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- Anthony Zamora  
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**St. Felix Pantry Inc.**

Call us at

**505-891-8075**

or visit our website at

**www.stfelixpantry.org**

# Welcome!

## Felician Sister named leader of the Pantry

On Sept. 5, St. Felix Pantry in Rio Rancho, NM, welcomes Sister Mary Angela Parkins as its new CEO and president.

She is a Felician Sister who has been a part of the order's Response to Love Center's ministry in Buffalo, NY. She replaces the Pantry's interim CEO and president, Mary Lynn Owen, who has served in the positions during the leadership transition.

Mary Lynn, who had the opportunity to spend some time with Sister Mary Angela, said she welcomes the new leader's energy and her vision for moving the Pantry forward to meet the needs of the less fortunate population in the area.

"Sister Mary Angela has already made a positive impression on the staff and volunteers with her keen sense of humor and inclusive, welcoming demeanor," Mary Lynn said. "They are looking forward to working with and supporting her."

Sister Mary Angela brings a wealth of related experience to her new position.



St. Felix Pantry's new CEO and president, Sister Mary Angela Parkins, stands before a photograph of the Pantry's founder, Sister Mary Genevieve Ryskiewicz. Shortly after becoming Sister Mary Angela, she trained under the supervision of Sister Genevieve at St. Felix Pantry.

# Amazing response to call for help

By Mary Lynn Owen

During the recent leadership transition at St. Felix Pantry, I served in the role of interim president of the Pantry. While there in early August, I was extremely fortunate to witness an outpouring of community support for the less fortunate in the area that was truly miraculous!

During a meeting with Pantry board members and staff on Aug. 2, we were all made aware that there was only one to two days' worth of canned goods and non-perishables in the Pantry's inventory.

One of our board members, Jerry Shallow, mounted a massive PR campaign to generate public knowledge of our need. As a result of the campaign, St. Felix Pantry now has an approximate four-month inventory of canned and dry goods, donated primarily by individual and community groups, many of whom had not previously known about the Pantry.

Other people donated a combined \$10,000 in cash for food procurement.

The food crisis also resulted in a growing number of volunteers as well as organizations that now intend



Mary Lynn Owen, left, interim president of St. Felix Pantry, and Sr. Mary Angela Parkins, incoming president of the Pantry, welcome Abe Assaad, who donated canned goods and personal-care items for distribution to people in need.

to provide ongoing support to the Pantry.

As I helped the staff receive carloads and trunkloads of food from individuals in the community, I was humbled by their generosity and genuine concern for the guests we serve at St. Felix Pantry. There was a constant parade of cars, vans and pickup trucks entering our parking lot to drop off donations.

Most gratifying was the opportunity to talk with many who came to the Pantry for the first time and expressed that, now that they knew about the need, they

would continue to donate throughout the year.

I spoke with a woman whose husband, having had an identified learning disability at a young age, had been tutored by Felician Sisters in Chicago. He attributed his success in life to the help he received from the Sisters when young and wanted to give back to help others.

I was also fortunate to be there when sixth-grader Garnet Waldrop dropped off 370 pounds of food she had collected with the help of General Mills for the Pantry on Aug. 4, and when Abe

Assaad celebrated his birthday by donating a carload of food and personal-care items.

My experience at St. Felix Pantry that week in August renewed my faith in the kindness and generosity of others toward those in need.

Thanks to the support of the community, I am confident that St. Felix Pantry will be able to continue addressing hunger and to expand upon the services they are able to offer to the poor and vulnerable in New Mexico.

Deo Gratias!

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# Youngster is a Ray of Sunshine in a world of need

People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to contribute what they can to assist St. Felix Pantry in its mission to provide for our neighbors in need. Recently, a young member of the community gave a big boost to the Pantry's ongoing canned-food drive.

With the help of General Mills Inc., sixth-grader Garnet Waldrop gathered 370 pounds of nonperishable food for the Pantry on Aug. 4.

Charitable giving is nothing new for Waldrop, who started collecting unused personal hygiene products from local hotels to distribute to those in need in 2010, when she was 5 years old. Seven years later, the nonprofit organization she founded, Ray of Sunshine, supplies care bags to Kaseman Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque and Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless.

Waldrop's selflessness extends beyond care packages and into helping out St.



**Garnet Waldrop, 12, is flanked by several carts full of snack bars she recently persuaded General Mills Inc. to donate to St. Felix Pantry.**

the year. I also donated my play kitchen, bike and other gently used toys to the toy drive."

Having just started junior high at Ask Academy in Rio Rancho, her new classmates haven't learned of her work with Ray of Sunshine yet. But in years past, her peers have contributed to her efforts.

"My old school, Sandia Vista Elementary, was very supportive with my different drives," Waldrop said. "They really got behind my peanut butter, jelly and bread drive for St. Felix last year. The kids at school thought it was

cool. My dance friends at Celtic Steps Irish Dance and my Cinderella Pageant friends have donated to different drives and are supportive."

Waldrop is always looking for donations of unused soaps and shampoos from hotels, and in the fall she collects fleece to sew hats and scarves for the homeless to wear during the winter.

Anyone who would like to donate to these causes can visit her Facebook page, "Ray of Sunshine: Helping those in need."

Felix Pantry whenever she can.

"My mom took me to see St. Felix when I was in first grade," Waldrop said. "She explained why it was needed in our community and why we needed to donate food and clothing. Since then, I have donated the clothes that I have outgrown throughout

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Oct. 22, 2017*

**International Festival** at St. Pius High School. **Information:** Contact Manuel at 505-270-1366 or via email: [mcasias@stfelixpantry.org](mailto:mcasias@stfelixpantry.org).

*Nov. 23, 2017*

**Annual Thanksgiving dinner** at the McDonald's restaurant on Pat D'Arco Highway at Peggy Road SE. **Information:** Contact Manuel at 505-270-1366 or via email: [mcasias@stfelixpantry.org](mailto:mcasias@stfelixpantry.org).

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# St. Felix Pantry hosting free GED classes in Sept.

*Program jointly sponsored by Pantry, PNM, and Catholic Charities*



St. Felix Pantry will be hosting a free General Educational Development – GED – program from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Pantry.

The program, which begins Sept. 5, is sponsored by the Felician Sisters of North America in conjunction with PNM and Catholic Charities.

In addition to prospective students, the program is in need of people with teaching experience to assist the program's official instructor.

Registration is required and the class offers rolling admissions.

The GED program is completely free of cost thanks to a grant from PNM.

"This program is a great way for people in the community to expand their opportunities in the workforce," said Manuel Casias, vice president of Development at St. Felix Pantry. "If you were unable to finish high school, for whatever reason, this class bridges that gap in the eyes of employers."

Obtaining a GED diploma opens greater employment and secondary education opportunities. Ac-

ording to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 70 percent of jobs in New Mexico require a high school diploma or equivalent.

"We at the PNM Resources Foundation are thrilled to see St. Felix Pantry looking at ways to help their clients with obtaining their GED," said Kathleen Larese, PNM resources director of customer experience. "Programs like this support our key initiatives of education and economic development to create a vibrant and robust economy and community in New Mexico."

Anyone interested in enrolling or assisting with the program should call Manuel at 505-270-1366 or visit the St. Felix Pantry development office at 4020 Barbara Loop SE, Rio Rancho.

## 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**



3831 Singer Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
505-341-4900  
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**CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS**

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

**Electronic:** Donate via PayPal  
at [www.stfelixpantry.org](http://www.stfelixpantry.org)

**Bequest:** Email to Manuel  
at [mcasias@stfelixpantry.org](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

**St. Felix Pantry  
Wish List**

**Currently Needed Items:**

- New or lightly used fireproof file cabinet
- Outdoor donation collection bin
- 2 storage sheds 10- x 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)

# How you can help

## Give a donation

Your tax-deductible financial gifts help make our mission possible. Eighty-eight cents of every dollar donated to the Pantry goes to feed the hungry. See the donation form above.



## 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.



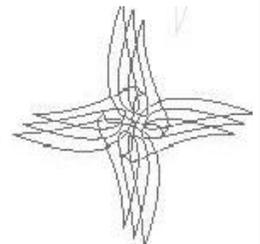
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