



News from the Food Closet

SOUTH SACRAMENTO INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ♥ DECEMBER 2021

SSIP DISTRIBUTED HOLIDAY FOOD TO 500 FAMILIES



The Food Closet kicked off the season of gratefulness with a drive-thru distribution of Thanksgiving holiday food on Saturday, November 20th.

Each of the 500 families who participated received three large bags of holiday fixings such as carrots, onions, potatoes, stuffing mix, pecans, cranberry sauce and apples. Instead of turkeys this year, families received a Raley's/Bel Air gift card, provided to us by the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, that could be used to purchase their preferred main dish or any other food item at the grocery store.

More than 60 volunteers and staff helped

with bagging, registration, loading the cars and traffic control. Special thanks go to: Jim Hickerson, who provided all of the traffic cones and delineators used for traffic control; the two motorcycle officers from the Sacramento Police Department who

helped monitor traffic flow; and, the generous members of Bethany Presbyterian Church who provided freshly baked pastries and hot beverages for the volunteers.

Besides the "thank you", "God bless" and "Happy Thanksgiving" greetings heard from our neighbors, all were amazed at how quickly and easily they were served. Thank you to all who made this a very successful event.



WHAT A MIRACULOUS YEAR!

We fed more food-insecure families than ever before in our 50+ year history

Volunteers provide more than 90% of the effort required to accomplish the SSIP Food Closet mission. Without our volunteers, small dedicated staff, church partners, donors, grocery store partners and business sponsors, we would not even exist. YOU have enabled us to continue our mission and feed more clients than ever before in our 50+ year history. Because of you, miracles occur on a daily basis for our clients.

Your love and devotion allow SSIP to serve the food-insecure folks who depend on us. The need continues to grow, and



we are grateful to be able to feed more than 100 families daily. In October we aided close to 3,000 households.

I want to especially thank the staff — Simon, Brian and Jovanne — for their excellent work throughout the year. I am grateful for the Executive Board's leadership in all the important decisions made to assure the organization works well and thrives: Pat, Kathy, Margaret, Tom, Wally, Jim, Jan and Shigeko. Thank you all for your commitment to the Food Closet.

Loretta Fransham, Board Chair

"Service is the rent that you pay for room on this earth." Shirley Chisholm



KEEP IT UP!

2021 wasn't without its challenges

The Food Closet continued to experience a lot of flux in its volunteer base. Some volunteers returned to work and students went back to their classrooms as the economy slowly reopened and restrictions were relaxed.

Retirees and seniors felt more comfortable returning to help at SSIP since every volunteer is required to be fully vaccinated. New volunteers, such as those from Parkview Presbyterian Church, continue to find and choose SSIP as their place to serve the community.

Having enough space to work in and to store the donated food

remains a major difficulty for the organization. While we have been discussing with Bethany Presbyterian Church ways to expand our footprint on their campus, we have also tasked our Site Expansion Commission with exploring and investigating off-site possibilities.

The demand for our services remains incredibly high. In October 2021, we set another new record and served over 2,900 families as tallied by Oasis, the online registration system. We maintained our regularly scheduled hours and did not turn away anyone who needed food.

As I near my second anniversary at SSIP, I say to all of our volunteers, staff, and friends of the Food Closet: "Keep it up! Keep up the good work and thank you!"

*With Gratitude,
Simon Yeh, Food Closet Manager*

2022 FULL PLATES/FULL HEARTS FUNDRAISER



Planning for the second annual Full Plates/Full Hearts fundraiser began early this year. Save the date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm!

We will have another virtual online event to showcase clients,

volunteers and all of our

grocery, faith and business partners whose generosity keeps the Food Closet going.

We are reaching out to local businesses early in case they want their 2022 FPFH donation to count in this

tax year. If you know anyone with a business who might like to support the Food Closet, please let us know.

Last year nearly 40% of giving came from local business sponsors, and most of them were businesses with connections to Food Closet volunteers. Contact JNeeley@SSIPfoodcloset.org

if you have a business contact you think might be interested in helping.

This year we are excited to announce that the silent online auction will feature a wine raffle! You can buy tickets for the raffle and have a chance to win a bottle worth at least \$25. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances. We will also have a live drawing for a case of wine during the 50 minute FP/FH program on March 9.

The silent online auction will begin on Saturday, March 5. If you would like to donate to this year's auction, you might like to know that last year the donated gift certificates for restaurants did very well!

So far we have auction representatives at several faith partners: Centennial (Jane Hing); Japanese UMC (Shigeko Shibata); and St. Anthony (Lionor Alvarez and Pat Aguiar) whom you can contact with questions about donations or for help transporting items.

**SAVE THE DATE:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9,
2022 AT 6:00 PM!**

Food Closet Vans Sparkle

On Sunday, September 19th, the Parkside Community Church youth members gave the Food Closet vans a much needed and appreciated cleaning. Thank you to Sarah Anders, Ely Anders, Alice Kellough, Leon Morris and leader, Luke Zimmerman. Jim Hoffsis, Co-Chair of the SSIP Food Closet Operations Committee, was instrumental in arranging the logistics for this event. Job well done by all!



2021 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Time to express our gratitude in grand style

Recognizing the extraordinary work our volunteers do for SSIP each day, it was time to express our gratitude in grand style.

On October 22, volunteers were treated to an “Afternoon in Italy” luncheon. Chairs for the event, Jill and Sue Carson and their committee, transformed Bethany’s Social Hall into an Italian bistro, complete with Italian background music and several volunteers dressed in authentic Italian fashions.

Pat Aguiar and Mary Ann Miller greeted guests at the door and presented them with permanent, magnetic name-tags which will make getting to know one another much easier.

The Executive Committee served a delicious meal, prepared by Leonor Alvarez and Bill Kitagawa. The meal included salad, garlic bread, pasta with meatballs or vegetarian sauce, ice cream and biscotti.

While no fine wines from Italy were served, spirits were high as Simon Yeh, Food Closet Manager, emceed the event. He introduced Loretta Fransham, Board Chair, who acknowledged the hard work of all the volunteers and staff by proclaiming, “We can do

good and do it well!”

She introduced the Board members as well as the luncheon committee, Jill and Sue Carson, Chuck Snyder, Cathy Philleo, Mary Greenfield and Simon Yeh.

Simon introduced the volunteer drivers who faithfully pick up food every day including holidays and weekends. He noted that there are only three or four days a year that food is not picked up from our grocery partners.

Wally Hoffsis was acknowledged for her excellent work as Volunteer Coordinator. Years of volunteer service to the Food Closet were acknowledged, with Jack Reefer, Chuck Snyder and Frances Lee clearly being the longest serving volunteers present at this event.

The Luncheon Committee procured and wrapped over 60 donated raffle prizes and no participant went home empty-handed.

Simon concluded with a bow of appreciation for the volunteers whom he considers the “heart of the SSIP Food Closet.”



DONATIONS IN HONOR: FOR BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, IN GRATITUDE, ETC.

Frank Allen	Lauren Howard
Al & Ruby	Jack Reefer
Kathy Anderson	Shigeko Shibata
Jim & Jessie Carter	Simon Yeh
Husband of Jeannette Isakson	

DONATIONS IN MEMORY: FOR DECEASED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Casper Carlton	Nina Planteen
Ralph Buelh	Ruth
Sue C. Hanson	Bob Slakey
Kent Kim	Don Sperling
Betty Parks	Mary Stathos



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

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

GRATITUDE FOR LOYAL SUPPORT

In each newsletter our partner congregations and associate members are listed. These faith partners continue to appoint dedicated representatives to lead on the Board of Directors, inspire volunteers to serve and keep the Food Closet open, and commit annual financial support. We are grateful for all that you do. Thanks to our non-affiliated community volunteers who also participate in maintaining this vital community resource. Together we all form the heart of a truly exceptional organization dedicated to service and love of our neighbor. The Food Closet works because you care and support it. As this organization grows and changes, we look forward to continuing focus on our core mission.

YEAR TO DATE STATS

	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

- Parkside Community UCC, 5700 S. Land Park Dr
- 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