



Fallbrook Food Pantry

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www.fallbrookfoodpantry.org

Quarterly Newsletter, January-March

Thank You!

Happy New Year to all of you on behalf of the Fallbrook Food Pantry! We have had a very busy quarter with an amazing amount of food donations, food drives and very generous monetary donations. Our selfless volunteers have been kept very, very busy sorting and distributing the food that has been arriving at our door! I would also like to personally thank them for all their hard work and endless hours they have put in this holiday season.

Volunteers, you're the best!! Thank you for your continued support and heartfelt generosity for our neighbors who need food assistance. We are committed to being good stewards of your

donations and spread them as far as we possibly can. Without your support we would not be able to do what we do best, distribute much needed food. Our wishes to you are to have a blessed and bountiful year.

Best regards, Barbara McLean, President of the Board

Year in Review



Janet Van Patten, center, named 2015 Volunteer of Year by Fallbrook Food Pantry. Congratulations Janet!



Fallbrook Food pantry has been awarded grant funding from the Walmart Foundation to convert to a client choice distribution model. In support of the Serving with Pride and Dignity initiative, funds were used to purchase glass front coolers and freezers for dairy and meat products. Modifications to

our floor plan and offices were made to compliment this fabulous transformation. The produce and bread racks shown in the photo were purchased from a local market that went out of business mid-November. We are happy to give the fixtures a new home! Participants of the pantry are now able to choose not only their own produce and bread but they can also select from the available dairy, frozen items, and nonperishable dry goods for a complete menu based on the ChooseMyPlate.gov recommendations. The response has been very positive from both volunteers and the participants at the pantry.



Marines from Marine Corps Installations West delivered food as part of 'Feds Feed Families Food Drive.' From left. MGySgt Todd A Young; Barbara McLean, pantry board president; PFC Theddens Lesesne;

Frank Russell, past board president; CPL Julio Flores Jr.; and Patrick T. Grosso, regional food service manager.



National Charity League daughters, also known as Ticktockers, gather at the Fallbrook Library for a "Celebrating Bright Futures" event that included the kick-off of their "We Can" food drive for the Fallbrook Food Pantry.

The girls are pictured with a collection barrel and neighborhood collection bags.



Thanksgiving 5k Walk/Run to Feed the Hungry

The November 14, 2015, Thanksgiving Walk/Run to Feed the Hungry sponsored by the Fallbrook Food Pantry was a huge success! This

was the most successful Hunger Walk for the Food Pantry since the first Walk in 2006. There were more sponsors (donors), participants (walkers, runners) and money collected than ever before. Thanks go to many groups and individuals.



The Food Pantry appreciates the enthusiasm and sense of competitiveness generated by local churches, the willingness of businesses and non-profits to contribute financial assistance, the work of the Sheriffs' Senior Patrol, members of the National Charity

League and high school wrestling team among others in providing volunteer help. Thanks to the Village News for outstanding publicity before and during the event.



Again, thank you Fallbrook for your incredible spirit and generosity in support of the work of the Fallbrook Food Pantry.

2016 Calendar of Events

Please visit www.fallbrookfoodpantry.org

- Nov 12, 2016 Thanksgiving 5k Walk/Run to Feed the Hungry
- Oct-Dec 2016 Adopt a Family at Christmas

How Can You Help the Pantry?

- Support the Thanksgiving 5k Walk/Run to Feed the Hungry
- Offer a financial contribution
- Organize a food drive
- Donate canned food and fresh garden produce
- Volunteer on site



Adopt-A-Family Program

The clients at the Fallbrook Food Pantry are happy and grateful for the kind giving of adopters who helped provide Christmas cheer for their families this year. The adopted families were given a holiday dinner (or a grocery gift card), and each child received a gift plus shoes or clothing. This year we had 207 families apply and 154 families were adopted.

Adopter Susan Calas relates on her experience with this program, "The joy and celebration of Christmas is a season that everyone should look forward to with anticipation and excitement, especially children. For my husband and I, the highlight of our Christmas is seeing the smiles of the family we adopt through our church and the Fallbrook Food Pantry.

When we deliver the presents and food to the family, we are truly taken back at how little they have, how meager they live, and how grateful they are! We have adopted a family for 3 years now and each time we are truly humbled.

The first year we delivered presents and a ham dinner. The kids were not home that time, but when we gave the single mother of 4, (one is handicapped) the ham she cried..."A ham!" With real tears of joy. Looking at their home, we realized that one of the kids slept on the floor in the living room. I was not sure how a wheelchair could even fit in the very tiny apartment.

The next year we adopted a family of 3. The older child was really her brother she cared for; he had cancer. All he wanted was to get a skateboard to ride! I pray he got to ride it!

This year was incredible! We actually got lost and it took almost 2 hours to find the home. Every mile was worth it! When they greeted us, the father's huge smile said a thousand words! He was so proud of his home, which had no carpet, only cement, and the heat was from a wood burning stove. His family of five children were so hospitable! The kids couldn't believe their eyes as they saw their stockings filled with toys and presents under the tree. The 11 year old wanted a bike, and when he saw his very own bicycle.... Well ... There really are no words!!! They offered us a soda, took pictures with us, and wanted us to stay and visit. They gave me a bouquet of flowers (the dad worked 1 day a week at a flower shop) and then met us at Major Market 5 days later to give us homemade tamales! Their little 8 year old was wearing the outfit we bought her. I told Onelia I wanted to adopt them all year. Their needs are great, and yet so simple. It truly was a privilege to adopt this sweet family.

Adopting a family at Christmastime has been the highlight of our holiday season. We are so thankful to have had the opportunity, and we will continue to adopt as we are able. I recommend adopting a family for Christmas to everyone!!"