

# News from The Pantry

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## Pantry Celebrates New Beginnings!

Terri Dougherty has been named Director of the HIM Food Pantry. Terri began working with the Pantry in 2015 when her son started volunteering. She has been active in all operational areas and has used her marketing, organizational and technical skills to improve processes and support ongoing programs. She is a regular interviewer and familiar face to both Pantry clients and volunteers.



**Alice Bongers & Terri Dougherty**

Bongers, who founded the Pantry in 2009 and has been at its helm since the beginning. While Alice is stepping back a bit, she will continue to be involved with the Pantry and will provide invaluable guidance during this transition.

“The HIM Food Pantry would not exist without the commitment and dedication of Alice Bongers. She has served faithfully for 10 years and we are eternally grateful for her contribution,” says Patsy Sakowitz, President of the HIM Food Pantry Board of Directors. “We are equally blessed to have Terri Dougherty at the helm. The future of the Pantry is in excellent hands.”

## Ask & Ye Shall Receive

As we begin our tenth year, we are continually blessed by the generosity of our neighbors. Donations from individuals, organizations and companies enable us to better serve our clients. Here are just a few examples:



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, March 28**

**Music for the Soul**

7 PM – 8 PM

Details on page 2

**Saturday, March 30**

**5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Food Fair**

10 AM to Noon

**Saturday, April 27**

**Garden Patch Party & Auction**

6 PM – 9 PM

Details on page 3

## 2018 Ends With a Bang!

In December, we served 230 families during normal hours, more than 200 children during our toy drive, and distributed more than 100 Christmas boxes. In total, we served more than 4,995 families and 19,382 individuals in 2018 via our pantry, 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday food fairs, Thanksgiving & Christmas food boxes and holiday toy drive.

- **Community donations** including eight large cases left at our back door one Friday night! Multiple neighbors dropped off carloads of donations including diapers and wipes. And as always, local church, school and Scouting groups gave generously with donations of both goods and time.



- **Fruit Share Houston**, a local organization that harvests neighborhood fruit trees, began delivering citrus including 500 pounds of grapefruit and 700 pounds of oranges.
- A **trucker** delivered 65 cases of beefsteak tomatoes during our Christmas box distribution.
- **Kraft Foods** held a drive and donated two shopping carts of food and items for the homeless.



- **Share the Spirit** – Member churches, including The Church at 1548 Heights & St. Mark's Methodist, collected and contributed holiday donations.



- **Second Servings of Houston** continued to provide unserved and unsold food from area restaurants and retailers. Over the past few months, they have delivered 95 cases of macaroni & cheese, 30 cases of canned green beans, multiple carts of Pepperidge Farms breads and buns, multiple cases of Penzey's pepper, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

### We Won the Lottery!

We're not moving into a mansion, but we are the proud owners of a new 2-door cooler that the Pantry won in a 'lottery' held by the Houston Food Bank. The cooler enables us to store fresh milk and other items when available. We also received a technology grant from the Houston Food Bank that funded the purchase of a second computer which helps us handle data entry and administrative tasks more efficiently.

### March 28 Concert to Benefit HIM Pantry

Brian Kalinec has been called "a combination of Woody Guthrie, John Steinbeck, James Taylor, and Rodney Crowell in the stories he tells." An accomplished songwriter and guitarist, Brian will be the featured guest at Music for the Soul, Thursday, March 28 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. The free concert begins at 7 PM at 1819 Heights Boulevard, and donations will be accepted for Brian's chosen charity—the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry. This promises to be a wonderful musical evening. Hope to see you there!



## Save the Date: Garden Patch Party Coming April 27

We will once again host our annual fundraiser on Saturday, April 27 at Zion Lutheran Church. Last year's event raised more than \$9,000, which helped support the Pantry's ongoing mission to feed our neighbors in need.



This fun event is a wonderful way to mix and mingle with other Pantry supporters, while enjoying a good meal and great entertainment. Plus, there are fabulous auction and raffle prizes!

Here's how you can be part of this great event:

- **Purchase tickets or a table** – invite your friends and neighbors!
- **Sponsor the event** – help underwrite some of our costs
- **Contribute auction or raffle items** – gift cards, merchandise or services – anything is appreciated!

Complete details about purchasing tickets will be available soon. If you would like more information about being an event underwriter or promoting your business by contributing to our auction or raffle, contact Fundraising Coordinator Alicia Reyes at [Alicia.reyes52@yahoo.com](mailto:Alicia.reyes52@yahoo.com)



### Small Package....

### Big Heart!

Near the end of 2018, this special delivery put a smile on our faces! A little bit of love all the way from Indiana!

## Lend A Hand

### Give Your Time

Help is needed Thursdays from 5-7 PM and Saturdays from 10 AM to noon. Sign up at [himfoodpantry.org](http://himfoodpantry.org) and assist our neighbors in need.

### Stock the Shelves

Your workplace, school, youth group or other organization can host a food drive. Shelf-stable foods and toiletries are always welcome.

### Donate Money

We must purchase some key items each week. Visit [himfoodpantry.org](http://himfoodpantry.org) and click on the PayPal link to help us fill our carts!

**Since 2009, we have served more than 41,400 families and 154,000 individuals.**

**Like us on Facebook to keep up with the latest news and info and watch the Pantry in action.**