

Food Pantry LAX



Feeding the Homeless and the Homebound

Early this year, Bobby Howard noticed he had accumulated a lot of canned goods in his kitchen. His mother suggested he give them away to those in need.

Howard did more than that. In March, he founded the Homeless Cans Ministry on Wheels, a tiny non-profit that gives out food to the homeless. He approached Food Pantry LAX, which agreed to provide some of that food. He now distributes about 25 bags a week to homeless people on his way to and from work as a financial services representative at a bank in West Los Angeles.

He has been overwhelmed by how appreciative the recipients are. "It's been a really humbling experience," said Howard, who is also a licensed minister.

For Food Pantry LAX it is part of a new experience. Generally, we have provided food only to individuals who show up at our facility in Ingle-

wood at the appointed hours. But we are now experimenting with giving food to individuals or organizations that in turn distribute it to people who cannot make it to the pantry.

We are broadening our distribution for two reasons. First, the Covid pandemic has meant certain people, especially the elderly and those with compromised immune systems, are venturing outside less. Secondly, there is a need to help feed the growing number of homeless people.

Food Pantry LAX, for instance, has been supplying some food to help feed homeless people who were moved off the Venice boardwalk this summer and are now staying in a motel in Inglewood.

"A lot of our clients don't have the income or even the transportation to get food," said Sommer Chambliss of the St. Joseph Center, which is working to find permanent housing for these people. She and others from St. Joseph pick up bags of food at the pantry to take back to the motel.

The pantry has also supplied William Sevilla, an entrepreneur who responded to the pandemic by deciding to deliver free food to homebound people. He maintains a spreadsheet of his roughly 50 recipients, with descriptions of their situations – "immune compromised, newborn child," "children, no car," "back surgery," "elderly handicapped," and so on.

For a long time, a van from the U.S.



The van from the U.S. Vets veteran's home.

Vets veterans' home in Inglewood has brought veterans to the pantry to pick up food. Recently, we've also begun providing some extra food for needy veterans at the home who cannot make it to the pantry in person.

All these efforts are rather small. The pantry provides only a minor portion of the food distributed by these other parties. And the vast majority of our food still goes to individuals picking up at the pantry for their own use.

Still, in this time of disease and rising homelessness, we are looking to do all we can to nourish the hungry, a mission set out by the churches in Westchester that founded the pantry in 1985.

"I am grateful," Bobby Howard said, "to Food Pantry LAX for their generosity in helping new entrepreneurs feed the community." Food Pantry LAX in turn is grateful to members of our community in Westchester and surrounding towns for their generous support, without which we could not fulfill our expanding mission.



Bobby Howard with food for the homeless.

Annual Bag-It-Up Campaign

Each year Food Pantry LAX invites members of the community to donate a holiday meal for families and individuals in need. To participate in the Bag-It-Up campaign, assemble a bag of food following the menu below and drop it off at participating local churches or Food Pantry LAX by December 5, 2021. Please do not include perishables, glass containers, or oversized cans.

List of menu items for each bag:

- Canned ham (1 large 12oz or 16oz can or 2 small 8oz cans)
If ham is not available canned chicken or roast beef are acceptable substitutes
- 1 package potatoes (mashed, scalloped, etc.)
- 2 cans of vegetables (15oz each)
- 1 can of fruit (15oz)
- 1 can soup (no broth)
- 1 package Jell-O or Pudding
- 1 jar peanut butter or jam (18oz)
- 1 package pie crust and 1 package pie filling
Or 1 cake mix and can of frosting
Or 1 box brownie mix
- 1 box dry cereal
- 1 package Bisquick (20oz)
OR 1 package corn muffin mix
- 2 boxes macaroni and cheese



Volunteers checking Bag-It-Up donations during the 2018 campaign.

There are a few additional ways to support Food Pantry LAX:

1. Donate canned goods and/or homegrown produce. We are open Tuesday and Friday mornings and welcome donations of all kinds.
2. Sign up to support Food Pantry LAX on Amazon Smile (Smile.Amazon.com) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of every purchase made on Amazon Smile to Food Pantry LAX. Already a Ralphs Club or Food 4 Less Club member? Make Food Pantry LAX your Community Rewards beneficiary via Ralphs.com and Ralphs will donate a percentage of every purchase you make to Food Pantry LAX.
3. Monetary donations to help us feed the hungry are always welcome! Donate via PayPal on our website FoodPantryLAX.org or send checks to our mailing address: Food Pantry LAX, 8726 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Suite D PMB 741, Westchester, CA 90045. As a 501c3 organization all donations are 100% tax deductible.

Food distribution at 355 E. Beach Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90302
Open for distribution on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30am-12pm
Contact us! (310) 677-5597 or via email at FoodPantryLAX@gmail.com
For more information visit FoodPantryLAX.org