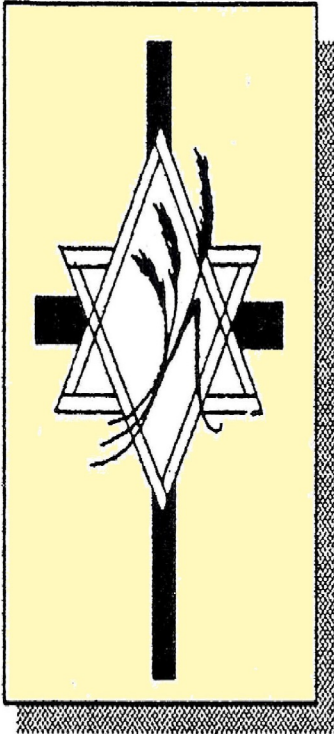


CLOSET CHATTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUBURN INTERFAITH FOOD CLOSET



Message from the President

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH. Have you considered how you can help this month? Most of you are already helping at the Food Closet in one way or another. That help is greatly appreciated! This is a good time to share information with your friends and neighbors about the need in our community. New videos have been placed on the AIFC website (www.auburnfoodcloset.com) providing information about circumstances that caused some people to need the Food Closet. You may be surprised at how one event changed their lives. More information can be found at www.hungeractionmonth.org, the website that Feeding America has created to emphasize the need for help. We often think it cannot happen to us, or that people in need would be all right if they just helped themselves. While some of this may be true, unemployment, illness, and low incomes seem to be the main drivers.

At the AIFC, we hit a new maximum of 1,124 families served in August. This number represents 3,573 individuals! Unemployment benefits are running out for some and more have lost jobs. It is interesting to note that 27% of families only visited us ONCE (survey over a two-year period). About 25% visit us every month and about 21% visit us every other month. The rest only come at greater intervals. An average of 100 new families come

each month. Unfortunately, like other non-profits, our income is not keeping pace with the growth. As a result, we are dipping into our reserves to meet the need. That is why it is so important to share information with your friends and neighbors. You are our advocates. Please take time to share, even if it is only with one other person who does not know about the Food Closet and to pray for the resources needed to meet the need

Sandy Bassett, President

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September is Hunger Action Month

How Can You Help?



AIFC Benefits From Youth



Back row: (L-R) Kate Bradshaw, Patrick Bradshaw, Stone Hoopes, Matt Petersen, Meagan McGuire, Mena Hoopes.

Front Row: (L-R) Claire Hoopes, Amy Bradshaw, Savannah Porter.

Thank You!



This summer we have been truly blessed with help in the food closet from young people from two of our churches.

In the spring Trish Jensen, the Monday Team Leader was contacted by Joyce Bradshaw from the Church of the Latter Day Saints to see if we could use additional help in the food closet this summer. On June 11, Trish and Mary Lou Bailey (Volunteer Coordinator) held an orientation for a room full of LDS young people.

These young folks are high school and college students out of school for the summers that were looking for a place to serve. On numerous days this summer the youth were able to fill in for regular volunteers who couldn't work, and on one July 18 the entire staff was made up of youth from the LDS Colfax Ward. According to Trish, "these young folks were absolutely terrific. It as really fun working with them. In addition to their volunteering, the kids brought in 3 big boxes of gently used children's books for our bookshelf".

Another young person, Hayden Tucker from St Teresa church worked on Thursdays filling a need for a "strong male who could help with heavy lifting". Fred Catherall said that Hayden has worked out very well.

Having these young people do real work in the food closet was so successful, that there are plans to have an organized summer youth program next summer.

Operations Report

What An Awesome Community!!!

Community support has been truly awesome this summer. We have received many, many vegetables from local gardens as well as fruit from our orchards.

Bread and desserts have been gleaned weekly from our community's bakeries, delicatessens, and supermarkets.

Much non-perishable food has been contributed from food drives, church congregations, and generous individuals.

Thank you one and all --- you are great!



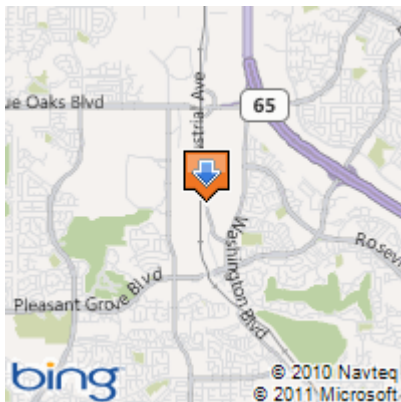
A Member of **FEEDING AMERICA**

Placer Food Bank.org

Distributing food, and nourishing our community since 1985

Placer Food Bank would like to encourage you and your family to take action to fight domestic hunger by attending our Family Volunteer Day, Saturday, September 17th.

Drop in anytime between 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. to participate in our family-friendly volunteer activities, receive nutrition tips and recipes, attend our free farmer's market and more!



Where:
Placer Food Bank
8284 Industrial Ave.
Roseville, CA 95678

When:
Saturday September 17, 2011
from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
PDT

[Register Now!](#)

Facts on Hunger and Food Stamps

Food stamps are meant to be a supplemental program, but now many recipients rely primarily on food stamps to put food on their tables. With the recession's impact, this is even more of a challenge.

There are now more than 44.6 million people on food stamps in the US — the largest number ever. That's up 10% from last year and up 60% from before the recession starting in April 2008.

About 6 million Americans receiving food stamps report they have no other income, according to an analysis of state data collected by The New York Times.

In 2008, the average amount a California food stamp recipient received was \$3 per person per day. In 2009, additional food stamp funds were provided in the government's economic stimulus package, upping the average to \$4 per day. Unfortunately this increase to food stamp recipients is only temporary — it will expire at the end of October, 2013. Recent increases in benefits are the result of dramatic increases in food prices, which trigger more benefits in the program.

A family of four is eligible for food stamps only if its gross annual income doesn't exceed \$29,055.

5.1 million Californians are living below the Federal Poverty Line (\$22,350 for a family of four).

The food stamp program is now called CalFresh in California but nationally, it's known as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). The benefit is distributed on swipe cards that can be used at the grocery store. However, in California it's not exactly a "snap" to get food stamps. Our state makes it so difficult to get the benefit, that it ranks second to last in the entire country in the number of eligible people who are actually receiving food stamps.

The government estimates that every \$1 of food stamp money spent in California generates \$1.84 in business for the state's economy. Even more reason to make sure all those eligible receive the benefits.

Reprinted with permission from
The San Francisco Food Bank.

Spent

More than 1 million gamers and nongamers alike have tried surviving on \$1,000 a month; now McKinney and Urban Ministries of Durham invite Congress to accept the challenge and quickly see that poverty and homelessness can happen to anyone

You can try it too:

<http://playspent.org/>

Volunteer Spotlight

At the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet we are blessed with many families who do so many things for us. The Tellman Family is a wonderful example. Grandpa Bill has volunteered as a driver picking up our weekly Grocery Outlet orders as well as going hither and yon to pick up donated food. Since 2005 Barbara, aka Grandma, has volunteered on Mondays working in the kitchen or at the front desk. Barbara also served 2 terms as First Congregational Church's representative on the AIFC Board. Daughter-in-law Kimberly has volunteered in Mondays working in the kitchen. In addition, she serves as our historian. For the past year, granddaughters Katelyn (15), Beth (11) and Lindsey (8) have joined their mom working in the kitchen during the summer and school holidays. At home Kimberly and the girls make personal care bags using the donated travel toiletries and birthday gifts for young children. Clearly the 3 generations of Tellmans are part of the "heart" at the Food Closet.



The Tellman Women.

Barbara is in the back left. and from left to right is Lindsey, Beth, Katelyn and Kimberly.

Inside Information

news for volunteers

Most of us wonder *what* we'll be eating at our next meal, not *if* we'll be able to eat when mealtime comes around. **That's why we invite you to participate in the 4th annual Hunger Challenge.**

Could you eat on a food stamp budget? Just \$4.72* per day? Try it — just for a week. And in the process you'll help bring attention and support to the reality of hunger in our own community.

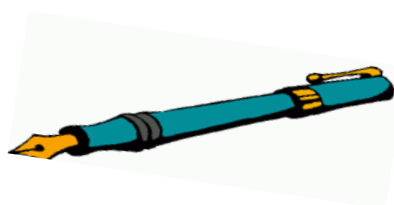
The Hunger Challenge in September is a chance for you to walk in someone else's shoes for just a week. And when you talk to family and friends and share your experiences with others, you'll help them understand why it's important for all of us to help support the families who can't feed themselves on a food stamp budget alone.

Hunger is a challenge. Are you up for it?

New Food Stamp Guidelines

FOOD STAMP INCOME LIMITS (Effective 10/01/09)			MAXIMUM FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENT (Effective 4/01/09)		FOOD STAMP RESOURCE LIMIT None
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS	GROSS	Monthly NET	HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS	\$	<p>Most California residents who receive SSI/SSP benefits are not eligible for CalFresh benefits. An eligibility specialist will be able to determine eligibility for those on SSI who might qualify for CalFresh.</p> <p>Immigrants who have entered the country lawfully <u>may</u> be eligible for CalFresh benefits and should contact their local Human Services office to have their eligibility reviewed. Those persons without appropriate documentation are not eligible to CalFresh.</p> <p>Placer County Human Services Addresses:</p> <p>Placer County Human Services Auburn 11542 B Avenue Auburn, CA 95603</p> <p>Placer County Human Service Rocklin 1000 Sunset Blvd Rocklin, CA 95765</p> <p>Placer County Human Service Tahoe 5225 North Lake Blvd. Carnelian Bay, CA 96140</p>
1	\$1174	\$ 903	1	\$200	
2	\$1579	\$1215	2	\$367	
3	\$1984	\$1526	3	\$526	
4	\$2389	\$1838	4	\$668	
5	\$2794	\$2150	5	\$793	
6	\$3200	\$2461	6	\$952	
7	\$3605	\$2773	7	\$1052	
8	\$4010	\$3,085	8	\$1202	
9	\$4416	\$3,397	9	\$1,52	
10	\$4822	\$3,709	10	\$1502	
11	\$5228	\$4021	11	\$1652	
12	\$5634	\$4333	12	\$1802	
13	\$6040	\$4645	13	\$1952	
Each Additional Member	+406	+312	Each Additional Member	+150	

Client's Corner



Food Assistance

Nearly 3 million people in California are eligible for food assistance but have not applied.

Don't be a statistic! Feeding yourself and your family is an important step you can take to provide better health and a better future for your loved ones.

New income guidelines have been adopted. Please check to see if you are eligible now even if you weren't before. Under special circumstances even households with Supplemental Security income can be eligible.

The forms can be confusing, Ask for help! Eligibility workers are there to help determine your eligibility NOT judge you personally.

Benefits are now paid electronically and using the EBT card is much like using an ATM card. The embarrassment of dealing with paper stamps in the checkout line is a thing of the past.

Contact your local HHS office for further details.

the panhandler

Quick and Easy Chili

- 1 16oz tube ground beef
- 1 16oz. can of tomato sauce
- 2 15oz. cans of pinto beans
- 1 to 3 teaspoons of chili powder according to your taste
- ½ cup salsa



Brown ground beef in 2 quart saucepan. Drain off grease and water and discard. (If you are watching your fat intake: place browned ground beef in strainer and pour boiling water over it to get rid of grease.) Place ground beef back in sauce pan. Add tomato sauce, beans with liquid, chili powder and salsa. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until thickened. Makes six (¾ cup) servings.