



GOD'S PANTRY

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the CEO

When we got together to form God's Pantry nearly a decade ago, our dreams for what this would be could not be matched by what it's become. In the beginning, our biggest challenge was finding an available freezer. Now, we have a warehouse that's bursting at the seams. I am reminded that you can never outdream or outwork God.

Today, food remains the hook that brings people through our doors and to the heart of Jesus. But, as many of you know, the services God's Pantry offers continue to expand. In 2019, we began a house at our facility for young men who are working towards their goals and need a safe space to do so. In August, two of the residents moved out on their own. It was remarkable seeing God's hand in their lives, as they worked hard and experienced a life transformation. Opening a similar home for young women is on the horizon.

Sometimes we talk about what we would do if God's Pantry shut down because there was no longer a need. In the meantime, my heart continues to ache for the unmet needs. I tend to be inclined to move forward at 1,000 miles per hour. While unable to move quite that quickly, I'm incredibly proud of the staff for the leaps and bounds we've made recently and the needs they are meeting.

Looking back over the past 8 years, it's funny to see how God has taken this over. We took a step in faith all those years ago, knowing the heart of God was love, and He has multiplied that so many times over. Repeatedly, I've seen that while we seek to change lives, I'm the one who ends up being changed. You can't not be changed when you experience God's love and see it in action. His love softens hearts and, at the end of the day, we're all human- something easy to forget when we are divided by our differences.

We are particularly grateful to you because we couldn't do this without you. I express my gratitude to God for all he's done here, but I can't deny the way He's used you. As we know, nothing is impossible with God. Much of this would be impossible without people like you saying "yes" and joining our mission. I cannot wait to see what God will continue to do through us and I hope you join us for all of it.

IN HIM, TOM SWEENEY



Letter from the Director

A lot of people who are familiar with God's Pantry tend to understand those two words well: a food pantry that finds its roots in the gospel of Jesus Christ. And they're not wrong- that's where we began and have yet to stray from. However, since its founding, especially in the past two years, God's Pantry has expanded to serve our community in more hands-on ways. This growth is something people don't always hear about but, in my position as Director of Operations, I get to watch our expansion daily.

One of our greatest developments this year was bringing case managers onto our staff. They have been able to assist clients with obtaining housing, court-appointed classes, and other legal services, for little to no cost. They, along with our counseling team, are available for any of our trainees, clients, staff, or residents to meet with. In 2021, they worked with hundreds of clients and began making a difference in so many lives. We are so proud of the work they are doing and excited about what it means for our community. We've had great success keeping things in-house, where people feel loved and welcomed, something not found in many spaces.

Often, we tell people we seek to provide wrap-around services for clients- meaning a one-stop "shop" for people to have their needs met- from food to employment to mental health support to legal services. We are seeking to create an environment that invites people in and makes them feel at home. I believe we are succeeding. An idea that inspires me as we move forward is imagining what it would look like for this organization to not only become a pillar in the community, but to be run entirely by people who were discounted by the community at large. Several of our staff members were formerly incarcerated or otherwise pushed out of their communities, which has allowed them to become mentors and supporters for those who come through our doors.

Moving ahead, we are looking forward to opening a transitional housing program for young women, similar to the one we have for young men, as well as creating more social enterprise opportunities. With each step in faith that we have taken, we have seen huge rewards, beyond what we could have imagined. We are grateful to God for His continuous provision and to you, our supporters, for your giving and volunteering, which makes a world of difference and allows us to continue doing what we do. I'm so excited for what the new year will bring and look forward to continuing to share this with you.



GRATEFULLY, AUGUSTO "GOOSE" DOLCE

2021 AT A GLANCE



113,217 households served

505,422 individuals served



15,000 deliveries made in the city
of Pomona to home bound seniors
and families



Over 200 trainees in our workforce
development programs

51,908 hours spent in our workforce
development

\$852,009 received by trainees



2,181 volunteer shifts filled

3,222 hours served by volunteers



1056 hours of therapy provided

437 hours of legal services provided

368 classes attended



16 residents in our housing program.

All together, 1,790 nights of housing
for our clients



Over \$1,302,325 in monetary
donations with over 3.5 million
pounds of food donated

SERVICES

Our vision is to create an organization that is run and led by people with social barriers who, in turn, offer hope, training, and support to their peers, allowing them to redirect their lives and become contributing members of our community.

Currently, we run a food pantry that feeds over 10,000 families every month. The pantry is operated by former gang members, at-risk foster youth and justice-involved individuals. At God's Pantry, they experience a positive environment where they can find healing, along with the resources to thrive. By serving the common good of the community, they find their purpose and restoration of their personhood as contributing members of society and their families.

We focus on five key guiding objectives for our clients:

Reduction of Recidivism – Our program helps our client population (gang affiliated, violent-crime victims, formerly incarcerated, foster and at-risk youth, and TAY) to find a welcoming place and positive outlets that would otherwise be hijacked by their former lives. We believe all the clients that come seeking help want to do good, but the lack of opportunities turn them back to their past addictions and lifestyles.

Over 90% of our clients do not re-offend during their time with us and 6 months after their graduation

Removal of Barriers – The removal of barriers (legal record expungement, access to healthcare, Basic education, Citizenship status, substance abuse, etc.) is key in giving our clients the best chance at success.

In 2021, we assisted clients in overcoming more than 1,500 barriers. Each barrier is a big step towards a new life and opportunities.

Increase Healthy Relationships and Coping Skills – We believe a holistic approach to healing is necessary for our clients to find lasting change. We empower our clients with the tools to take ownership of their lives and work towards positive outcomes.

In the past year, we provided over 1,000 hours of one-on-one therapy, classes, and counseling sessions for our trainees.

Improve Housing Stability – For our clients, stability, in general, is the key to steady growth and healing. Nothing can destabilize progress like not having a safe place to lay their heads at night. We believe housing is so important: we have gone out of our way to create a housing program that helps young adults have a place to live while they work on bettering themselves. Long term, we help our clients navigate the common obstacles of getting their own place to call home.

In 2021, we provided nearly 1,800 nights of housing to our residents.

Improve Vocational Readiness – We believe everyone wants to find purpose in the work they do. That is why working at God's Pantry brings change to their lives: here they get the chance to challenge the narrative imposed by society that they are broken, evil, and beyond redemption. At God's Pantry, they get to experience a re-writing of that story. A lot of them learn for the first time the skills not only to get a job, but to keep one.

In 2021, our trainees clocked in 52,000 work and training hours, with over in payroll \$800,000 received as income.

Court-appointed Classes:

In 2021, we began offering court-appointed classes to clients. What we found working with our trainees is that a lot of them struggle meeting requirements they must fulfill, such as community service or court-appointed classes. By offering in-house services, clients are able to work with a case manager one-on-one in a safe environment, at rates lower than can be found elsewhere.

Legal Case Management:

We also brought an experienced paralegal onto our staff who has already helped several hundred clients with their legal needs. We have seen people clear their records, regain custody of their children, and move towards gaining citizenship, among other things. It's exciting to watch clients work towards their goals and have legal barriers removed.

Substance abuse:

Many of the individuals who come through God's Pantry have struggled or are struggling with substance abuse. Our team of case managers holds substance abuse classes, as well as one-on-one counseling to help overcome addiction, which have helped many people with addressing their present or past addictions and working to move past them.

Therapy and Counseling:

We hired an on-site counselor to meet the needs of our team of trainees. Clients, staff, residents, and workers who come through GP all have access to our therapy and counseling services free of charge. We believe that having this service available makes a crucial difference in the healing process and provides a resource that many wouldn't otherwise have access to.

Unhoused Support Services:

The unhoused community is often forgotten and left behind. We aim to support these individuals by having case management and shower services available.

PROGRAMS

THE PANTRY

Our original and longest-lasting program is our food pantry. Due to the pandemic, we had to change the way we distributed groceries in March 2020. We went from holding walk-up distributions every Saturday of the month, where we were able to serve 2,500 families each month, to holding three regular distributions each week and serving around 2,500 families each week, plus many additional events throughout the county. On Wednesdays, we hold a drive-thru distribution at our facility in Pomona. On the first four Saturdays of the month, we hold drive-thru distributions at a different locations each week: Chino, Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, and West Covina. On Sundays, we hold a walk-up distribution at our facility in Pomona, where we often have other services available like clothing and dental and medical screenings.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

God's Pantry is home to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board's satellite office. All the work we do in the warehouse is made possible because of the trainees we have through several different programs, including a Prison-to-Employment program. These programs allow participants to work and get experience in a warehouse or office setting. After their assignment is over, they walk away with work experience and skills to obtain and keep jobs in similar settings. While working here, trainees have access to all the services we offer.

GANG INTERVENTION & RE-ENTRY

Due to the lack of opportunities and the presence of barriers, many formerly incarcerated individuals return to the gangs they grew up in. Our programs look to offer a positive place for those looking for a way out of gangs. Case managers aim to meet the needs of these individuals so they have other options besides returning to the gangs. Having access to our wraparound services allows individuals to work towards their goals in a safe environment and reduces violence in our communities.

TAY HOUSING

In 2019, we opened our own TAY transitional housing at our facility, with the goal of housing unhoused male youth in our community. This year, we had the privilege of watching two of our residents “graduate” from the program by moving out and becoming independent. We are moving towards opening a home for young women, which we plan to do in this next year.

STREET CLEANUP

Every day, a crew of trainees is sent out to sweep and pick up trash, effectively adopting the neighborhood. The five blocks surrounding the Pomona warehouse are cleaned daily. Our goal is to be a positive influence and good neighbor.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

We participate in programs where formerly incarcerated individuals are sent to our facility to work towards completing their court-appointed community service hours. While they are here, they are able to access other services, such as case management, classes, services, or obtaining groceries.

POMONA DELIVERIES

Pomona Councilmember Victor Preciado and a group of volunteers meet at God’s Pantry every Thursday morning to deliver groceries to around 300 households in Pomona. This makes a huge difference to homebound seniors and families who otherwise would not have access to groceries.



2021 Highlights

SPECIAL VISITS

House Representative Norma Torres visited God's Pantry in August, where she toured the facility and presented us with a Certificate of special congressional recognition. We are so excited that we have garnered congressional support and attention, and are thankful for Rep. Torres' involvement in our community.



In November, Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez visited God's Pantry, where he was able to take a tour and hear about the services we offer beyond food distributions. He also took part in the Wednesday food distribution we had going on that day. Asm. Rodriguez presented God's Pantry with California Legislature certificates of recognition.



This summer, State Senator Connie Leyva visited and toured God's Pantry. She presented us with a Certificate of Recognition, awarding God's Pantry as one of the 2021 Terrific 20 of SD 20.

PARTNERSHIPS & DONATIONS

Dairy Farmers of America donated a refrigerator for our break room in the warehouse. The refrigerator also serves as a place to hold foods that we have set aside for our Crock Crew program.

Representatives from Alta Dena and Dairy Farmers of America toured our facility in October and donated to God's Pantry. Since then, Alta Dena has donated several kinds of dairy products, such as milk, eggnog, and chocolate milk. Families love receiving milk with their groceries and we're so grateful to Alta Dena for making this possible.

In October, Rockview donated milk to God's Pantry, which we were able to hand out around Halloween. At the end of November, they featured God's Pantry in their community feature and donated over \$1,900 to us.

Uboxes donated 1,360 boxes of sanitary wipes in October, which we have been able to pass out at distributions and use around the facility. This donation, especially during the continuing pandemic, is so generous and appreciated by our clients and us.

NEW PROGRAMS

Crock Crew is a program in partnership with Project Hope where we deliver food and recipes to house-insecure students without access to a kitchen. Through the program, the students make meals in crock pots that they have received in a kit. There are 10 Pomona Unified School District students in the program, but the school district is so impressed with the program that it will most likely be expanding soon.



Before this year, our case management services were very limited. With the addition of Sylvia and Jorge, we have been able to expand and serve a wider range of clients.

In 2020, we were able to begin offering counseling services when Jessica, our therapist and project manager, came onboard. This year, we added Alex to our team, who has been able to spend his time meeting mainly trainees and residents one-on-one and walk alongside them as they work towards their goals.

FUNDRAISERS

In July, we had our annual golf tournament at Western Hills Country Club. It was a fun event where we had 112 people come out and we raised \$25,000, which went towards addressing food insecurity.

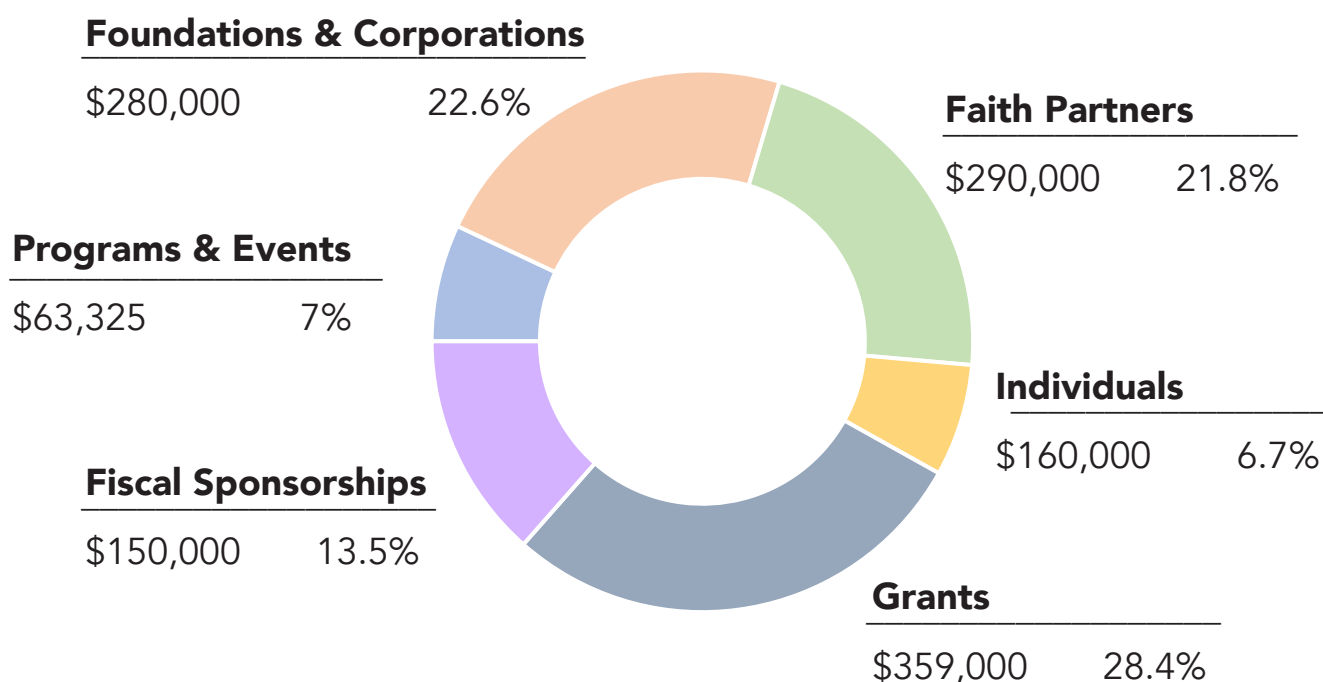
Our second annual fall festival fundraiser was in October at ONE&ALL's Rancho campus. One donor generously committed to matching all donations. We raised \$129,000, which will go towards starting transitional housing for young women, similar to the one we already have for young men.

Giving Tuesday is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year, we took the time to share the stories of people who have worked and lived at GP. In total, we brought in about \$5,000 in donations.

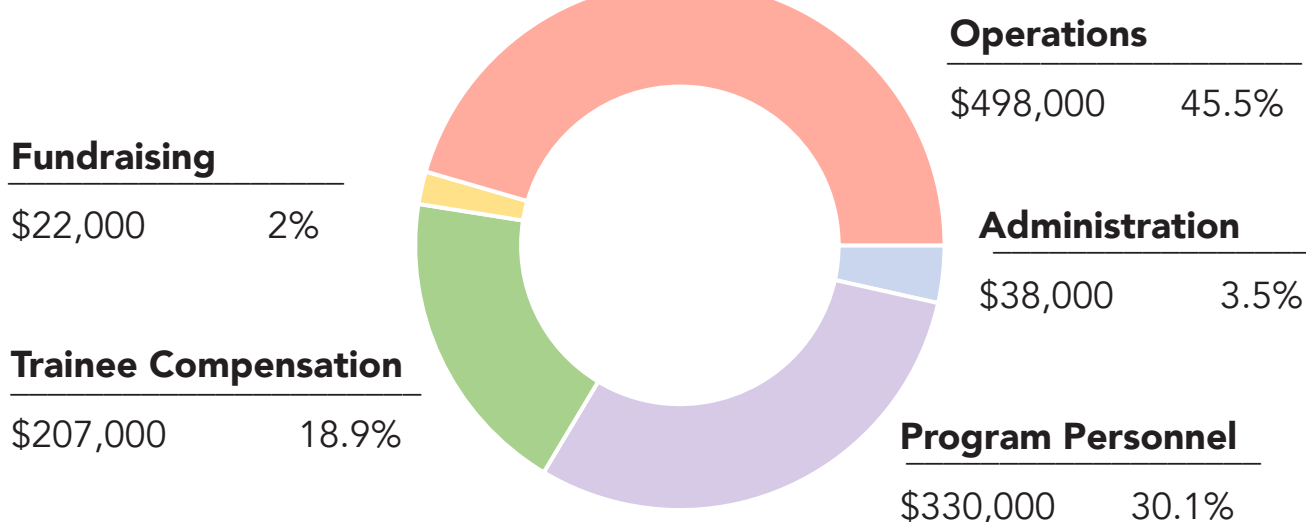
Financial Highlights

During the pandemic, the God's Pantry's donor community continued to support our essential mission. As a result, God's Pantry's overall revenue was \$1.3 Million, with an increase of \$510,000, or 65%, from the prior year. God's Pantry was able to invest in more staff, allowing us to serve more clients; however, more than 95% of our total expenses still went towards supporting our essential mission on food insecurity and providing essential services to promote healing and recovery.

2021 Revenue



2021 Expenses



THANK YOU DONORS

\$100,000+

One and All
CLS Landscape
Anonymous

\$20,000+

Inclusive Action
Philip D. Rosenthal
Revocable Trust
County of Los Angeles
Anonymous

\$10,000+

Inland Hills Church
Albert J Corado
The Albertsons Companies
Foundation

\$5,000+

Grand Central Recycling &
Transfer Station Inc.
Hollywood Farmer's
Market
Joseph Antonelli
Crosspoint Church
Nick Wright
Aslam Malik
SEI Private Trust Company
Western University
Peter Kelly

\$1,000+

William Russell	Emily Johnson
DFA Cares Foundation	Tim Biden
Pomona Valley Church	Rama Fructifera
Target Corporation	Lori Sassoon
Rick Landorf	John Armstrong
C2C Industries LLC	First Presbyterian Church
David Dinasan	Rick Reed
David Pope	Paul Leone
Tri-City Mental Health	Augusto Dolce
Joe & Lara Tinker	Jill Gerber
Social & Environmental Entrepreneurs UCLA	Kyle Haldiman
Athens Services	Azucena Vanerstrom
Andrew Curcio	Rachel Cowman
East Bay Community Foundation	Mike and Sandy Gaughan
Pomona Valley Hospital	Jennifer Luong
Rodriguez for Assembly 2020	Carol & Darryl Levesque
Susanne Buckley	101 Restaurant Group
Sharon Greaves	Paul Bunda
United Way Worldwide	Connie M Leyva For Senate 2022
Phillip Black	Nadia DeMott
Community Christian Center	Felicia Kamins
Lake Gregory Community Church	Erick Kim
Linda Matthews	Purpose Church
Sean Montgomery	Anonymous

AWARDS

Certificate of
Recognition
City of West Covina

"Thank You for Keeping
Hope Alive" Award
Project Hope

Top Rated Nonprofit
Recognition
Great Nonprofits

Certificate of Special
Congressional
Recognition
House Member Norma Torres

County of Los Angeles
Community Care
Event Commendation
District Supervisor Hilda Solis

County of Los Angeles
Recognition for Good
Shepherd's Day
District Supervisor Hilda Solis

County of Los
Angeles Recognition
for Hope Fest
District Supervisor Hilda Solis

County of Los Angeles
Recognition for Pop-
up Health & Resource
Fair Commendation
District Supervisor Hilda Solis

Country of Los Angeles
"Spooky Eats and
Treats" Commendation
District Supervisor Hilda Solis

Certificate of
Recognition
State Senator Connie Leyva

Certificate of
Recognition for Food
Distribution and Tour
Assemblymember Freddie
Rodriguez

Certificate of
Recognition
Assemblymember Freddie
Rodriguez

Certificate of
Recognition for
Spooky Eats and Treats
Assemblymember Freddie
Rodriguez

OUR PARTNERS

Corporate Partnerships:

SoCal Edison
LA Regional Food Bank
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino
Feed America of Riverside
Walmart
Costco
Sam's Club
Rockview
Alta Dena
UCLA
Target
L.A. Care Health Plan

Governmental Partnerships:

City Of Pomona
City of West Covina
Fontana Unified School District
Chino Valley Unified School District
Western University
SEEO (School for Extended Educational Options)
Pomona Unified School District
California Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez
California Senator Connie Leyva
District Supervisor Hilda Solis
U.S. Congresswoman Norma Torres

Church Partnerships:

ONE&ALL Church – San Dimas
Inland Hills Church – Chino
Crosspoint Church - Chino
Purpose Church – Pomona
VantagePoint Church - Eastvale
Living Way Church – Los Angeles
Real Life LA – San Dimas
Hillside – Rancho Cucamonga



"We're working hard to stay stable and stay focused."

JIMMY & MERCY

STAFF



Augusto Dolce

Director of Operations



Emily Dolce

Grants Coordinator



Art Chavez

Warehouse Manager



Jessica Palomo

Project Manager



**Sergio
Basterrechea**

Case Manager-
Gang Intervention & Re-entry



**Brandon
Moorhead**

Distribution
Coordinator



**Benny
Gutierrez**

Warehouse
Coordinator



**Sylvia
Ceja-Gonzalez**

Legal Case Manager



Jorge Espinoza

Case Manager-
Court-Appointed
Classes



Mario Rodriguez

Workforce Development
Liaison



Alex Miramontes

Counselor



Rita Vogt

Executive Assistant

BOARD



Tom Sweeney
CEO



Tom Flynn
CFO



Jason Mac
President



Kurt Knowles
Vice President



Gordon Jorgenson
Secretary



Augusto Dolce
Staff Representative



Michael Kisaka
Board Pastor



Joe Tinker
Member at Large



Keith Roby
Member at Large



Rick Reed
Member at Large

Mission

God's Pantry's Mission is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a practical way by helping meet the basic wellness needs of the community.



"Give it to a higher power. In whatever situations we go through, no matter what, we just got to pray and stay positive, open-minded, and willing to change, and leave it in God's hands."

VANESSA



Instagram:

@godspantry_org



Facebook:

@godspantryca



LinkedIn:

@godspantry



Snapchat:

@godspantry



TikTok:

@gods.pantry

