
September	2,384	7,550
October	2,907	9,098
November	2,664	8,205
December	2,667	8,131
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,727</b>	<b>96,114</b>