



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Auburn Interfaith Food Closet *"Sharing the Blessings"*



Marilyn Briggs, Nutrition Advisor, with our donated crockpots and recipe



Gil McMillan, a Tuesday Volunteer, bringing in salvage boxes from the Placer Food Bank

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L-R: Perry Edwards, Jim Moore, Sandy Bassett, Steve Murphy
HOST LIONS Club - 2014 Dan Higgins Award

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

Our new facility has allowed us to expand our ability to help our clients learn more about nutrition and how to provide healthier meals to their families. Our Nutrition Committee, headed by Marilyn Briggs, implemented the following projects in 2014:

- **“Spice It Up” Project:** Coordinated display of herbs donated by gardeners in the community, describing uses and encouraging the use of herbs. Rosemary, oregano, California bay laurel, and basil were offered to clients so that they could learn the health benefits and uses of spices in cooking. In five months, over two hundred bags of spices monthly were distributed. Clients really enjoyed this project and we received appreciative feedback from them. Cyndy Massei and Trish Jensen organized this project and created displays with educational materials to coordinate with the herb selected.
- **Girl Scout Recipe Cards:** Development and printing of four useful recipes, created by a team of Girl Scouts working with Barb Sisson. The high quality index cards provide affordable, easy-to-prepare recipes for AIFC clients and include the AIFC logo, acknowledge the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California, Troop #1504, and feature an “in color” picture of the prepared recipe. Advantage Print provided the printing services.
- **Food demonstrations:** Ongoing video displays of food tips, education, and recipes. The Nutrition Committee found that audiences were limited with “in-person” food demonstrations, and explored the possibility of videos in the waiting area. Thanks to the donation of a laptop computer and monitor by Adventist Community Services (Steve Holm), coordination by Sandy Bassett, and the technical expertise of Perry Edwards and Eric Hill, a video display providing recipe and cooking tips is now running continuously in the AIFC waiting area. A continuing project will be refreshing this display with appropriate new information.
- **Recipe resources:** Development and distribution of recipes that are practical, affordable, and relate to foods available through AIFC, avoiding unusual or expensive ingredients. AIFC received multiple copies of Cal Fresh cookbooks, in English and Spanish, donated by the Placer County Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention Program. Two of the popular books were “Flavors of My Kitchen,” and “Everyday Healthy Meals,” which were distributed along with the food bags and displayed in the waiting area. This agency also provided additional recipes, prepared by the state health agency and printed on recipe cards, which were provided as handouts in the AIFC waiting area.

- **Crockpot Project:** Collection, distribution, and education about the use of slow cookers to assist in economical, efficient, and delicious food preparation. Tim and Wendy Phillipson suggested this project, and its completion involved many donors and volunteers. This project also involved the development and printing of "Easy Crockpot Recipes," Donated Crockpots are currently being distributed to AIFC clients who previously responded to a survey that they did not have this type of food preparation equipment and would like one. Along with the Crockpot, the newly developed recipe with "how to" tips, along with a packet of marinades which may be used with the cooker, are included. Recipients have responded with appreciation and smiles. In addition, over 400 clients responded that they do have a Crock Pot, but would be very interested in more information about preparing food with slow cookers. To respond to this need, additional copies of "Easy Crockpot Recipes" were printed and are being distributed. In addition, a food demonstration by a UCCE nutritionist, featuring a Crockpot recipe from the new cookbook, was scheduled for January 2015.
- **Plant an Extra Row and Distribution of Seedlings:** Coordinate with others to encourage donation and consumption of fresh produce. Promotional materials to encourage planting an extra row were developed and distributed by Barb Sisson. In addition, the success of distribution of tomato plants in growing bags was such a hit that we applied for and received a grant to expand the offering of tomato and other vegetable seedlings in the future, including coordinated education on container gardening.

Resources are needed for printing and/or providing recipes to clients. If you would be willing to help, let us know!

Now On the Bus Route!

Another major accomplishment was the re-routing of the Placer County Transit Bus to come by our new facility. Mary Jo Buettner worked tirelessly with Placer County and the City of Auburn to secure this new service.

Two New Faith-based Congregational Sponsors

Two new faith-based congregations in Auburn, the Baha'is of Placer County and Our Savior Lutheran Church, became sponsors of the Food Closet this year! This raised the number sponsoring congregations to 20.

Client Resource Board

Another accomplishment this year was the creation of a client resource board which provides information about a variety of personal assistance resources available, including, but not limited to, spiritual information, medical, transportation, and jobs. Our clients definitely use this board and began posting some of their own items on the board (e.g., items for sale). Sandi Cretney has responsibility for keeping this Board current.

Installed both Heater and Swamp Cooler Systems

A major challenge in 2014 was the installation of temperature controls not only for the food being stored but also for the working condition of our volunteers. Both systems were installed by My Kozy Homes at a cost of just under \$15,000.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

The Food Closet primarily relies on local organizations who make the Food Closet the beneficiary of its events or fundraising activities.

- The Host Lions Club honored us for the second year in a row with its Dan Higgins Award. The two Awards were a total of \$9,750 which allowed us to purchase a new walk-in freezer! This freezer has been a real blessing by not only giving us adequate freezer space but using less energy to do so!
- The 4th Annual Walk to Stock the Closet held on Thanksgiving Day raised over \$9,500, received 30 bags of groceries and over 500 people participated. This event was spearheaded by a seven-member committee of community activists.
- We participated in the Big Day of Giving 2014 and received \$9,470!

The AIFC held its first fundraising event: Harmonies for Hunger. The event included entertainment and a silent auction. The silent auction was the primary reason for the \$3,611 raised. The AIFC primary fundraisers are Sponsor-A-Family which raised \$73,699 and Stuff-A-Bus which consists primarily of food donations.

THE NUMBERS

The Food Closet is staff entirely by volunteers; there is no paid staff. A total of 17,786 volunteer hours were reported in 2014 (an average of 1,482 hours per month or 71 hours per day).

In 2014, the food closet provided groceries for 258,624 meals! This is an average of 21,552 meals every month! The food closet served 29,132 individuals over the course of the year or an average of 2,428 individuals every month.

Of great interest has been how many homeless are served. The monthly average of unduplicated homeless individuals served is 147. We allow the homeless to choose whether or not to visit once a month to obtain three days of food or to visit three times during the month and obtain one day's worth of food each time. The homeless population represented 6.1% of individuals served by the food closet.

The number of individuals served declined about 6% in 2014 over 2013. The unemployment rate fell plus our move to the new location are some of the causes for the decline. In addition, there was no bus service.

The number of individuals served in 2015 is continuing to decline by about 5%. Bus service began in February 2015 but many people are still learning about the new service. The unemployment rate has continued to drop. Even with this, we are still providing groceries for an average of 2,310 individuals every month (793 families).

CLIENT PROFILE

Our clients are primarily adults, with only 29% being children under 18. Nine percent are seniors 65 and over. Age groups of clients:

Age	Percent
0-2	3%
3-9	12%
10-17	14%
18-64	62%
65+	9%
Total	100%

Frequency of Visits

Records from 2014 reflect how often families visited the food closet.

Families Frequency of Visits in a Year	Percent	
	2014	2013
Once only	32.1%	29.62%
Twice	16.3%	18.1%
Three times	10.7%	12.2%
Four times	8.4%	9.3%
Five times	7.7%	7.0%
Six times	4.6%	6.0%
Seven times	5.0%	5.0%
Eight times	5.0%	4.3%
Nine times	5.0%	2.6%
Ten times	2.6%	2.1%
Eleven times	2.4%	1.2%
Twelve times	1.3%	1.9%

This is a change from prior years as it shows that 32% of our clients visited only once. Only 1.3% visit every month and 4.6% every other month. The majority of our clients visit once, twice or three times only. This seems to point to the fact they only visit when there is a need. However, there is definitely a core group who visit seven, eight or nine times in a year.

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

2014 has been a year of challenges, as we continually work on finding better ways to serve in our new facility. We have experimented with ideas from rotating food, to making our computer sign-in program work more efficiently. We have enlisted a new team leader, Ed Moore, and are currently in need of another.

During the summer we received large donations of garden and orchard produce from local residents. We continue to receive community support in the form of food drives from service clubs, local businesses and individuals in our generous community. Our sponsoring churches also supported us with food contributions beyond our expectations. We continue to distribute food from the USDA's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) as well. Volunteers glean from local grocery stores, bakeries, Starbucks and Truckee Sourdough Company.

FOOD DONATIONS

A substantial amount of food is donated to us by members of the Auburn community and the Placer Food Bank. The following chart reflects the sources of food in 2014.

Source	Percent
Donations from Auburn community	34.0%
Donations from Placer Food Bank (includes USDA food)	31.5%
Purchased by AIFC	<u>34.5%</u>
Total	100%

More than 148,000 food items were donated by our Auburn community. Food donations were slightly down compared to 2013. We track in-kind food donations and record them as an average value of \$1 each.

Most of the food donated from the Placer Food Bank is from the USDA Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP). In 2014, the Food Closet spent a total of \$162,421 purchasing food or an average of \$13,535 per month. This increase reflects higher food prices.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Food Closet is financially stable but ended the 2014 year with a loss of \$6,086. We expended \$48,057 to modify the new facility and purchase needed equipment. The real excitement with this is that we did not have to borrow money as we had sufficient reserve funds to cover the costs. Our challenge in 2015 is bringing our operating costs in line with our income.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Food Closet total assets and equity as of December 31, 2014 were \$218,419.54. Total assets include fixed equipment assets of \$42,394. There were no outstanding liabilities; we operate on a modified cash basis.

In 2014, the average amount spent each month averaged \$20,209. Not counting facility modification and equipment costs, we spent an average of \$16,205 each month for operating costs. We expect costs to be about 5% higher in 2015 due to rising food costs.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (PROFIT AND LOSS)

Revenue by Sources

Category	Amount	Percent
In-kind Donations	\$160,281	29.40%
Placer Food Bank In-kind Donations	\$148,503	27.30%
Sponsor A Family	\$73,699	13.50%
Individuals	\$63,027	11.60%
Corporate/Organizations	\$35,534	6.50%
Grant	\$21,965	4.00%
Congregations	\$20,663	3.80%
Fundraising	\$20,617	3.80%
Memorials	\$570	0.10%
Interest	<u>\$102</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
Total	\$544,961	100%

Cash Expenses

Category	Amount	Percent
Administrative	\$ 9,550	4.0%
Fundraising	\$ 6,448	2.7%
Program	<u>\$221,517</u>	<u>93.3%</u>
Total Cash Expenses	\$237,515	100%
Non-Cash Expenses		
Food Donations	308,784	
Depreciation	<u>5,000</u>	
Total Non-Cash Expenses	313,784	

Profits

The net loss for 2014 was \$6,082

LOOKING AHEAD

Our biggest challenge in 2015 is increasing income. Both cash and in-kind food donations are down. We are reducing our expenditures for food because that is 90% of our expenditures. At this point, we are still meeting our goal of providing nutritious food but we have yet to break even. Our Fundraising Committee is hard at work on new fundraising efforts.

We are planning to continue our efforts on nutrition education aimed at getting our clients to try new and healthier recipes. We are currently working on a new video for our resource room and have made plans to print one recipe per month focused on the type of food we are distributing. In addition, we have a commitment from the UC Cooperative Extension to provide tastings once a month together with the recipe for that tasting.

In terms of infrastructure, we have a very old (1980's?) three-door freezer which needs replacing. It was donated to us by another food closet when they purchased new equipment and uses about \$200 of electricity each month we use it. The cost to replace it is \$6,000.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Federal Employer Identification Number: 68-0424269

SPONSORING CONGREGATIONS

Auburn Presbyterian

Baha'i Faith

Baha'is of Placer County

Bethlehem Lutheran

Faith Lutheran of Meadow Vista

First Congregational Church of Auburn

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

New Faith United Church of Christ

Parkside Nazarene

Pioneer United Methodist

Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalist

Auburn Presbyterian

St. Joseph's Catholic

St. Luke's Episcopal

St. Paul Lutheran

St. Teresa of Avila Catholic

Unity of Auburn

Upper Room Community Church

ASSOCIATE CONGREGATIONS

Auburn Grace Community

Celebration Community Fellowship

Our Savior Lutheran Church

St. Joseph's Catholic

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We want to thank all of our donors who support the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet (AIFC) with monetary donations, food donations, and produce from their garden. Our wonderful donors who are "Sharing the Blessings" and who have joined the fight against hunger insecurity in Auburn, include, but are not limited to, the following:

INDIVIDUALS

Renée & Vince Anaclerio
Rick & Paulette Benedict
Betty Benham
Ruth Dugan
Ruth K. Dull
Peggy Dunievitz
Bob & Phyllis Dunstan
Don Dunton
Wes & Ann Fain
Betty Faucette
Leo & Eleanor Fiertl
Bruce & Lana Greenan
John & Patricia Jensen
P. J. Johnson
Fritz Kleinbach
Sally Knost
Ed & Carol Koons

Robert & Ann Linkugel
Ronald & Patricia Markham
Noreen & Charles Mercer
Ronald L. Milla
Janet Moore
Edwin & Judith Morgado
Carol Mulder
Nancy J. Neuburger
Carol & Alec Ostrom
Tom & Mary Piette
Kelly & Joe Poggi
Merrill Powers, MSW, LCSW
Roberta K. Simon
Todd & Martha Warner
Linda Wolff

SERVICE CLUBS

Auburn 49er Lions
Auburn Host Lions
Auburn Rotary
Daybreak Rotary
Gold Country Rotary

Kiwanis Club of Auburn
Moose Lodge Auburn
Soroptimist Club of Historic Auburn
Soroptimist International of the American River
Soroptimist International of Auburn

BAKERIES & SPECIALTY FOODS

Baker & Cake Maker

Beach Hut Deli

Dutch Brothers Coffee

Flour Garden

Grist Mill Bakery Lake of the Pines

Mad Willys

The Salsa Factory

Truckee Sourdough Company

GROCERS & FARMERS

Ann's Orchard

Bel Air

Grocery Outlet

Longhorn Meats

North Fork Mandarins

Pepperidge Farm

Raley's

Rock Creek Elementary School Garden

Safeway

Save Mart

Our local farmers

OTHER BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Advantage Print Marketing and More

AIM & Associates

American River Physical Rehabilitation

Auburn Journal

API Marketing

Auburn Transit

Auburn Recreation Park

Bank of America

Battered Women

Beta Sigma Phi

Boy Scouts

Campbell Soup

Clark Pest Control

Community 1st Bank

Crossroads Community Church

Curves

FCCLA at Bear River

Foothill Quilters Guild

Friends of the Community

Friends of Placer County Animal Shelter

Gold Country 4-H Club

Howell's Sew & Vac

H&R Block

Hardman Chiropractic

Hewlett Packard

KAHI radio

KCRA Kids Can Drive

Kidz Kount

Lyon Real Estate

Placer Arts

Placer County

Placer Grown

Placer High Leo and Key Clubs

Regal Cinemas

OTHER BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

(Continued)

Fitness By Design

Dr. Reynold Donovan, DDS

Rock Creek Mobile Home Park

U.S. Bank

St. Vincent DePaul of Auburn

USPS Letter Carriers

Sierra College Nursing Student Club

Weight Watchers

Sutter Medical Foundation

Wilson & Wilson

Sutter Hospice Thrift

Woodside Village Mobile Home Park

Youth of the Colfax LDS Ward

If you would like your name listed on our website, please contact us at aifc@auburnfoodcloset.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!