

Boulevard Place Food Pantry 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Boulevard Place



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**YEAR IN REVIEW,
BY THE NUMBERS**
BACK COVER

A LIFT UP



Renovation and Remodel Progress Despite COVID-19

Our ninth year of food pantry operation at 42nd and Boulevard was one for the history books! We moved even closer to accomplishing a long-overdue facility makeover all while having to completely modify operations due to the impact of COVID-19. Generous donors made the remodel a reality, flexible volunteers adjusted to new demands, our beloved neighbors dealt with noise and trucks, and our clients got what they needed most.

Pardon Our Dust!

See a video of the construction
at bit.ly/pantryprogress



PANTRY BLESSINGS



Cynthia L. Brown

Season's greetings from Boulevard Place Food Pantry, a Special Work of St. Vincent de Paul Society, which so many of you so generously support. Our self-select grocery store certainly faced logistical hurdles in a year we'll never forget! Ultimately the pantry fulfilled its mission of serving a vital need in our community.

We fed our hungry neighbors with an operation that was reimagined twice—first, in mid-March, after the pandemic made in-person shopping impractical and our mask-on volunteers converted to a drive-through. The second change began in

July, as volunteers built and handed out “to-go” kits with the sounds of hammers and drills in the background as accompaniment. Music to our ears!

Some of our significant achievements in the past year:

- A ceremonial groundbreaking July 7 featured Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett along with dozens of supporters and dignitaries such as the Witchger Family and Marian Inc. In September and October new concrete walls went up.
- By November 7, we had added 1,500 square feet, unfinished but under roof, with freshly placed concrete. This area will house a new ground-floor bathroom, office, storage space and unloading area. Interior work will continue into early 2021.
- We welcomed Amy Taylor, our first volunteer coordinator.
- Our five contributing Catholic parishes (Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Luke the Evangelist, St. Joan of Arc and Christ the King) continued to impress with significant direct food and hygiene product donations. The parish donations comprise 10% of all food received at Boulevard Place. We are also fortunate to receive support from other neighboring churches, including Meridian Street United Methodist, Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist, Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis and Fairview Presbyterian. Also, Common Ground Christian Church (Midtown) donated the funds to pay for three critical commercial freezer chests that allowed us to continue providing cold food while our walk-in freezer/refrigerator was temporarily disassembled.
- We are blessed by local partners—like Broad Ripple Farmers Market, who provided 8,189 pounds of fresh produce to ensure healthy food options for our clients; and the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association, which has worked with us on grant funds for renovating infrastructure.

As we move forward into 2021, we ask for your continued support and prayers!

—Cynthia L. Brown, Director

Donors Made the Difference



Steve Foster (top right) works to reinforce the pantry attic and walls, made possible by Meridian Street United Methodist Church's Hansman Fund.

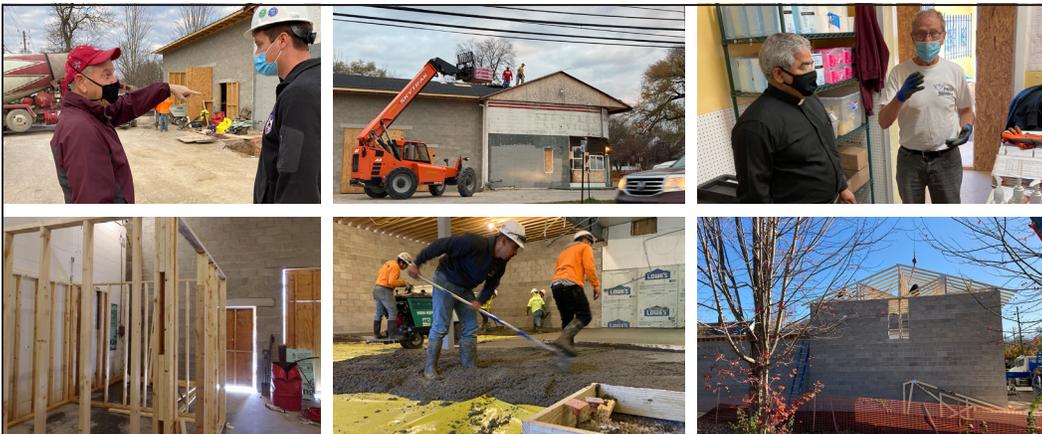
Volunteer Charlie Wiles (middle) loads meat into one of three freezers donated by Common Ground Christian Church.

Volunteer Amanda Starks (bottom) prepares to load a client's car. Items are regularly provided to us by members/students, including the five Catholic schools.

BREAKING GROUND, BUILDING UP



Our primary benefactor for the expansion, the Witchger/Marian Inc. family, at our groundbreaking ceremony on July 7.



Improvements led by Steve Shank (far left) included a shored-up attic roof and walls on the original mid-1930s building, plus new walls, roof, and flooring in the 1,500-square-foot rear addition. Interior work began around Thanksgiving and continues into 2021. Pantry co-founder Mark Varnau gave dignitaries like Fr. Varghese of St. Thomas Aquinas a close-up look as the pantry doubles in size to 3,000 square feet.



"I am . . . grateful—to say the least—that this facility will expand its footprint and continue its legacy of service," Indy Mayor Joe Hogsett (left) told 50 attendees and media. Interviewed was food pantry board president Phyllis McNamara (right), representing CTK. Donors funded the \$300,000 makeover.

Year in Review, By the Numbers

New Records of Client Service Were Set

Like many parts of the country, we saw a rise in client demand from pandemic-led joblessness and food insecurity. New records were set, with an average of about 900 households per month served. Because we tap so many resources, are a trusted outlet, and organize quickly, we can package together non-perishables with produce (and even an occasional donated pie!)

Average number of clients served per month



458,142

Total pounds of food donated



60/40

Percentage of food donated versus purchased, up 3%



OVER 40

Sources of food, led by Gleaners, USDA, and Pantry Partners



125

Adults and students volunteering hundreds of hours



1,500

Square Feet Added



42,062

Pounds of food donated from STA, SJOA, CTK, StL, and IHM

Expansion and Increase in Volunteer Support Bolster Pantry Services



We were busy with eight three-hour, in-person, self-select shifts until COVID. After a brief closure, we moved to two-hour shifts, three days a week with a drive-through system that continues into 2021. This year, Amy Taylor (inset) joined the pantry as our first volunteer coordinator. If you've got time to give, we may suggest a slot. Feel free to reach out to Amy at ataylor@sudpindy.org.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

This annual report is dedicated to our neighbors—the businesses and residents along 42nd and Boulevard—and to our volunteers and donors.

Much gratitude to project manager Steve Shank; structural engineer Paul Brumleve (of Lynch, Harrison & Brumleve, Inc.); architects Jack Munson and Dave Richardson (Richardson Munson & Weir); and the construction excellence of Dave Taylor and the Marian team. In loving memory of Joseph "Joe" Earl Meyers.

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To donate: bit.ly/givetoBlvd