



# Caritas Outreach Ministries

Spring 2021 Newsletter

*Caring for neighbors in need through your generosity*

## ARTICLE BY KELSIE

by Kelsie Rowland  
Operations Manager

### Caritas will be moving this year to a new home base!

*Northside Church of Christ, 1228 W. Nebraska, Spokane, WA 99205*

We were approached by Henry Holub, the pastor of our newest supporting church, Northside Church of Christ, who had been prayerfully considering with his congregation how to best use an external building on their property. After much discussion and reflection, we now have a signed agreement in place for Caritas to use the space. There is work to be done before we can move but we plan to be fully transitioned by June 1st of this year.



We are very excited for this opportunity to expand our food storage and client capacity. In line with that goal, the Caritas Board is taking advantage of some capacity grant funding to obtain a walk-in cooler/freezer to better accommodate the volume of refrigerated and frozen product we have struggled to find room for. This is both a blessing and a lot of work! We will be verifying the building's floor support and working with an electrician for safe power connections. This will free

up our existing units for clients to select food from and minimize our need for icepacks and insulated food bins. We'll be saving on energy costs AND improving food safety by keeping product in a temperature controlled environment.

We are very grateful for our time here at Spokane Friends Church. Our client volume has tripled since 2013 when we first moved in! God used this space to bless our neighbors and we appreciate the generosity of SFC in sharing their church home with us. They will always have a special place in our history and we look forward to our continuing relationship with SFC as a supporting church long into the future.

We would be so appreciative of your financial support to help us move and improve. Thank you for your prayers during this time of transition. You can stay updated on the move by visiting our website ([www.caritasoutreachministries.org](http://www.caritasoutreachministries.org)) or by liking us on Facebook (Caritas Outreach Ministries).

1612 Dalke Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99205

Located in  
Spokane Friends Church

509-326-2249

Hours: Mon, Wed, Thur  
10:30 – 1:30 pm

Utility & Heat Assistance\*  
Fuel Vouchers\*  
Bus Passes\*

\*As funds are available

Necessities: Personal  
hygiene, household  
cleaning supplies, etc.

Food Service  
available all business hours

# Little Free Pantry Boxes Blessed by GOD provide BIG RESULTS!

## A true story.

by Bob Walker  
Board Chair

**2018** - Kelsie Rowland, Operations Manager for Caritas, got inspired! Caritas should build and stock Little Free Pantry boxes. (Littlefreepantry.org)

Sharon Robertson submitted a funding request for building materials to Rotary 21 (Rotary-Downtown Spokane).

Rotary requested an in-person presentation from Caritas.

Bob Walker made the presentation, answered questions like "What are you going to do if someone empties the box?" with "Refill it."



The Caritas request was approved, and Rotary 21 presented a check of \$1,585.22 for materials, equipment rental and the first round of food. Two volunteers, Steve Koehler and Dick Amsbury, created 4 Little Free Pantry boxes.

**2019** - Little Free Pantry boxes were an immediate success. A volunteer resupplied them every week. Who knew it would be contagious? Neighborhoods also resupplied the boxes!

**2020** - Northwest Harvest approached Caritas with an offer to pay for materials for construction of 6 additional Little Free Pantry boxes. Caritas would have them built, find places for them and be responsible for their resupply.

*Board Secretary*

Caritas Outreach Ministries

## Board Members

Bob Walker

*Board Chairman*

Assumption Catholic Church

Janet Abernathy

Fowler United Methodist Church

Karen Agnew

*Board Secretary*

New Hope Christian Reformed  
Church

Henry Holub

Northside Church of Christ

Randy Fleiger

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Bonita Hartman

Saint Charles Catholic Church

Sue Travis

Saint David's Episcopal Church

Bill Emery

Spokane Friends Church

Bob Niehenke constructed the 6 Little Free Pantry boxes.

Caritas quickly had three spots for locating these additional Little Free Pantry boxes.

The search for three additional locations began.

Bob and Marilyn Walker went exploring one Sunday afternoon looking for potential sites. They drove by Northside Church of Christ and noticed a Little Free Pantry box. The Little Free Pantry had been built by the new Pastor, Henry Holub, and placed just one week before.

Bob Walker followed up with Henry that week; met with him to explain the who and what about Caritas.

Henry then toured the Caritas location in Friends Church. Henry commented on the limited space, poorly configured space, and conflict with Friends Church Sunday worship space.

The next week Henry approached his church leadership, asking them to invite Caritas to be housed in their facility. The concept of an, un-named, Food Pantry moving into their facility was presented to the congregation during a Sunday worship service. They loved the idea!

**2021** - Northside Church of Christ has offered Caritas the use of their free-standing building! It has more than three times the space at Friends Church and does not conflict with their Sunday worship. They also offered other facilities for large fund-raising events. Caritas has accepted and will move Spring of 2021.

GOD told us that those faithful in Little Things (Little Free Pantries) would be blessed with bigger things, a new and needed location.

GOD is marvelous!

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Tom & Terry Morgan



When Tom and Terry Morgan retired and moved to the northwest area of Spokane, they began to explore ways they can give back to the community. It was about that same time that their Assumption Church bulletin ran an article about volunteer needs at Caritas Outreach Ministries that caught their attention. They had been blessed in their lives and the volunteer opportunities at Caritas looked like an exciting way for them to give back.

For the last 2-1/2 years they have been volunteers on the Thursday shift and have continued throughout the pandemic of this last year. They consider the staff and clients at Caritas their “pandemic bubble”. Tom works in the pantry, helping unload the trucks and organizing and storing bulk food items as they come in. He also beaks down lots of boxes for recycling. Terry works in the kitchen doing quality control and preparing orders for clients according to their family sizes and food needs.

Both Tom and Terry are very excited about their work at Caritas. They have developed wonderful relationships with the staff as well as the clients. They’ve also learned a lot about the needs of the clients and how the extra food they are able to hand out has a significant impact on the families, allowing them to save money on food purchases in order to meet other financial needs. The clients impress them with their desire to give back to help others, such as the little girl who brought in an eggplant for some other family to have, or another client who volunteered to clean up litter in the parking lot. The Caritas clients have a genuine desire to pay back for the kindness they have received.

The Morgans feel that the anticipation of the upcoming move to our new location is exciting and a very good thing. There is going to be more space to show food choices for the clients. The space will be dedicated to the needs of our clients and won’t be shared with Sunday services needs of the church.

They would advise anyone interesting in volunteering at Caritas that it is a wonderful way to feel like you’ve really done something good—given back! The staff there work hard to make clients feel welcome and valued.

Terry added, “Sign up immediately!”

### INNOVIA SUPPORTS CARITAS

The Innovia Foundation recently awarded \$5,000 to Caritas Outreach Ministries for our work with clients who are significantly impacted by the pandemic.

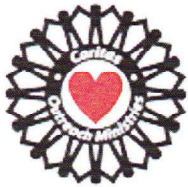
This Foundation focuses on community organizations in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. This year they specifically focused on organizations affected by wild fires and pandemic.

Caritas is using the grant to help fund the move to our new location by purchasing a walk-in freezer/refrigerator.

### Current Needs:

**FOOD:**  
Cereal

**NECESSITIES:**  
Laundry Soap  
Shampoo & Conditioner



**Carias Outreach Ministries**  
1612 W. Dalke Ave  
Spokane, WA 99205

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Non-Profit  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Spokane WA  
Permit #4

## 2020 Annual Report



- ♥ 7,693 Individuals served
- ♥ 292,571 Pounds of Food Distributed
- ♥ \$32,912 Value of Necessities Distributed
- ♥ \$6,316 Financial Aid for Utilities

### Local Affiliates

- Second Harvest
- Northwest Harvest
- Feed Spokane
- Albertsons
- Natural Grocers
- Yokes
- Safeway
- Project Beauty Share
- Spokane Valley Diaper Bank
- Spokane Cremation