

News from The Pantry

Himfoodpantry.org ❖ himpantry@gmail.com ❖ 832-378-5444

5th Saturday Food Fairs Are Fantastic!

Our 5th Saturday Food Fairs on June 29 and August 31 were a smashing success! Thanks to a truck full of surprises from the Houston Food Bank and amazing volunteer support, these events are fun for everyone.



We served 214 families in June and 203 families in August. At both events, a team of more than 60 volunteers pitched in to get the work done. Thanks to

the Church at 1548 Heights, The Vineyard, Hope City, Odd Fellows Lodge #225, The Ladies Next Door, Serve Team Houston and many more.

When the truck pulls in, we are never quite sure what to expect. Fresh produce, including grapes, squash, melons, apples, peppers and potatoes, gallons of fresh milk, assorted cookies, crackers and candies, canned goods and bags of rice are among the items we've received. For our clients, these special events stock their pantry with things they are not always able to put on their tables.

We want to thank everyone who contributed in any way to our Food Fairs in 2019 – our next Food Fair will be held February 29, 2020 on Leap Day!

Pantry Improves Storage

During the summer, the Pantry completed a renovation of an external storage "shed." The shed is now climate-controlled and insulated, making it more efficient and useful, especially during the hot and humid Houston summers.



Upcoming Events

December 14 Share the Holidays

Volunteers needed to help distribute meals from 2-4 PM. Sign up to serve at himfoodpantry.org

Holiday Closures

November 28 & 30
December 26 & 28

Help at the Holidays

For many families, Thanksgiving and Christmas are especially hard since children are not in school and putting food on the table can be even more difficult.

You can share your abundance by supporting the HIM Food Pantry—volunteer, donate food or give a monetary contribution. Every gift is welcome and a wonderful way to share God's gifts with our neighbors.



This project came together very quickly thanks to the help of many individuals and companies. We would like to thank Building Air Service, PayLess Insulation and electrician Valentin Alonzo along with Board Member Jane Ista and Ista Construction for their invaluable guidance and assistance. Thanks also to our hearty and willing volunteers who helped us empty the shed, ready the space for the



work to be done, and then restock the newly updated building. It was hot and sweaty work! Since these renovations have been completed, we are now able to receive and store larger food shipments from the Houston Food Bank. Thanks also to those who have generously given to the Pantry—your financial support helps make our dreams a reality!

Support the Pantry While You Shop!

The Pantry is part of two rewards programs, which help you give to the Pantry when you purchase.



Kroger Community Rewards makes fundraising easy by donating to organizations based on the shopping you do every day.

- Visit www.kroger.com and create or log in to your Kroger Plus account.
- Search for HEIGHTS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES FOOD PANTRY by name or number (NR183) and then click Enroll.

Amazon Smile lets you give to the charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you.

- Visit smile.amazon.com and create or login to your Amazon account.
- Search for HEIGHTS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES, INC. and choose it as your charity to support.
- Make your Amazon purchases at smile.amazon.com to give when you shop.



Good Things Just Keep on Coming

Thanks to the kindness of our neighbors and complete strangers, we always seem to have what we need before we even know we need it!



- **Juice bags from Central Transport, mozzarella cheese, imitation crab meat and pickled herring from Unity Transport, and 12 cases of fresh cabbage** arrived when planned deliveries could not be made.
- **Second Servings Houston** provides fabulous “leftovers” that add to our standard offerings, including avocados, eggs, fresh produce, frozen chicken and meat, and much more. **Trader Joes** shares salads, produce and other items. For our 10th anniversary, Second Servings delivered 40 trays of cupcakes for the crowd at our June Food Fair.

- **Kolache Shoppe** stocks our shelves with tasty sweet and savory koloches – a real treat for our clients! **Panera Bread** also provides bread and rolls for the Pantry.

- **Starbucks and ALDI** donate fresh and ready to eat items. These make a trip to the Pantry even more special for our clients.



- **Food and toiletry drives** continue to fill our shelves. Thanks to The Vineyard, Waltrip High School, Immanuel Lutheran, Zion Lutheran Preschool, Zion Lutheran Church, Girl Scout Troop 122251 and others who collected much needed items for our clients.



- **Work days** help the Pantry take care of things on our "to do" list. Thanks to Sogeti USA, Greater Church of

Houston and others who have given their time and talents.

- **Monetary gifts** help with ongoing operations. Thanks to the individuals and companies, including Jim S. Adler and Associates, who have generously contributed.

More Ways to Help!

- Help **receive and stock deliveries** from the Houston Food Bank, Trader Joe's and Starbuck's. These jobs are done during the week and take only a few hours.
- **Pick up donations.** Do this as often as you are able or serve as a backup to our regular volunteers.
- Help homebound seniors and **deliver boxed meals.** Serve every Monday or substitute when regular helpers are away.
- **Plan a work day:** tackle those small jobs that need attention!
- We provide materials and you **build shelves for our new, improved shed.**
- **Serve at a 5th Saturday Food Fair.** Our next event is February 29, 2020.

To learn more about how you, your organization or business can lend a hand, email himpantry@gmail.com or call 832-378-5444

Lend A Hand

Give Your Time

Help is needed:

- Thursdays 4:30 - 7 PM
- Saturdays 9:30 AM - Noon

Sign up at himfoodpantry.org

Stock the Shelves

Your workplace, school, youth group or other organization can host a food drive. Shelf-stable foods, toiletries and diapers are always welcome.

Donate Money

We must purchase some key items each week. Visit himfoodpantry.org and click the PayPal link to help fill our carts!

Since 2009, we have served more than 44,000 families and 167,000 individuals.

Like us on Facebook (himfoodpantry) to get the latest news and info and see the Pantry in action.