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St. Felix Pantry Inc.

Call us at

505-891-8075

or visit our website at

www.stfelixpantry.org

Wall of Honor

Founder Sr. Mary Genevieve Ryskiewicz has been, remains instrumental in St. Felix Pantry's success

With so many people out of work or working more than one job, it becomes increasingly difficult to put food on a family's table, no matter where they live.

St. Felix Pantry in Rio Rancho, NM, has been serving the city's needy since Dec. 23, 1992, and it is extraordinarily fitting that Sr. Genevieve, founder of the St. Felix Pantry, should be honored for her years of community service.

"A strong sense of community has always been a hallmark of Rio Rancho, and we are blessed to have someone like Sr. Genevieve in our midst," said Rio Rancho Mayor Greg Hull. "Her vision and dedicated leadership coupled with the generosity of our residents have made the St. Felix Pantry a refuge for those among us who are in need."

"When we opened our doors in 1995, we helped 36 families the first month," said Manuel Casias, vice president of development for the Pantry. "Last month, we served over 4,000 families, so you can see the need has drastically increased."

Sr. Genevieve has proven true to the vision that "Our community is the place where we can be most effective."

Today, St. Felix Pantry remains a non-

profit, nonpartisan organization committed to her vision and leading positive social change through advocacy, service and information.

Our mission is simple: We provide hope to individuals and families in need by providing food, clothing and referral services.

After discovering the plight of the many hungry people in New Mexico, Sr. Genevieve decided to act; and with overwhelming support from the local community, the pantry has since provided food for thousands of residents.

We are still strongly committed to "taking a bite out of local hunger."

About one third of the individuals who now rely on what they gather at the Pantry are older citizens.

A growing number of other Pantry clients are people who worked hard all their lives and never expected to be coming to the Pantry for help, but now are in need because of a tight job market and tough economic times.

Dignity and choice are valued by St. Felix Pantry supporters, and those values are reflected in the way the Pantry operates.



Sr. Mary Genevieve Ryskiewicz



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Message from the President/CEO

I hope you had a blessed Easter with your families and friends. The Easter Season continues to provide us a chance to reflect on the great love that Jesus has for us.

Most people think of Easter as a single day. But for Catholics, Easter isn't just a day, it's a whole season. The Easter season stretches all the way to the feast of Pentecost, fifty days long.

The great fifty days of Pentecost is an invitation to explore more deeply "the weather of the heart," to awaken our memory of God's presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation.

One way to see God in our present world is the people with whom we come in contact.

For those of us who serve at St. Felix

Pantry, we have the gift to have an encounter with God each time we serve our clients. For we hear in Matthew 25:31-45 the question given to our Lord, "When did we see you hungry, and fed you; thirsty, and given you drink?



Deacon Steve Rangel

And when have we seen you a stranger, and taken you in? Or naked, and covered you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit to you?

And in response, the King shall say to them, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you do for the least

of my brothers, you did it for me."

The risen savior is still with us. This fifty-day season of Easter asks us to reflect on his presence and — even in the face of danger or fear — to live with joy.

MATTHEW 25



Wall of Honor



The Sr. Genevieve Wall of Honor paying tribute to St. Felix Pantry donors is located in the room where clients are able to select from a variety of produce and breads.

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Our core values are:

1. Respect for Human Dignity
2. Compassion
3. Transformation
4. Solidarity with the Poor
5. Justice and Peace

With Sr. Genevieve's guidance, the Pantry, with its dedicated volunteer force of 110 and generous donors, has expanded the mission to offer referral services through the city of Rio Rancho to help fill needs the Pantry is unable to provide.

You are being asked to please help us honor Sr. Mary Genevieve because you, too, are a pillar in the Rio Rancho community. Either directly or indirectly, you and Sr. Genevieve have made a tremendous difference helping to grow and shape this community.

We are asking you to please consider a donation marked for the Sr. Genevieve Wall of Honor. Your name will be inscribed on a plaque and it will be placed next to a photo of Sr. Genevieve. We are asking you to consider sponsoring the wall by making a \$1,000 to \$5,000 donation to St. Felix Pantry.

For more information please call Manuel Casias at 505-270-1366 or email at mcasias@stfelixpantry.org.

This newsletter is sponsored by:





May 2017

Help us reach the goal: St. Felix Pantry this month continues to encourage everyone to help it meet — or exceed — the goal of an anonymous donor to double the amount of a \$25,000 grant made to help the Pantry in its quest to aid those in need of food in New Mexico.



May 5, 2017
Our House is Your House: Please be our guest at our 25-Year Jubilee Open House at 2:30 p.m. at the Pantry, 4020 Barbara Loop SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124. For information, contact Manuel at 505-270-1366 or via email: mcasias@stfelixpantry.org.



May 19, 2017
St. Felix Pantry's 7th Annual Golf Tournament:
 Location: Santa Ana Golf Club, 288 Prairie Star Road, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004. **Sponsorship and team information:**
 Contact Manuel at 505-270-1366 or via email: mcasias@stfelixpantry.org.



Sacrificial season of Lent inspires bountiful waves of donated foods

Did you know St. Felix Pantry in Rio Rancho has an outreach program?

Every day, people in need of food, clothing and referral services come to the Pantry.

And 88 cents of every dollar the Pantry receives in donations goes to feed the hungry!

Adults and children come looking for hope during difficult times in their lives, and for food to carry them through periods of financial hardship.

As you can imagine, it's a humbling experience to bring yourself to a food pantry for assistance.

Today, the Pantry serves nearly 1,000 clients/households every week. Thankfully, no one is turned away.

The food pantry is one of the many ways St. Felix Pantry helps the community through difficult times of struggle.

With the help of generous contributions from local churches, the Pantry's storage areas, refrigerator and freezer are replenished, but not always full.

Besides accepting non-perishable canned and boxed foods, the Pantry also welcomes fresh or frozen food



Dorothy and John Librande from the Church of the Incarnation on Monterrey Road stand amid part of several pickup truckloads of food delivered to St. Felix Pantry at the beginning of a "Fill a Tote, Fill a Tummy" food drive. It was the first of several large deliveries of food, totaling 15,570 pounds, collected by Fr. Leo Ortiz's congregation.



Gerald Roybal, left, and Grand Knight Pat Theming, right, of Knights of Columbus Post 14999 at San Ysidro Catholic Church in Corrales, present a check to St. Felix Pantry President and CEO Deacon Steve Rangle. They also donated 4,050 pounds of food.

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This newsletter is sponsored by:



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My goal is to help you get a home to suit your needs, whether it's your first home, a downsized home, a home to accommodate a growing family or a property to help you achieve your financial goals through real estate investment. If you are relocating out of New Mexico, I can assist by selling your current house at the top dollar value and accommodating you within our nationwide network of realtors.

Teacher who saw hunger creates way to relieve it

The following thank-you note, written on letterhead from Puesta del Sol Elementary School in Rio Rancho, was sent to St. Felix Pantry:

Dear St. Felix Pantry,

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for your donations of food and



monetary gifts to the Isaiah's Backpack Program at

Puesta del Sol Elementary School. Your generosity is overwhelming and will have a lifetime positive impact on the students of this great program.

Your dedication to our community is something to be recognized and celebrated. The team that works on the Isaiah's Backpack Program are dedicated professionals who have a heart for each child they serve. We are continually amazed by the generous donations you provide. Without you we could not have such a successful program. At this point we are able to serve 57 children which in turn helps 31 families.

Sincerely,
Theresa Romo
Isaiah's Backpack
Program Coordinator

The Isaiah's Backpack Program serves 57 students. Romo said she started it three years ago in honor of her late



Isaiah Anthony Romo, to whom the food backpack program is dedicated.

son, Isaiah Anthony Romo, who died March 1, 2014, of an illness while in first grade. It runs solely on donations of food and money.

Romo said she realized the need for the program after noticing one of her students came to school hungry on a daily basis and often hid food around her classroom to make sure he had a snack. He also made sure to be first in line for lunch for fear of not getting anything to eat. Romo said

she started to give him snacks and fruit to take home when it was available.



**BlueCross BlueShield
of New Mexico**

Funding for the partnership between the Pantry and the school is made possible with a grant from our friends at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico.

Food for thought

In 2016, St. Felix Pantry provided 1,071,452 meals



The Pantry provides food to more than 1,000 families and individuals each week



New Mexico is ranked #2 in childhood hunger nationwide

There is no charge for food or clothing at St. Felix Pantry

18.6% of New Mexicans don't know where their next meal will come from

1 in 3 kids in New Mexico is hungry



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Albuquerque, NM 87109
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Boeing employees' community fund answers local needs

When most people think of Boeing, they think of Washington state and hardly give thought to the aerospace company's presence in Albuquerque, NM. St. Felix Pantry is very aware of its local presence and has come to enjoy a wonderful relationship with its employees.

Over the years, Boeing employees have donated grant funding to the Pantry, and recently delivered more than 200 pounds of food that was almost immediately distributed to nearly 200 families. We simply cannot thank our friends at Boeing enough for their generosity.

Several months ago I was given the opportunity to speak before the entire local Boeing plant and tell them all about a

man named Felix. Initially it felt awkward to talk to a room full of engineers in corporate America about a Felician-sponsored ministry. However, I impressed upon my audience that in many respects Felix was like many of them, just wanting to make a difference and respond to the needs of the hungry and those most vulnerable.

Boeing employee advisory boards work to locally distribute combined employee donations, which are made through recurring payroll deductions or one-time gifts, to nonprofits in their community. Boeing pays all administrative costs so that 100 percent of every employee dollar helps to strengthen the local communities.



St. Felix volunteer Reyes Rivera helps a Boeing employee unload food.

How you can help



Give a donation

Your tax-deductible financial gifts help make our mission possible. Eight-eight cents of every dollar donated to the Pantry goes to feed the hungry. See the donation form on page 6 of this newsletter.



Lend a hand

The Pantry offers a variety of individual volunteer opportunities. We also can accommodate groups of up to 20 volunteers.

Organize a food drive

St. Felix Pantry distributes nearly 2 million pounds of food every year, thereby providing 62,400 boxes of food to New Mexicans in need.



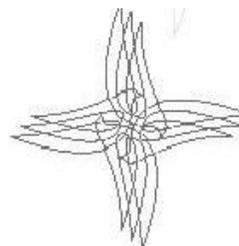
This newsletter is sponsored by:



Felician Sisters of North America



Felician Services Inc.



St. Felix Pantry Wish List

Currently Needed Items:

-) New or lightly used fireproof file cabinet
-) Outdoor donation collection bin
-) 2 storage sheds 10-by-20-foot or larger

Donations needed:

-) For Pantry utility bills
-) For fuel for delivery trucks

Capital items needed:

-) New delivery truck
-) Parking lot repaved and striped
-) Exterior of building repainted
-) Covered portal to protect clients from rain and sun
-) New signage for the Pantry

Food and supplies:

(Please, no cans/boxes of food that are a year beyond "sell by" or "use by" date, because of health/food safety liability)

-) Fresh fruits and vegetables
-) Macaroni & cheese mixes
-) Canned foods, such as vegetables, beans, stews, soups, tuna, chicken and ham
-) Turkeys and hams for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays
-) Jellies, jams and peanut butter
-) Cereals, rice, pasta, dried beans
-) Pies, cakes, pudding cups and other dessert items
-) Children-friendly food (granola bars, crackers, cookies and candies)
-) Toys for children and youths
-) Dog food, cat food and pet treats
-) Baby products (diapers, moist wipes, formula, infant foods, lotions and powders)

Outreach program



This photo captures just a portion of all the nonperishable foods that have been donated to St. Felix Pantry by members of Church of the Incarnation, the Knights of Columbus and several other organizations.

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items because we are equipped with large refrigerators and freezers.

Think of the things that you use on a daily basis, such as coffee, milk, bread, eggs, toilet paper, paper towels etc. Those are the same things that families in distress need.

Also, clothing in good condition for adults, children and infants are accepted, along with toys and bedding for children.

Please help us today and become an ambassador between your church and the Pantry.

To learn more, contact Manuel Casias at mcasias@stfelixpantry.org.

Recognizing more of our benefactors

The following organizations helped replenish the Pantry's food storage area during the past month:

- Revive Church on Polaris Boulevard, 900 pounds
- Knights of Columbus Post 16122 at St. John Vianney Catholic Church on Meteor Avenue, 140 pounds
- Cans & Cars Cruise on April 15 sponsored by more than a dozen organizations, 3,500 pounds



CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS

Mail this form: St. Felix Pantry,
4020 Barbara Loop,
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Electronic: Donate via PayPal
at www.stfelixpantry.org

Bequest: Email to Manuel
at mcasias@stfelixpantry.org
or call 505-270-1366

I will contribute \$ _____
(Circle one: weekly, biweekly, monthly) until ____/____/____

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The logo for AON, consisting of the letters 'AON' in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The 'A' is stylized with a horizontal bar extending to the left.



St. Felix Pantry Inc.
4020 Barbara Loop SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124-1023

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To: