



# Fallbrook Food Pantry

## 2017 Annual Report

Each month, an estimated 500,000 people in San Diego County experience not knowing when or how they will provide for their next meal. Many of these individuals face a difficult decision: choosing between paying for housing costs, medical care, or food. County wide 1 in 5 of those who are food insecure are children. In the greater Fallbrook area 40% of those receiving food assistance are children.

Fallbrook Food Pantry is a nonprofit organization serving low-income individuals and families. Its specific mission is to provide an adequate and nutritious supply of food to individuals in our community who are in need. With a focus on nutrition, we strive to offer a healthy, well balanced selection of food promoting wellness for every individual in our community. To carry forth this mission, the agency collaborates with many partners to maintain the highest quality standards and the dignity of those served.

Serving with dignity and compassion, Fallbrook Food Pantry (FFP) distributed nearly 1,000,000 pounds of food in 2017. As a long-standing resource that is available to the community 5 days a week, FFP programs support an average of 25,000 household visits annually. Additional support is provided through the Backpack Program, Adopt-a-Family, and Neighborhood Distribution events. FFP collaborates with healthcare partners who provide on-site health screenings, nutrition education and information regarding healthy habits that promote wellness. Keeping in mind that our clients and their families have many needs, Fallbrook Food Pantry offers more than calories for the body but hope for the heart.

Making a difference in the lives of those who are suffering is rewarding work, however sometimes it can take decades before the impact is fully realized. One such example came from a young man, honorably discharged from the military, now a college student, completing a service learning project required through his studies. He selected FFP for his project because he remembered receiving holiday meals and Christmas presents as a child through our programs, not knowing at the time that his mother also received groceries from the pantry, helping to keep them fed, giving him the energy to study in school. He now could volunteer to serve others through the same organization that helped his family in their time of need many years before. This not only satisfied the course requirements but also his desire to give back and show his gratitude by helping other families get back on their feet.

The pantry's impact is not only measured by the amount of food distributed and the number of individuals and households served, but also by the smiles on the faces of people who are grateful to have someone there who cares about them. We are building relationships that bring our community together by fighting the effects of hunger.

Compassion without action is just an observation. However, by maintaining a well-run organization focused on the care of our clients, volunteers, and supporters, together we become connected in the mission to reduce hunger and its effects.

*"Because when you are hungry, nothing else matters."*

## 2017 Annual Report

In 2017, with broad based community support, Fallbrook Food Pantry distributed 700,083 pounds of food, serving 18,216 families in need who utilized the pantry. Over 171,965 pounds of fresh produce were offered through the monthly Neighborhood Distribution event serving 2,993 households in the greater Fallbrook area. Additionally, more than 63,931 pounds of groceries were distributed to 3,458 households through specific programs aiding students and senior citizens. A new program added this year, Victory Outreach, assisted 280 individuals in recovery by providing 3,442 pounds of food.

2017 Distribution Statistics		
Program Name	Number of Households Served	Pounds of Food Distributed
Pantry	18,216	700,083
Neighborhood Distribution	2,993	171,965
Food for Thought	1,770	10,413
Senior Emergency Food Assistance Program	560	13,768
Senior Food Box Program	1,128	39,750
Victory Outreach	280	3,442
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24,947</b>	<b>939,421</b>

Fresh produce accounts for approximately 52% of the food selections offered through our programs.



The meaningful work realized through this organization is primarily due to the many individuals and groups who donate their time and talents by volunteering over 15,000 hours during the past year. Without the generosity of these dedicated individuals, Fallbrook Food Pantry could not accomplish its mission.



Volunteer hours served annually equate to the value of 15 part-time employees.

Agency programs are fueled by donations of fresh produce, perishable and non-perishable food items received from grocery stores, businesses and members in the community. Food drive donations are supplemented as needed to provide the quantities necessary to serve an average of 500 households each week. Dairy products, proteins and produce are purchased to bring balance to the weekly menu.

*"Because when you are hungry, nothing else matters."*

## 2017 Annual Report

Donations and purchases made through our partnering food banks at Feeding San Diego, Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank, and North County Food Bank account for more than 65% of all food items distributed. While some items are available at no cost, other items may be purchased for a shared maintenance fee of just 19 cents per pound. An entire pallet of produce may be purchased for only \$6.00.

**Food donations are valued\* at \$1,559,438.**

\*Donated food items are valued using an average cost based on the industry standard of \$1.66 per pound.

Financial support from grants, businesses, churches, individuals, and service organizations provide the funds that maintain program costs. Through the generosity of a community of caring partners this organization is able to pay the operating and administrative expenses necessary to provide quality programs and meet the annual budget. The purchase of foods, lease of the building space, electricity for the freezers and coolers, and the salary of one part-time employee represent the major expenses.

**2017 Contributions = \$240,140**

**Donations 47% • Grants 36% • Special Events 17%**



Contributions above expenses are used for special projects to improve equipment and facilities including additions to our Building Fund Reserve. Recognizing that the current facilities do not adequately meet our needs, the Board of Directors established an investment account in anticipation of starting a capital campaign. Our vision is to purchase a facility to remain viable for the future.

The impressive value of in-kind donations such as volunteer service hours and donated food items are not reflected in the Fallbrook Food Pantry annual budget. Without these very generous in-kind donations, FFP would not be able to provide quality services for clients or distribute an adequate and nutritious supply of food to individuals in our community who are in need.

On behalf of the Fallbrook Food Pantry Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, thank you for your continued generosity and support in helping to provide for a basic need, nutritious food.

Jennifer Vetch  
Executive Director

---

*"Because when you are hungry, nothing else matters."*