

April 2020

# News from The Pantry

[himfoodpantry.org](http://himfoodpantry.org) ❖ [himpantry@gmail.com](mailto:himpantry@gmail.com) ❖ 832-378-5444

To our supporters,

The past several weeks have been challenging for us all. Despite the uncertainty, we have seen compassion and commitment from our community at every turn. Whether you have volunteered, made monetary and food donations, or kept us in your thoughts and prayers, you are the fuel that has kept the Pantry moving forward.

We have adapted to keep our volunteers and clients safe while we continue to support the most vulnerable in our community. All volunteers are temperature-checked, wear gloves and masks, and have become experts at hand washing and social distancing. We offer drive-thru delivery and have served 160 families every week. In addition to Thursday and Saturday distribution, we have shifts during the week to sort, shelve and pre-bag food. These 1-2 hour shifts are a great way to get out and do some good.

The work is hard and the rewards are great. Many newly unemployed by the stay-at-home order are coming for help. Some we may never see again as businesses reopen, but we are glad to have been there to serve.

How can you continue to help?

- **Volunteer** – We limit the number of volunteers inside the pantry to ensure safety. **Shifts are only 1 or 2 hours long!** Sign up at [himfoodpantry.org](http://himfoodpantry.org)
- **Donate product** – Normal supplies are short, so donations are even more helpful. Email [himpantry@gmail.com](mailto:himpantry@gmail.com) or check our website for needed items. **Currently, we need meals in a can, boxed meals, canned beans and pasta.**
- **Financial support** – Your gifts help us fill the gaps. Give via our PayPal site on our website or drop a check in the mail.

We continue to thank you for your support!

*Terri Dougherty, Executive Director*



## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, May 30**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Food Fair**  
**(Subject to change)**

Volunteers are needed from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM in 2-hour shifts. Sign up to serve at [himfoodpantry.org](http://himfoodpantry.org)

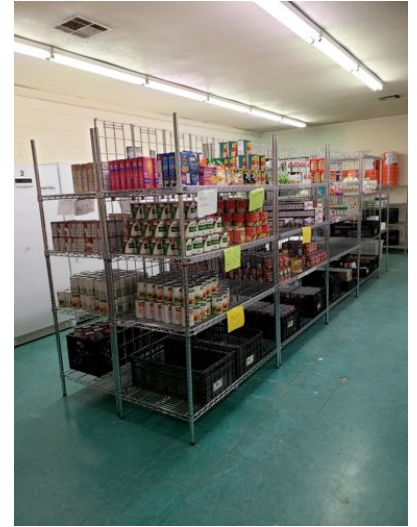
## Fundraiser Postponed

Our Garden Patch Party has been postponed. As it is the Pantry's largest fundraiser, we hope to gather later in 2020 to not only raise money but also celebrate our many volunteers and supporters who keep the Pantry running. We already have many wonderful donations and are eager to set a new date. We will let you know as soon as we are able to do so!



## Pantry Gets a New Look!

With a grant provided by the Houston Food Bank, the Pantry recently purchased and installed new, restaurant-grade shelving. The old shelves served us well, but had become worn and did not offer much flexibility. The new shelving creates a lighter, brighter environment in the Pantry and enhances the overall experience and security for our volunteers and clients. This effort took the help of many to remove the old shelving, break down a massive, non-working freezer for removal from the building, and assemble the new shelving. Special thanks to **Frances Barbini, Matt Barbini** and **Alf Tischler** for their willingness to do what had to be done even during a pandemic!



## We Can Count on Our Community!

Whether operating in more normal times or serving in the midst of a stay-at-home order, our community of volunteers, member churches and neighbors are always there to lend a helping hand.



- During the Scouting for Food Drive in early February, the **Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of Troop 30 from St. Mark's Methodist Church** collected more than 1700 pounds of food. The **Youth Group from St. Andrew's**



**Episcopal Church** collected more than 500 pounds of food during the Souper Bowl of Caring drive. Thanks also to **Zion Lutheran** for donating 224 rolls of toilet paper, **The Vineyard** for 82 boxes of cereal and the **St. Mark's Methodist** gardening crew for wonderful, fresh produce!

- **Nicole Wyman** stepped down after 8 years of tracking and inputting our volunteer service data. **Timothy Dougherty** updated the Pantry's database to make data entry and reporting much easier. **Angela Eggleston** stepped up to handle data management for volunteers and our senior meal delivery program. We very much appreciate their time, talents and willingness to serve!
- Multigenerational volunteers from **Generation Serve** have helped sort Starbuck's donations and complete several much needed work projects at the Pantry.

- **FruitShare** Houston brought more than 400 pounds of grapefruit and other offerings from area citrus trees. And as always, we get interesting and unexpected donations from various groups and businesses – 1,000 macarons from the **Color Factory**, bread from **Postino**, frozen chicken nuggets from the **Girl Scouts**, 132 gallons of milk from **Trader Joe's** and 500 loaves of bread from **Aldi**.



- We welcomed **more than 60 volunteers** at our 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Food Fair on February 29! Together, they served **169 families** with **more than 16,000 lbs of food**. Volunteers came from **member churches, Serve Team Houston, Victory Volunteers (Hope City), Americorps, Heights High School, Generation Serve,** and the community as a whole.



## Lend A Hand

### Give Your Time

Help is always needed:

- Thursdays 4 - 7 PM
- Saturdays 9 AM – Noon
- Other opportunities throughout the week to sort and pre-bag food

See the complete list and sign up at [himfoodpantry.org](http://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](http://himfoodpantry.org) and click the PayPal link to help fill our shelves!

**Since 2009, we have served more than 46,000 families and 170,000 individuals.**

**Like us on Facebook (himfoodpantry) to get updates and watch the Pantry in action.**

## 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** donates to your chosen organization based on the shopping you do every day.

- Visit [www.kroger.com](http://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** gives to the charity of your choice every time you shop.

- Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com) to give when you shop.

