



News from the Food Closet

SOUTH SACRAMENTO INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ♥ DECEMBER 2023

ESTATE & FOUNDATION GIFTS AMAZE SSIP LEADERS

GOVERNOR'S CUP FOUNDATION

On September 18, SSIP Food Closet received a very generous donation of \$25,000 from representatives of The Governor's Cup Foundation. David Sanders and Gavin McHugh presented a check in-person to SSIP Board Chair Tom Busch, and Food Closet Director Simon Yeh.

The Governor's Cup Foundation is a local corporation that delivers financial support for a variety of non-profits that align with the GCF's purpose. The GCF provides a forum for open discussion and the exchange of ideas on public policy, scientific and humanitarian issues. In addition to grants, the GCF also generates revenue by hosting an annual Governor's Cup Invitational Golf Tournament in Pebble Beach, CA. Andrea Noteware, an SSIP volunteer, mentioned the Food Closet to her husband who is connected with the GCF, and as a result SSIP was selected to receive this amazing gift.

On their visit to SSIP Food Closet, David and Gavin witnessed how their financial support impacts the over 250 families the Food Closet serves on average each day.

Thank you Andrea for being an SSIP ambassador in securing this charitable gift.



David Sanders is shown presenting a check at SSIP Food Closet with Gavin McHugh, flanked by Andrea Noteware and Simon Yeh on the left, and Tom Busch on the right.

ROBERT GILL TRUST

by Lois Van Beers and Carla Hart, Parkview Presbyterian Church representatives

The SSIP Board of Directors, staff and volunteers were recently overwhelmed by a substantial bequest from the Robert Gill estate. In September, a check for \$100,000 was received for the continuing operation of the Food Closet. Mr. Gill, a Dixon farmer, rancher, husband, father and community activist, believed in service above self.



Marysville Bok Kai Parade. Robert Gill (center) with good friend and fellow farmer, Kern Chew and grandchild Jay Chew. One of the trustees of the estate is Phillip Chew, son of Kern Chew and Jay's father.

During his lifetime, he was a member and leader of many business and community organizations, including the Masons, Shriners, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Solano Water District, the Dixon Bank of America Board of Directors, 4H, Future Farmers of America and Boy Scouts. His dedication in lifting up the community was based on his love of people. Mr. Gill was as well known for his backyard barbecues as for his community activism.

Prior to his death in 2014 at the age of 90, Mr. Gill set up a trust for charitable causes. One of the trustees is Phillip Chew, the son of Mr. Gill's good friend and fellow farmer, Kern Chew. *Continued on page 2*

To learn more about how to include SSIP Food Closet in your endowment and planned giving, contact us at funddevelopment@ssipfoodcloset.org

ROBERT GILL TRUST

Continued from page 1

Trustee Phillip Chew is a long-time member of Parkview Presbyterian Church. In 2022 when Parkview became a faith partner with SSIP, Phil was moved by the testimonials of Parkview's volunteers who spoke of God's amazing grace reaching far into the community through SSIP's remarkable food ministry. A seed of compassion was planted. Having known another SSIP volunteer who also spoke enthusiastically about the Food Closet, the seed of compassion grew and blossomed into the generous donation from the Gill Family Trust to SSIP.

We are grateful to the trustees for recognizing the good work of the Food Closet and bequeathing a generous portion of the estate to SSIP. This legacy gift reflects the value of Robert Gill, who put service first and making a difference in the lives of others. It will help to ensure that the Food Closet can continue to provide for the food insecure and engage in growing healthy communities.

THANKSGIVING 2023

MUCH APPRECIATION FOR A BIG WEEK OF SERVICE

For over two decades the SSIP Food Closet has been serving our clients a Thanksgiving "fixings" box to supplement their Thanksgiving gatherings. This year was no different thanks to the Sacramento Food Bank, our Grocery Partners, and donors. A huge thanks to our volunteers, over sixty in total from SSIP and the Sacramento Food Bank, that made the distribution possible. Over three days from November 20th to 22nd, 1,407 families were served via our annual distribution. On



Monday morning, 757 clients received groceries. This was a service record for the SSIP Food Closet, and we give thanks to all who made it possible. This heartfelt event was full of graciousness, gratefulness, and gratitude.

A NOTE FROM SSIP BOARD CHAIR

As my two-year term as the SSIP Board of Directors Chair draws to a close, I want to express my appreciation to everyone who helps the Food Closet realize our Mission to feed the food insecure in Sacramento. Our dedicated staff and volunteers work in unison to distribute food to 250 or more families in just two and a half hours. A remarkable accomplishment!

The Sacramento Food Bank, grocery partners and members of the public provide us with the necessary nutritious food for distribution. Our volunteers show up early to prepare for the day's distribution and remain after closing to sanitize workstations, restock shelves and prepare for the following day. We are grateful for your commitment and positive energy.

Food Closet Director, Simon Yeh, and our three part-time staff members are amazing and efficient in keeping everything on track. Staff move pallets of food around constantly in a choreographed "dance" to accommodate distribution in space that we have clearly outgrown. Registering clients, restocking workstations and responding to a variety of needs are all part of a day's work. We are grateful for our dedicated and creative staff.

Behind the scenes, our Board of Directors and Committees (all volunteers) set policy and procedures, respond to urgent and emerging issues, organize volunteers, track finances, raise funds and communicate who we are and what we do with the broader community. Thank you for sharing your talents and enthusiasm.

We are blessed with the support of generous donors, sponsors and supportive faith-based congregations. Your consistent financial contributions and volunteer referrals are crucial for the Food Closet to remain a beacon of hope to our clients. We are grateful for all that you do.

Everyone associated with SSIP has made my job easier and increased my appreciation for the outstanding contributions that an organization of our size can make. Thank you!

-Tom Busch

SSIP CLIENTS SERVED

<u>Month</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
AUG.	5,916	16,917
SEPT.	5,346	15,259
OCT.	5,693	16,287

Eight Schools participate in the 2023 Fall Kids Can! Food Drive to support food distribution.



Students from Charles Mack Elementary pose for a photo with their Kids Can! Food Drive collection, as SSIP volunteers prepare to pickup.

Thank you to our dedicated staff that work tirelessly with the volunteers to maintain smooth operations day in and day out.



(L-R) Food Closet Director Simon Yeh, Admin. Assistant Barbara Rogers, Inventory Storage Specialist Brian Moese, Food Closet Assistant Javonne Randle, and Bookkeeper Lyndsey Reeper.

DONATIONS IN MEMORY AND HONORING

Donations received August - November 2023

*In Memory of Pamela Anderson
Robert Anderson*

*In Memory of Robert Betts
Carla Hart
May Lee*

*Louanne Nource
Frances M Lee
Jacquelyn Sneed
Carolyn Liebrand
Mrs. Joyce Forrest
Nancy & Richard Garrison*

*In Memory of Dwight Beatie
Bill & Emelyn Baker*

*In Honor of Tom Busch
Margot Bach*

*In Honor of Jean and James Chew
Yvonne Correa
William Yee*

*In Memory of Michael Rose Edwards
Shigeko Shibata*

*In Memory of James Flanigan/Olive Tiller
Margaret Brown*

*In Memory of Peter S.Y. Gin
Shigeko Shibata*

*In Honor of Mark Hanzlik
Madi Elsea & Rod Lee*

*In Honor of Mary Lou Hanzlik
Bob & Linda Loessberg-Zahl*

*In Memory of Edna Johnson
Sara Winter*

*In Honor of Frances Lee
Wally and Jim Hoffsis*

*In Memory of Billie Neeley
Janet Neeley*

*In Memory of Thomas Okimoto
Barbara J Davidson*

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

*In Honor of Sandra and Dan Turner
Judith Keller Hargrave*

*In Memory of Shirley Trimble
Janice Sperling
Loretta Fransham
Janis & Donald Wong
Mark and Mary Lou Hanzlik*

*In Memory of Jim Zazzera
Roy and Vicky Chastain
Sharlene Zazzera*

*In Honor of Simon Yeh
Frances Lee*

*In Honor of the SSIP Board, Staff & Volunteers
Carla Hart*

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT APPRECIATION FOR GARY AYCOCK

by Simon Yeh, Food Closet Director

Among the many dedicated volunteers who serve at the Food Closet, there is a lone stand out, Gary Aycock.

All our volunteers seem to know Gary, as he regularly helps at the Food Closet five days a week. His wife, Carol, also helps with food pickups at Nugget Market and Bel Air and is a regular Saturday volunteer, helping to sort and organize all the food picked up that day.

Gary arrives early and is the last volunteer to leave almost every day. Our grocery partners tell me what a great job he does during food pickups. He is always kind, friendly and courteous. It's exactly what is needed from an SSIP ambassador.



Gary & Carol Aycock caught in a moment of stillness at an SSIP event.

Because of his enthusiasm and good-natured manner, it's no surprise to hear folks cheerfully say, "Hey, it's Gary!" or "We all love Gary." He seems to always be in motion, moving from one task to the next, ready to assist staff and other volunteers at SSIP.

Gary began volunteering in 2018 after Carol, who is a member of Faith Presbyterian Church, noticed volunteers were needed at the Food Closet. He had retired a short time before, and was itching to get out of the house and get involved. Gary had worked for more than 44 years in the produce industry, so he was clearly qualified to handle food distribution at SSIP.

We are very grateful that he loves to volunteer at the Food Closet and he never lets us down. Thank you, Gary!

Many thanks to our 2023
business sponsors!



Rich & Connie Koppes



JILL T. SHIBATA
ATTORNEY AT LAW



PLANNED SOLUTIONS
A Registered Investment Advisory Firm

Patrick Kennedy
D-2 County Supervisor



MY STORY

LETTER OF LOVE FOR SSIP



This is my story. My name is Debra Reeve.

I first found out about the SSIP Food Closet when I needed them. I was embarrassed to go there and in my mind, ashamed that I needed help. The person at the check-in table (Jacquie) smiled at me and asked how I was doing that

day. She was kind, very helpful and didn't make me feel ashamed or embarrassed. There was no judgement. She just wanted to help. I was so relieved.

Being Vegan, I never complained about what I received. I kept what I could use and helped some of my neighbors who were struggling, by sharing the rest of the items. This worked out well as they couldn't get to the Food Closet because of the hours.

When I no longer needed help from The Food Closet, I wanted to do something to give back for all the food,

kindness and understanding I had received. I stopped in at closing one day, and asked Jacquie if SSIP needed more volunteers. She smiled and said YES! By the time I arrived home, I already had a message telling me what day and time to arrive! I was so surprised and pleased. I showed up at that day and time, met with Simon, and began bagging produce after Simon gave me a brief walk-through. I was so proud that I was able to give back. However, I didn't expect how it would change me.

During the pandemic and long after, I was pretty shut down. I would no longer go on walks by myself and had most of my food and supplies delivered. I was becoming a shut-in, and getting more depressed by the day. But volunteering helped me break down the walls that seemed to be enclosing me. I started smiling and socializing again, not so afraid to go places or visit friends. Volunteering at the SSIP Food Closet did this for me, and it shocked me. I wanted to give back and help others, but the Food Closet helped me more than I could have ever imagined.

Thank you, SSIP Food Closet, for giving me renewed purpose and strength in my life.

Note: Debra recently moved out-of-state to be closer to her family. She says she will miss everyone and will find another volunteer opportunity in her home town. "But whatever place I choose, it will never have quite the same meaning as the Food Closet."

SSIP Food Closet Table at Sacramento County Fun Fair



County Supervisor (D2) Patrick Kennedy poses with Loretta Fransham, Simon Yeh, Pat Aguiar, and Cathy Philleo at the 5th annual Fun Fair on September 30. SSIP received the invitation from Kennedy's office, after they learned more about us at our first Community Collaboration event in May.



5625 24th Street
Sacramento, Ca 95822

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**
Pat Aguiar Ramirez, Henry Sepulveda, Jim Henderson

GROCERY PARTNERS

Special thanks to our grocery partners that play a vital role in providing fresh vegetables, produce and dry goods for distribution. They make our work possible.

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 us at (916) 428-5290 or volunteers@SSIPFoodCloset.org.

Follow Us on Social Media



facebook.com/
SSIP Food Closet



@SSIPFoodPantry



instagram.com/
SSIPFoodCloset