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St. Felix Pantry Inc.

Call us at

505-891-8075

or visit our website at

www.stfelixpantry.org

St. Felix Pantry's
GROCERY BAG

March 2017

66th Annual
Brother Mathias
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
to Benefit Good Shepherd Center & St. Felix Pantry

Friday, March 17, 2017
5-8 p.m.

Purchase Tickets at door or online,
Visit www.goodshepherdcenternm.org

*Change
the Luck of those
in need!*

\$15 for Adults
\$5 Children 12 & Under
at the door

Live Music,
Drawing, Games &
Good Ole' Irish Fun!



X Marks the Spot!
Located at St. Pius X
High School
Albuquerque, NM

Advance tickets :

\$12.00 Adults, \$3.00 Children through March 16th
Garson's: 2415 San Pedro NE; Good Shepherd Center: 218 Iron SW;
Faith Works: 3301 Menaul NE #31; Holy Family Religious
Supplies: 9469 Coors Blvd NW #1; Immaculate Conception
Church: 224 7th St.; St. Felix Pantry: 4020 Barbara Loop SE, Rio
Rancho; St. Pius X High School: 5301 St. Joseph's Dr. NW

A Brothers of St. John of God-Sponsored Ministry & a Felician-Sponsored Ministry
For more information call Mayra: 505-359-4048

**Our Core Values: Respect for Human Dignity, Compassion, Transformation, Solidarity with the Poor, Justice and Peace
A Felician-Sponsored Ministry**

Message from the President/CEO

We are very blessed living in New Mexico with our sunny, clear skies and days that are already getting warmer. March marks the beginning of spring and it also brings the celebration of St. Patrick's Day on the 17th.

This year St. Felix Pantry will be teaming with the Good Shepherd Center for the 66th Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Fundraiser Dinner.

St. Patrick's Day is a day when "everyone is Irish" and there are many parties and celebrations. But how many people really know who St. Patrick was and how his story impacts us today?

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was actually born in Great Britain during the second half of the fifth century. At the age of 16, he was captured by Irish pirates and taken from his home. He served as a slave for six years before escaping and returning to his family.

After becoming ordained a priest, he returned to Ireland as a missionary and converted thousands of people. He taught the Irish about the Holy Trinity by showing



Deacon Steve Rangel

them the three-leafed shamrock, using it to illustrate the Christian teaching of the three persons in one God. The



shamrock has since become a central symbol for St. Patrick's Day.

St. Felix Pantry and The Good Shepherd Center will be honoring St. Patrick on his

feast day as we co-host the Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. We hope you will join us Friday, March 17th for a fun family evening while supporting both the Good Shepherd Center and St. Felix Pantry as we raise money to serve the least fortunate in our community.

Celebrating National Sisters Week

National Catholic Sisters Week is an annual celebration that takes place from March 8–14. Created to honor women religious, it is a series of events that instruct, enlighten and bring greater focus to the lives of these women. It's also our hope that as more young women learn about women religious, more will choose to follow their example.

In Rio Rancho, one such religious woman's spark and her dream have produced one of city's highly recognized institutions, St. Felix Pantry Inc.

Located at 4020 Barbara Loop SE, the popular outreach center distributes food and clothing five days a week to all in need who come to its doors, plus it offers referral services and serves as one of Power New Mexico's Good Neighbor Fund centers three days a week.

The mission of St. Felix Pantry is restoring hope to those in need by providing food, clothing and referral services.

The Pantry grew from a seed planted by Sister Mary Genevieve Ryskiewicz, who started a back-door outreach to the poor from the kitchen pantry of the Assumption of Blessed Mary Convent, where day-old bread and produce donated by local markets were distributed to the needy. She retired in 2007 and was laid to rest in 2016. However, the fire to serve the needy continues and the Felician Sisters in Rio Rancho also continue to spread the love of God to everyone.

St. Felix Pantry was officially incorporated in 1992. The operation of feeding the needy quickly outgrew its convent quarters, and in 1995 the Felician Sisters purchased property on Barbara Loop, just off Highway 528, where today St. Felix Pantry provides 1,071,452 meals yearly to its 6,910 registered clients.

Retired sisters continue to support the Pantry by bagging pinto beans and macaroni for distribution to the Pantry clients. Some even volunteer at the Pantry, greeting clients and distributing food to those in need. Also, two Felician Sisters serve on the Pantry's board.

On behalf of all St. Felix Pantry clients, THANK YOU!.



Sr. Agnes Marie Lewandowski CSSF

This newsletter is sponsored by:





March 17, 2017

**St. Patrick's Day
Corned Beef Dinner:** St.

Felix Pantry and The Brothers of the Good Shepherd have partnered and both will benefit from one of New Mexico's most famous events. Location: St. Pius High School located at 5301 Saint Joseph's Drive NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120. **Sponsorship and ticket information:** Contact Manuel at 505-270-1366 or via email: mcasias@stfelixpantry.org.



April 7, 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.



Super Size and Super Love

Local McDonald's serves a special Valentine's dinner as a fundraiser

McDonald's is probably not on your list of places for a romantic dinner.

Nonetheless, dinner at the Rio Rancho McDonald's on the evening of March 14 was about more than location.

Bobbie and Dennis Wallinger-Sorensen said they eat at McDonald's often. They couldn't resist the offer to have dinner,

take pictures and make an evening of it on Valentine's Day. They also liked the idea of helping a good cause. In fact, both showed up at St. Felix Pantry the following Friday morning and said they would like to become volunteers at the Pantry.

The entire team at St. Felix Pantry, volunteers and board of director's wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who came out to support the event. We also want to thank the Julian Garza family and the employees of McDonald's for hosting the event.



Violinist Grace Boardhead, 13, warms up before performing during a Valentine's Day fundraising dinner hosted by the McDonald's restaurant on Route 528 in Rio Rancho to benefit St. Felix Pantry. She volunteered to play romantic music to help make the evening extra special for more than 100 guests who were served a traditional McDonald's meal, but in a formal way that would not be expected in a traditionally fast-food setting.

This newsletter is sponsored by:



LEGACY

Patria Havelka, Realtor

500 Unser Blvd. SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
(505) 306-5965 Direct
(505) 892-1000 Office

Patria.havelka@coldwellbankerlegacy.com

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.

“What in the world can I do?”

Volunteers make a big difference

The backbone of St. Felix Pantry is the cadre of more than 100 volunteers. Each volunteer has their own personal reasons for devoting more than 6 hours of unpaid work weekly. Combined, Pantry volunteers contribute nearly 25,000 hours a year.

There is absolutely no way that St. Felix Pantry can take the place of government programs, nor can we single-handedly cure the ills and disparities of society. But each of us can make a difference in some small way, in our own way, and can find opportunities to help that will make what we do worth the time and effort we invest in them.

So why volunteer?

Some of the best reasons are the ones most rarely considered — the ones that make it worthwhile to go that extra step. People who have spent time volunteering for a cause tell their friends and family that they get back in satisfaction and joy more than they ever give when volunteering — what you get back is immeasurable.

You may also realize these benefits:

Volunteering helps you feel needed.

Volunteering can be an opportunity to learn new skills.

Volunteering might help you deal with some of your personal problems.

Volunteering is an opportunity to meet new people and break barriers of misunderstanding,



mistrust and fear.

Volunteering can create new contacts which may help your business or career.

Volunteering significantly impacts both the people and the surrounding community in which you reside.

Some potential volunteers may think, “The little bit that I can do will never help much!” or “What in the world can I do?”

If you've ever spent time distributing food to a hungry child, you know that even that small amount of compassion and caring can make a world of difference.

No one person can solve the world's problems, but whatever you do can make a difference toward making St. Felix Pantry a happier, healthier and hope-filled place for those who need our help.

Food for thought

In 2015, St. Felix Pantry provided 62,400 boxes of food



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



3831 Singer Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
505-341-4900
SandiaOfficeSupply.com

How you can help

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.



Give us 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.



Lend a hand

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

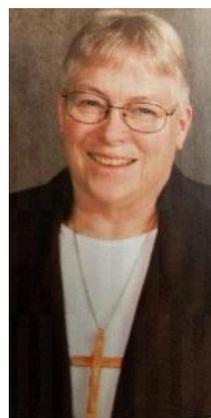
Felician Sister's Message

St. Felix Pantry needs 'green frogs'!



When our Sisters gift one another with a few dollars on special occasions, we often thank one another for "the green frogs."

With my membership on the St. Felix Pantry Board, I have become acutely aware of SPF's day-to-day operational costs: the overhead expenses of utilities, insurance, fuel and maintenance for trucks, administrative costs, cleaning and endless repairs.



SM Dorothy Young

Like all households – domestic and corporate – we need to have resources ready for the next month's expenses. The community of Rio Rancho and beyond has been very generous with in-kind donations of food and clothing, with toys and household supplies. We are grateful for corporate sponsorships of events and individual and family donations that have carried us thus far. *We acclaim with full voice "Deo Gratias!" – "Thanks be to God."* The Sisters and I pray

that your caring generosity which helps St. Felix Pantry serve the less fortunate *come back to you with a bag of hundredfold blessings.*

In these challenging economic times, the reality is that expenses are exceeding income. So we will begin to help you learn about what are some of the operating expenses. For example, our cost for utilities is almost \$2,000 monthly.

We need "lots of green frogs" every month to help us continue this needed

social ministry in our community.

Please consider sharing some of your green frogs with us monthly (see back of newsletter). *It is in the sharing that a bounty will emerge – enough for all to have sufficient.* We all are a part of one another. When the needs of one family are met, *our global family is strengthened with joy and hope.*

Thank you in advance for your generous response.

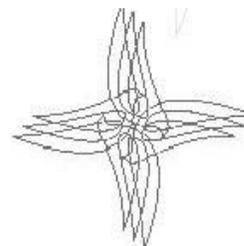
This newsletter is sponsored by:



Felician Sisters of North America



Felician Services Inc.



St. Felix Pantry Wish List

Currently Needed Items:

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

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" 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)



St. Felix Pantry's truck drivers, from left to right: Sal , Mike, Mike, Jim, Earl. Not pictured: Samuel, John, Ben.

Our team of drivers collects tons of food

Every day our team of drivers rescues hundreds of pounds of produce, dairy, deli, meat, bakery and grocery items from more than 50 retail partners. This donated food is redistributed to our registered 6,910 clients/households who visit the Pantry five days a week.

Our drivers go into the community seven days a week to rescue food that would end up in a landfill.

It is hard to imagine that more than 40 years ago Sister Genevieve started the St. Felix Pantry Food Rescue Program by asking the local merchants for a single loaf of bread.

This past year, our drivers rescued nearly 1.5 million pounds of food. We are thankful every day for

our dedicated drivers who play an important role in our ministry to feed the hungry.

The St. Felix Pantry Food Rescue Program is needed today more than ever. The number of households that need food has increased dramatically over the past few years due to the loss of jobs, rise in food and fuel costs, and recent cutbacks in welfare and healthcare benefits. Many people remain economically unstable and greatly rely on the availability of food from the Pantry.

Did you know that our truck fuel cost is \$600 a month.

Consider adopting a truck for an entire year. Below are ways you can assist.

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 ____/____/____

I will make a one-time contribution of _____

Please print:

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____