



News from the Food Closet

SOUTH SACRAMENTO INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ♥ JUNE 2023

FULL PLATES, FULL HEARTS 2023 SUPPORTING SSIP FOOD CLOSET HAS NEVER BEEN SO SWEET

Full Plates, Full Hearts returns next month with the popular virtual auction, and a cool new addition, an Ice Cream Social.

The online auction will run July 1st through July 8th and will offer a selection of wonderful items, services, and handmade goods.

Participants will have the option of picking up winning bids during the *Full Plates, Full Hearts* Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 13th, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Bethany Presbyterian Social Hall. At the Ice Cream Social we will scoop locally-made Gunther's ice cream into waffle bowls made on site. You will choose from a variety of seven fun flavors and toppings at a sundae bar. The event will include music, raffles, and more!



Our annual fundraiser, *Full Plates, Full Hearts*, provides us the necessary funds to keep operations going and the food supply flowing. At the SSIP Food Closet we take pride in distributing emergency food to food-insecure neighbors since 1969. Those needs are as great as ever. Our statistics show a 64% rise in households served from 2021 to 2022 and the numbers continue to grow in 2023. (Continued on page 4)

FULL PLATES, FULL HEARTS
Auction Donation Drop-off
June 17, 9am-12pm, 5625 24th Street
Virtual Auction, July 1 – 8
Ice Cream Social, July 13, 4pm-6pm
5625 24th Street (at Fruitridge)

SSIP HOSTS FIRST AGENCY COLLABORATIVE EVENT PUBLIC OFFICIALS ALSO ATTEND

SSIP's first community engagement event in more than four years was a success. The May 3rd collaboration was six months in the making with the express purpose of bringing community leaders (agency representatives and elected officials) together to create more meaningful connections with one another.

The guest list included 11 local non-profit agencies, two City Council districts, and two County Supervisorial Districts, along with members of the SSIP Executive Council and event coordinators. Many attendees commented that the event size was just right, not too large to make meaningful connections, and not too small that it felt under-represented.



Simon Yeh shares some thoughts with Community Collaboration guests.

Three agencies delivered 15-minute presentations, after which everyone enjoyed refreshments and networked. The guests who toured the Food Closet were impressed with how staff and volunteers were able to serve an average of 250+ households daily from a building just over a thousand square feet.

Many of the attendees indicated they would return for a similar event if offered in the future; however, they would prefer more time for roundtable discussions. The feasibility of SSIP sponsoring a follow-up event is currently in discussion.

(Continued on page 2)

COLLABORATIVE EVENT (Continued from page 1)



Agency representatives were given a brief tour of the Food Closet.

Thank you to the following agencies and public officials for attending the event, and special thanks to Kaiser Permanente for supporting the event.

2-1-1 Sacramento, Kaiser Permanente, My Sister’s House, La Familia, Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center, Sacramento Library, SCUSD, Opening Doors, Table Farm & Table Bread, United Way, and WellSpace Health.

City Council District 4: Councilmember Katie Valenzuela and Chief of Staff, Zach Freels

City Council District 5: Councilmember Caity Maple and District Director, Michael Benjamin

County Supervisorial District 1: Chief of Staff, Lisa Nava

County Supervisorial District 2: Supervisor Patrick Kennedy and Chief of Staff, Keaton Riley



Andie Paschal from Opening Doors chats with Mary Lou Hanzlik and Shigeko Shibata of the Executive Board during the networking session.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
FEB.	4,246	11,965
MAR.	5,768	16,073
APR.	4,944	13,005

BIG SHOES TO FILL

By Simon Yeh, Food Closet Manager

Those who have volunteered to help with distribution at the SSIP Food Closet, have likely had the privilege to meet Brian. He has worked at the SSIP Food Closet for over 15 years.

Brian started out in 2003, picking up Kids Can! Food Drive donations when SSIP was still operating from an actual closet in the Bethany Presbyterian Church main building. In 2005-2006, he agreed to pick up from Trader Joe’s every Sunday morning. Shortly after, he was hired as the 2nd part-time staff member.

Now, he works six days a week, and rests on Saturdays. He arrives early, around 7:30 a.m., to get things set up and receive food deliveries from the Sacramento Food Bank on Mondays and Wednesdays. Last year, he assumed responsibility for scheduling the drivers which is no small feat, since they pick up from grocery partners every day.

When I joined SSIP in 2020, I was very grateful to have Brian around to help me settle into my new role as Food Closet Manager. He was very quiet and reserved, but always ready to help and take instruction.

Over the years, Brian has become more and more comfortable around the volunteers and staff. Everyone is delighted with this softer side of Brian. He jokes around and mixes it up with the volunteers and staff. I can’t forget an image of him bidding \$1,000,000 on four small whiteboards at this year’s Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon during the Price is Right game. (See photo below) Brian was doing his best Mike Myers impression from the movie Austin Powers, and had his pinky by the side of his lips.



I estimate Brian is over six feet, maybe weighs about 180-200 pounds. I don’t know what size shoe he wears, but I do know that without him here at the Food Closet, his shoes would be difficult to fill.

Congratulations, Brian for 15+ years of service!

FAITH PARTNER SPOTLIGHT
ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Not long ago, St. Anthony Catholic Church, located in Greenhaven, was still the newest congregation in the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP). The connection began nearly 20 years ago when parishioner Frank Allen retired and learned about the SSIP Food Closet from Church staff. He had time and “did not want to just do recreational things.” Allen remembered, “I was looking for somewhere to serve people in need in our community and local food distribution interested me. It truly was a closet back then, with barely enough room for volunteers to move around when packing bags.” One assignment was regular trips with Margaret Brown to pick up food from Senior Gleaners.



A recent gathering of current and former SSIP volunteers From St. Anthony

The St. Anthony pastor, at the time Fr. John Boll, was enthusiastic about community service and supported enfoldng into the St. Anthony Social Justice Ministry a variety of new organizations, including those that comprised other religious congregations. Just months into Frank’s volunteer activities he was approached by the SSIP Board Chair, Rev. Linda Snyder, to meet and discuss the potential for the Church to join the Partnership. A meeting took place at St. Anthony Church and included Rev. Linda and Chuck Snyder, Margaret Brown, and Frances Lee. Following this meeting and with the full support of Fr. John, an application was made for formal membership. St. Anthony was officially accepted by the SSIP Board of Directors in December 2005.

Additional volunteers from St. Anthony were recruited, including the late Fred Nichols who served as Board Chair. When the Committee was formed to build the current Food Closet, Frank managed the bidding process and served as the liaison between the Board and the building contractor. Over the years, St. Anthony Memorial Center has been the venue for the SSIP annual fund-raising dinners. *(Continued on Page 4)*

DONATIONS IN MEMORY AND HONORING

Donations received Feb-Mar-Apr 2023

*In Memory of Pam Anderson
Robert Anderson*

*In Honor of Bob & Henry
Douglas Skewes*

*In Memory of Art Baker, Allen Wise,
Barbara Maier, and Sheila & Dave Sabiston
Norma Killion*

*In Memory of Ralph Buell
Agnes Buell*

*In Memory of Casper Carlton
Rosella A. Lane*

*In Memory of Arthur Crane
Frances Lee
Marcy Dobrow
Margaret & Charles Brown*

*In Honor of Elaine Deatherage
Victor & Shigeko Shibata*

*In Memory of Lyn De Loggio
Dyhana Stewart*

*In Honor of David Huerta
Jim & Gail Fisher
Robert & Moonyene Lew*

*In Memory of Elena Ramirez
Billie Johnson*

*In Honor of Shigeko Shibata
Amy Kawahara
Betty Y. Hirata*

*In Memory of Rev. Jim Zazzera
Esther Chapman
Peachey Harrop
Connie Zupan
Bill & Rita Kirk
Gloria Gigliotti
Renee Larson
Kolby Goodman
Kay F. Russell
Loretta Fransham
Ruth Wittorff
Alfonso Ramirez & Patricia Aguiar
Laurie & Dave Richardson
Michael Carson/Margaret Gonzales
Scott and Jane Owen
David Nefsky & Nancy Luke*

CAITY MAPLE MEETS WITH SSIP TEAM

Thanks to District 5 City Councilmember, Caity Maple and her District Director, Michael Benjamin for the time they spent touring the SSIP Food Closet facilities on April 24th.

Councilmember Maple's district is where a majority of SSIP Food Closet clients reside. Maple who was elected by Sacramento voters into office last November has joined what has now become a majority-female city council.

Maple shared that food insecurity is a priority this year for her office. She/Her and her Director, Michael Benjamin also attended our May 3 Community Collaboration event (covered on page 1 in this issue.)



(L to R) Caity Maple, Councilmember; Mark & Mary Lou Hanzlik, SSIP Fund Development Co-Chairs; Michael Benjamin, District 5 Director; and Simon Yeh, Food Closet Manager.

FULL PLATES, FULL HEARTS (from page 1)

While the need grows in our community, resources have not. With the announcement that the COVID emergency has ended, so has special funding that has been so beneficial to our food insecure neighbors. In May we had the busiest week ever at the Food Closet where we served 1,326 households. We are so grateful to our caring community that makes our work possible.

Access to the online auction and event ticket sales will be available in early June. Watch for announcements on the SSIP website, ssipfoodcloset.org, and in your mailboxes. Please join us for the Ice Cream Social. Tickets will be \$25 per person, and there will additional opportunities to donate online and at the event.

We will be collecting donations for the Virtual Auction on Saturday, June 17th from 9 a.m. to 12p.m. at the SSIP Food Closet or by appointment. Send a request to mlhanzlik@ssipfoodcloset.org. We are looking for gift baskets, popular merchandise, services, restaurant gift cards, re-gifted new items, and the sharing of talents or interests that will provide support for SSIP's mission.

FAITH PARTNER SPOTLIGHT (from Page 3)

The current pastor Fr. Mieczyslaw "Mitch" Maleszyk, through the Social Justice Ministry, continues the Church's commitment of support for the SSIP Mission. The relationships that have been forged among individuals within the SSIP family have truly been an added blessing.

The current SSIP Board of Directors representatives from St. Anthony Church are Leonor Alvarez, Pat Aguiar Ramirez, and Henry Sepulveda.

ENJOYING A NEW LOOK: BUILDING SIGNS, GARDEN & NEW CARGO VAN



If you've been near the Food Closet buildings lately, you may have noticed some new signs, framed and installed by Chuck Snyder. Cathy Philleo was responsible for improving the look of the gardens with a fresh layer of mulch.



There's a number 3 cargo van in the SSIP fleet, recently purchased with assistance from Sacramento Co. Transient Occupancy Tax Grant and additional funds. The newly acquired 2019 Ford Transit was freshly wrapped with SSIP identifiers. Mark Hanzlik rests after completing several recent signage projects.

APPRECIATING VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are at the core of the SSIP Food Closet. Without our dedicated volunteers, SSIP would not be able to do what it does and do it well. On National Volunteer Recognition Day, April 20th, an Appreciation Luncheon was held in Bethany's Social Hall to recognize the contributions of volunteers. Seventy of over 100 active volunteers were in attendance. Wally Hoffsis led an event planning committee and coordinated the work of many assistants on event day. A pizza and salad lunch concluded with an array of delicious desserts prepared by members of the Board of Directors.



An SSIP version of the "Price Is Right" game was hosted by Jim Hoffsis and John Sugar. Volunteer contestants vied for various prizes and provided humorous entertainment for all. The event was an opportunity for volunteers to visit with old friends and to meet other volunteers that they may not have known.

Simon Yeh, Food Closet Manager, concluded the event by expressing appreciation to those who contribute their time and talent in support of the SSIP mission. Also, thank you to all who made this event a success.

ROTARY VOLUNTEERS AT SSIP

The Rotary Club of South Sacramento sent a team of volunteers to the SSIP Food Closet to work on April 15th in what they refer to as "Rotary People of Action Workday," a recurring team effort to support SSIP.

The Rotary already has a long history of financial support for SSIP, but on this particular day in April they were able to offer their assistance in a hands-on effort to clean up inside and outside. The work included sorting through donations of dry goods and cleaning out gutters.



Thank you to our friends at the South Sacramento Rotary Club.



POWER OF ONE 2023 AWARD FOR SSIP



The Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento awarded SSIP \$1,000 in recognition of its important work to improve Sacramento communities and make a difference. Vice Chair Shigeko Shibata, and Manager Simon Yeh, graciously accepted the OVERSIZED check on behalf of the organization at their Power of One award ceremony on May 7th.



5625 24th Street
Sacramento, Ca 95822

PAPER OR DIGITAL?

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 program to help alleviate food insecurity for Sacramento area residents. Partner faith-based organizations, with assistance from local businesses and other community members, provide the support and resources for the Food Closet's mission. In carrying out its mission the Food Closet adheres to the values of service, integrity, stewardship and accountability.

FAITH-BASED PARTNERS

Faith-based partner organizations, with assistance from local businesses and other community members, provide the support and resources for the Food Closet's mission.

Members:

- **Bethany Presbyterian Church**
Rev. Jesse Larson, Cathy Sapunor, Jackie Sneed
- **Centennial United Methodist Church**
Loretta Fransham, Kathy Anderson
- **Faith Presbyterian Church**
Tom Busch, Deb Kanner, Chong Choe-Smith
- **Florin United Methodist Church**
Chuck Snyder
- **Hope United Methodist Church**
Venéta Forrest Saulny
- **Parkside Community Church, United Church of Christ**
Margaret Brown, John Sugar
- **Parkview Presbyterian Church**
Carla Hart, Lois Van Beers
- **Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church**
Shigeko Shibata, Elaine Maeda
- **Saint Anthony Catholic Parish**
Leonor Alvarez, Pat Aguiar Ramirez, Henry Sepulveda

GROCERY PARTNERS

Grocery partners serve an important role in providing a vital resource for our clients in the form of perishable foods, fresh produce, and packaged dry goods.

Grocery Partners:

- **Bel Air (Rush River Dr.)**
- **Grocery Outlet (Florin Rd./Riverside Blvd.)**
- **Nugget Market (Florin Rd./Greenhaven Dr.)**
- **Raley's (Freeport Blvd.)**
- **Trader Joe's (Folsom Blvd.)**

VOLUNTEERS HELP

Please **help us to recruit volunteers** for a variety of tasks needed to keep the Food Closet doors open. Contact Jacquie Fleck at (916) 428-5290 or volunteers@SSIPfoodcloset.org.

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