



Caritas Outreach Ministries

Summer 2021 Newsletter

Caring for neighbors in need through your generosity

NEW NORMAL

by Kelsie Rowland
Operations Manager

"The Gospel takes away our right forever, to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving poor."

Dorothy Day

New Building! New Faces! New way to Serve!

Caritas Staff are thrilled to be settling in to our new space at Northside Church of Christ. We have welcomed new clients who have discovered us for the first time. And new volunteers have joined our ranks to keep the food pantry organized and clean.

One major perk of our new system is that clients can now self select groceries right from the shelf. We believe in equipping and empowering people in the midst of life's set backs. Enabling folks to shop for their households helps them feel more in control and confident. It also prevents food waste and respects cultural/dietary restrictions. We are also able to open our Necessity Closet to clients during their weekly shop. Due to space constraints in our old facility, clients only received cleaning and hygiene products at pantry appointments and had to choose from a generic list for a volunteer to fulfill. Now, clients have direct

access to choose preferred scents/sizes/products that will best fit their needs.

While shopping, clients are assisted by friendly volunteers who help fill their carts and, more

importantly, spend that time getting to know them. Feeling heard and cared for is just as important as filling one's plate. During 2020's COVID restrictions, Caritas distributed prepacked carts of food in a socially distant method that complied with pandemic guidelines. This fed a lot of people quickly and safely. But, we missed that real connection we had with our clients. Now that occupancy rates have increased and our larger space allows us to invite clients

inside again, we are prioritizing that commitment to serve the whole person; mind, body, and spirit!

We are incredibly grateful for this new opportunity to love our neighbors. You are invited to visit the new facility, take a tour, and share your experience.



Kelsie Rowland, Operations Manager

**1228 W. Nebraska Ave.
Spokane, WA 99205-2249**

509-326-2249

E-mail: staff@caritasoutreachministries.org

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

*Food Service available all
business hours.*

*Pandemic era rules allow
clients to get food all three
days if they have the need.*

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

**As funds are available*

Meet our Caritas Board Members:

Caritas Outreach ministries is governed by a Board of Directors, all of whom are members of the Northside area Caritas Sponsor Churches. It is the vision and decisions of this group that guides Caritas into the service for our clients. All Sponsor Churches are encouraged to provide a representative to serve on this governing board.

This month we welcome a new church to our organization of Sponsor Churches, **Sunrise Church of Christ**. To become a sponsor church, the organization must be located in the northwest area of Spokane and have a desire to reach out to those in need. We welcome whatever a church community can provide to our goals, such as donations of money, food, necessities, time and talent. It is through the dedication to the work of our Lord that these churches and their membership provide all that Caritas does for our community.



Henry Holub,
Chair
Northside Church
of Christ



Sue Travis
Vice-Chair
St. David's
Episcopal Church



Janet Abernathy
Fowler United Methodist

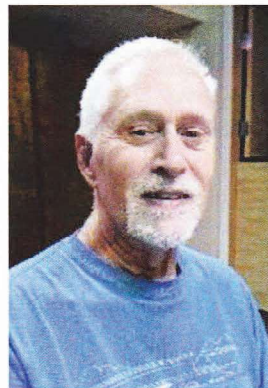
Not Pictured

Bill Emery
Spokane Friends Church

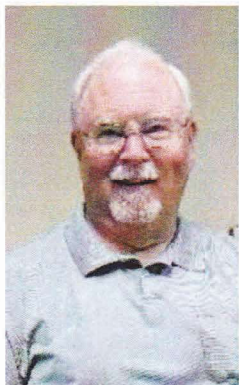
Troy Burns
Sunrise Church of Christ



Karen Agnew,
Secretary
New Hope Christian
Reformed Church



Randy Fleiger,
Prince of Peace
Lutheran Church



Bob Walker,
Assumption
Catholic Church



Bonita Hartman,
St. Charles
Catholic Church

Current Needs

MONITARY DONATIONS:

Money is **ALWAYS** needed to help our clients with utility expenses, gas vouchers and bus passes.

NECESSITIES:

- Tooth Brushes & Tooth Paste
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Feminine Products (*tampons, etc.*)
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Bandages
- Dish Soap
- Paper Towels

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Manny Aguilar



Manny Aguilar has had a constant presence at Caritas for the last 6 or 7 years. In the beginning, he represented St. Charles Catholic Church on the Caritas Board of Directors for several years. He left the Board when he moved to Assumption Parish, since they already had a representative that serviced in that capacity.

Currently Manny's volunteer service with Caritas spreads across a large range of duties where he can help wherever and whenever he is needed. He enjoys filling in when other volunteers cannot work their shift. He has worked the phones, served clients coming in for food, gone to Northwest Harvest, Second Harvest or area grocery stores to pick up food, repaired shelving, and cleaned, etc. There probably is very little at Caritas that he has not had a hand in over the years.

Manny has seen a lot of change with Caritas. He is excited for our new facility, stating that it has a lot more room—more than 2 times what we've had to work with in the past. We are able to organize it in such a way as to give our clients more of the "grocery store experience".

Manny views one of his most important contributions to Caritas is his encouragement of others to get involved. He says, "I am a recruiter at heart." He points out, "Caritas is OUR food bank and we are the arms and legs and sweat of the parishes doing the work to make it succeed. I'm grateful to my fellow parishioners who give of their time, talent and treasure to this ministry. Praise God we have a lot of very, very devoted volunteers."

When asked why he volunteers, Manny stated, "When I turned my life over to Jesus Christ, I told Him I would serve Him if He would lead me." He tries to make work at Caritas joyful, stating, "We have fun working and doing the Lord's work."

Venue to be
Announced

Harvest Hoedown

Dinner, Silent & Live Auctions

October 30

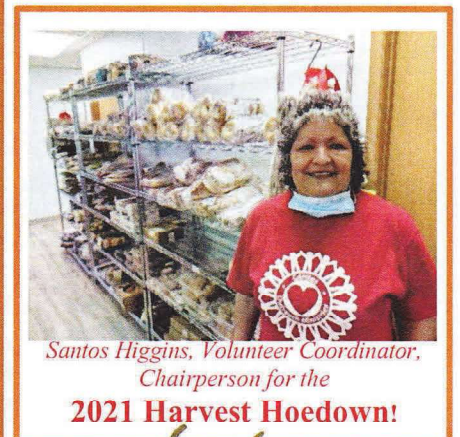
Help Needed in All Areas:

Underwriters with monetary donations of any size!

Theme Baskets

Gift Certificates

Contact: Santos Higgins, 509-954-6420 or
Caritas 509-326-2249 (Please leave a message.)



Santos Higgins, Volunteer Coordinator,
Chairperson for the

2021 Harvest Hoedown!





Caritas Outreach Ministries

~~1612 W. Dalke Ave~~ * **NEW: 1228 W. Nebraska Ave** *
Spokane, WA 99205

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane WA
Permit #4

Caring for neighbors in need through your generosity



News & Updates

Mid-Year Report January – June 2021

Caritas Outreach Ministries Served

2,679 individuals from **1,386** households:

Children (0-18) **638**

Adults (18-54) **1,369**

Seniors (55 & over) **672**

83 volunteers put in **5,185** hours of service.

158,282 lbs. of food distributed through the Table of Plenty and Food Pantry.

\$9,254.50 worth of hygiene and cleaning supplies given out from our Necessity Closet.

\$9,348.63 pledged through our Utility Assistance program

