

Southeast Region –2025 1st Annual Convocation Report

The Good Samaritan Food Pantry – The Thorne Building Basement

Market Research: current food box resources near The Good Shepherd Mission

1. St. Mary’s food bank, Phoenix Arizona brings an 18-wheel semi-trailer to various locations within the Navajo Nation reservation, but only available to the state of Arizona residents.
 - a. Many established organizations – like the chapter houses, can gather their own volunteer groups to help organize a distribution process that is able to accommodate larger numbers of product.
2. USDA Government Grant in partnership with the Latter-Day Saints church (LDS) to petition food from the federal reserve food bank. The LDS church holds a well established 501C3 grant with the USDA program that we (ECN) can petition for food assistance so all three regions can receive and distribute to their own community as needed, and other local food pantries that are established as distribution locations can do the same. Note: ECN typically only receives non-perishable food items, due to the need to repair and establish locations on our campuses as designated food pantry buildings, there not having the equipment located in those spaces to receive other items, such as; frozen protein, frozen veggies, fresh produce, and dairy item.
3. School District Summer lunch program is a summer sack lunch food program that is funded through the “No Child Left Behind Act in 2001”. The program is a Federal Funded program through the Department of Education, and is regulated by the state. The food distribution is designed to offer students what can not afford a meal while in the education facility, it is also designed for the students to come to the schools and receive a “take-home” sack lunch during the summer. This Program is in jeopardy of be sunset, due to the cuts proposed by the Trump Administration.

Previous locations: The Good Samaritan Food Pantry;

1. Thorne Building – main floor space: The first location (during the Pandemic) in 2022 was in the Thorne Building – main floor space, due to the large space for food receiving, assembling food boxes, and distributing to community members, with minimal contact with the public.
 - a. Challenges: the Thorne building was use as a place for the community to rent for gathering spaces, which was also a source of income for SER. Therefore, we needed to relocate the food pantry.

2. The Utah Building: (Post-Pandemic) the outbreak started to subside, the numbers of Covid – 19 started to go down, and the Navajo Nation “open” the boundaries of the Reservation to the wider community our immediate public emergency response to the health concerns for the public started to become not so argent. We still saw a need for a continual food pantry for families who need supplement food boxes to help get them through the month. The Utah Building was then identified as a building to help develop into a food pantry with a volunteer food pantry manager to oversee the food distribution, storage, and commercial kitchen was the vision to use the kitchen as a teaching tool for the community to learn how to cook at home with the knowledge of providing a healthier option for their families, and how to use the food pantry items in their homes.

a. Challenges: The roof of the Utah building had its challenges with keeping the flat-roof from retaining water and eventually leaking into the building. Several attempts were made to have a roofing company come and give us an estimate for the repair of the room, with the hopes of restoring the building to a fully functional building. Unfortunately, we could not get funding, or a company to come out to fulfill our request, and the building started developing more damage and mold accumulated from the roof, therefore completely unusable.

3. The Thorne building – Basement: 2024 to (current). After the Utah building became unusable, the next space identified for a food pantry with space was in the basement of the Thorne building. With a fresh shipment from the USDA/LDS collaboration of non-food perishables received to the Southeast Region, a new located was identified to store and distribute food, and the basement of the Thorne building has become and is still today the location of the Good Samaritan food pantry.

Proposal

Proposal for new location;

1. The Powerhouse building: The Power House building is the location for the former “Shima Soup” manufactory business, which is no longer going to be operating on the campus of GSM and in The Power House building. As the parish council/vestry start to take a look at retaining usage of The Power House building, there is a new proposal before you to consider.

a. Proposal; The parish council consider The Good Samaritan food pantry to be the ministry and management of the council and volunteer participation of its members of the church and others in this community. The parish council consider to allocate The Power House building to be identified as a program to develop a food pantry and soup kitchen, as an outreach ministry of the SER program.

i. Note: with one building identified as a food pantry, all of our equipment and supplies can be located in one are, which would qualify GSM as a rescue pantry, requesting more foods to be stored as an official structured “food pantry”.

Resources to sustain The Good Samaritan food pantry

1. St. Micheals and All Angles church in Albuquerque NM has been a long-standing donor to the SER operation budget, and has heard of the program of The Good Samaritan food pantry, and now donates \$100.00 for the past several months to GSM for the support of the food ministry program. In addition, the Standing Committee has vowed to allocate a % of their annual Endowment towards the food ministry and ongoing capital improvements of GSM. A \$2,000.00 donation was given towards the construction cost of installing a walk-in freezer for the food pantry, durable and rollable storage shelves for food storage.

a. St. Micheals and All Angles has been running a well-developed food pantry that helps many around their community, and is willing to mentor the development of the food ministry at GSM.

2. USDA / LDS Government Food Grant is still a primary source of food supply for requesting foods on a larger scale. The Good Samaritan Food Pantry (GSFP) has some data on how many people have been coming for food on a monthly basis, and what areas the food pantry is covering, so we could develop a schedule a request of delivery of quantity, and frequency with food supplies needed for GSFP. With more storable space for fresh items, frozen items, and non-perishables, we can request a variety of items that better fit the needs of this community.

3. Food rescue pantry; As a food rescue pantry program, GSM will be able to pick-up food that can be reused in the kitchen, or distributed to the community. A hot food kitchen could be offered once or twice a month, depending on how much rescue food can be picked up, but we have to be established as able to receive.

a. Possible local resources;

i. Wal-Mart; Gallup NM.

ii. Albertsons; Gallup NM.

iii. Safeway; Gallup NM.

iv. LDS Food Pantry; Gallup NM.

1. Community food garden.

v. Bashas; St. Micheals AZ.

- vi. Lowes; Window Rock AZ.
- vii. Subway; Tse Bonito NM.
- viii. Cocina de Dominguez; Window Rock AZ.
- ix. Mikasa; Window Rock AZ.
- x. Dennys; St. Micheals AZ.

How is this tied to The Southeast Region?

4. Scripture Readings referencing;
 - a. Garden & Food.
5. Daily office;
 - a. MP, Noon prayer, Evening prayer.
 - b. Rogation services; (blessing God's Creation).
 - c. VBS parable teachings.
 - d. Meditation sessions
 - e. Yoga wellness sessions
 - f. Community Gathering with food presentations
 - g. Stewardship teachings
 - i. Offerings to The Good Samaritan Food Pantry.
6. UTO Grants.
7. The Good News Garden.
8. Crazy Chili Farms; Diocese of Arizonia.
9. Navajo Nation Community Garden Grant.
10. Fort Defiance Chapter House Arfa Funding.