



# News from the Food Closet

SOUTH SACRAMENTO INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ♥ MAY 2021

## First Ever Full Plates, Full Hearts: A Success Thanks to All of You!

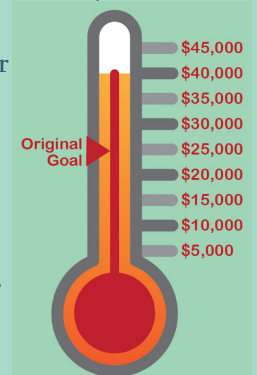
Over 200 individuals, local businesses, entrepreneurs and service organizations joined together to make the Food Closet's only fundraiser for 2021, Full Plates, Full Hearts, a huge success. This year's fundraiser posed a dilemma at first. The traditional annual dinner was not possible due to the COVID pandemic. COVID caused us to cancel the fundraiser dinner in 2020 as well. We needed a



new concept and found it, like many other nonprofits this year, in a virtual event. In fact, it worked so well we may have to consider doing some version of it again! More people than ever before were able to attend when it was online. Held on Zoom, we spent an hour online hearing from people who come to the Food Closet, like Brandy, pictured with her 3-year-old daughter, our volunteers, our manager (Simon Yeh) and the current chair of the SSIP Board, Loretta Fransham. We took a virtual tour of the Food Closet and

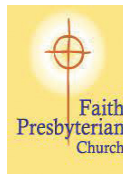
later watched as six long-time volunteers (Shirley Manning, James Chew, Jean Chew, Margaret Brown, Chuck Snyder and Frances Lee) received awards and our appreciation for their long volunteer service to the Food Closet.

An online silent auction was part of the event and brought in over \$8,000. Thanks to your generosity, we exceeded our goal of raising \$25,000; in fact, we netted over \$40,000, which was more than one and a half times our goal! Thanks to everyone who pledged a donation, donated or bought auction items, or helped plan and execute Full Plates, Full Hearts! Whatever your contribution, we thank you. More importantly, those like Brandy who depend on the Food Closet to feed their families, send a heartfelt thank you. Volunteers working at the Food Closet hear words of thanks from our clients every day. We hope you who volunteer your crucial support from afar can also feel the love and appreciation that your contributions routinely evoke at the Food Closet.



### Many thanks to these 2021 business sponsors!

#### THREE HEART LEVEL



#### TWO HEART LEVEL



#### ONE HEART LEVEL



# The Second Shift

In March, we piloted the idea of a second shift where volunteers would work between noon and 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays to help us get a head start on the following day's distribution. They would help with pre-bagging USDA and produce, with sorting donated dry goods, and with breaking down non-food donations such as pet food, toiletries, etc. When Wally Hoffsis tossed this idea out we did not know how well it would be received since many of our volunteers were already helping in the regular morning shift.

To our surprise, the pilot was a big success. It proved to be a great platform for welcoming back volunteers who have now been vaccinated and are ready to rejoin the SSIP Food Closet volunteer workforce. The pace of the second shift is less hectic since it is after our daily distribution and allows more social distancing with a smaller crew of four to five volunteers.

The second shift comprises eight re-

turning volunteers and two new recruits, split between Wednesdays and Thursdays. Chuck Snyder, a long time board member and volunteer, returned as the person-in-charge on Wednesdays. The legendary Chews – Jean and James – are always smiling as they walk through the doors with aprons on and ready to work.

A new recruit, Meg Burnett, volunteered at SSIP for the first time on Wednesday, March 10th, working the second shift. She has thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially the new friendships forged and the wonderful feeling of giving back to the community.

Christine Freeman, another new volunteer, is trying out both the first and second shifts. Other familiar names include Mary Ann Miller, Carol Savoie, Judith Hargrave, Elyse Metune, and Pat Aguiar.

We are still looking for a strong person to work Thursdays to help with the heavy lifting during the second shift. If you're interested, please email us at [volunteers@SSIPfoodcloset.org](mailto:volunteers@SSIPfoodcloset.org).



We are humbled and blessed to have the caliber of quality volunteers that are ready, willing, and able to help.

*Simon Yeh, Food Closet Manager*

## IN APPRECIATION FOR NUGGET MARKETS

We are pleased to highlight another grocery store that partners with the Food Closet. Nugget Market in Greenhaven, at 1040 Florin Road, has been a supporter for nearly 18 years.

Betty Park, a member of Faith Presbyterian and long-time volunteer and supporter of the Food Closet, made the initial arrangements for daily pick up of surplus bread and pastries.

Through the years our relationship with the Nugget staff has grown and they have provided dessert for a recent Annual Dinner. In celebration of the Food Closet's 50th anniversary, Erik St. John, former Nugget store manager, provided the main dish for the annual Volunteer Luncheon and arranged for their staff to cook it as well.



left to right: Bob, Jec, Simon, Pat, Susie

In recent months the Nugget has added surplus dairy, prepared food/deli, meats and produce to the items shared with the Food Closet. We are grateful for Store Director Suzie Rupley,

Bob Sammons, Receiver, Jee Vang, Sustainability Guru, and Shea Robin, headquarters Sustainability Coordinator.

We appreciate Nugget Markets for its sustaining support of the Food Closet in helping us to feed the food-insecure neighbors. Please extend a special thank you to the Nugget staff for their support when you are shopping there. We want them to see the depth of support the Food Closet receives in the wider community.

*Margaret Brown, Communications Co-Chair*



*May God bless all of you! Thank you for your passion!*

*BIG THANKS! To all people for excellent service.*

*Without SSIP I don't know how I would make it, thank God for SSIP. It helps us a lot. With SSIP I don't have to worry about food for my kids. Thank you!*

*Thank you for consistent food distribution in our community. It really*

*HELPS! Also thanks to your food suppliers, especially Nugget! We appreciate you—keep the "inter-faith"! Kathy & John*



## Spotlight on Centennial

Centennial United Methodist Church, 5401 Freeport Blvd., is one of the original founders of the Food Closet. Member Shirley Trimble, now in her 90's, remembers when her husband Don and Rev. Taylor met with the pastor at Bethany in 1969 about getting churches together to support and expand the Food Closet at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Today, Centennial is a unique place because of the congregation's diversity. Pastor Renae Extrum-Fernandez says this was a spiritual commitment, not an accident. "We have a heart that reaches out and welcomes, which also finds its expression in SSIP," she says. It started with a knock at the

door by Fijian and Tongan groups looking for a church home. Someone's heart said yes, and this was the mustard seed for what Centennial has become, said Pastor Renae. Centennial opened the door to a diversity of identities which today goes beyond race and ethnicity. Acceptance and love had the power to transform an initially white congregation to one that is balanced today, where all people can find a home.

Although those who helped found the Food Closet had to step back, others from Centennial stepped forward, including our chair, Loretta Fransham. More came forward to help when the need was greatest, during the pandemic, and for that, we all thank the volunteers from Centennial!

## Scouts Come Through for the Food Closet!

The SSIP Food Closet was the recent beneficiary of a food drive conducted by Cub Scout Pack 259, chartered out of St. Anthony Parish, and Cub Scout Troop 259 which is chartered out of Elks Lodge #6. Julia Hawkinson, Cubmaster, and her husband Garrett Jue, who is the committee chair of Troop 259, delivered a trailer and a truck full of 3,711 food items with the help of their son Cohen, who is a Boy Scout, and their Cub Scout daughter Aria.



## VIRTUAL CROP WALK: MAY 29-JUNE 5

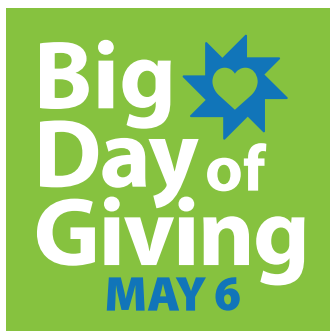
The Sacramento CROP-Hunger Walk raises funds for Church World Services mission to fight hunger worldwide. The SSIP Food Closet has been a long-time supporter of this walk and receives 25% of the funds raised locally. Due to COVID restrictions, the walk will only be held virtually. You will be able to complete your walk any time during the stated time period at your own pace.

Please support the walk by registering, pledging and donating on-line at: [www.crophungerwalk.org/Sacramentoca](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/Sacramentoca).

Craig Chalmers from Parkside Community Church is the local contact and can be reached at [cfchalmers93@att.net](mailto:cfchalmers93@att.net) or (916) 826-0513.

## BIG DAY OF GIVING (Big DOG): MAY 6

A great way to support SSIP is through the annual Big DOG community fun raiser. This virtual event starts on May 6th, and for 24 hours, caring people across the Sacramento region will log on to [bigdayofgiving.org](http://bigdayofgiving.org) to donate to local non-profits they love.



SSIP Food Closet is one of the non-profit organizations that benefits from contributions to this event. (Be sure to designate SSIP Food Closet as a recipient of your generosity.) After a year of hardship, we all can help make our community stronger, more equitable and more vibrant.

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



[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 a variety of food, 7 days per week.
- Raley's (Freeport Boulevard) provides dairy, bread, dry goods and staple products, 6 days 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

### 1ST QUARTER STATS

	Households	Individuals
January	2151	8608
February	2051	8254
March	2457	9929

### 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