

Food Pantry, LAX

Special points of interest:

We distribute on Tuesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m.—12 noon.

355 E. Beach Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90302
310-677-5597

Manager:

Mary Cantwell

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Client Profile: Meet Sehan

When Sehan had surgery for breast cancer, she did not immediately tell her children because she wanted them to concentrate on school and not worry about her. When they asked why she was not working, "I told them my arm hurts," she recalled.



Clients wait in line for their bag of groceries outside Food Pantry, LAX.

The surgery and radiation treatment made it difficult for Sehan to stand continuously in front of a hot stove, forcing her to quit her job as a restaurant chef. Her husband's income from a part-time job at a parking lot was not enough for the family. So they turned to Food Pantry LAX after the couple's eldest daughter found it through an Internet search.

"It really helps," said Sehan, who lives in Inglewood and has four children, ages 8 to 16. She does not drive, so she can come only if her husband or daughter is free to drive her.

Sehan grew up in Lebanon and came to the United States in 2006. "I came for my kids," she said, explaining that with financial aid it is more feasible to attend college in the United States than in her native country. She took ESL courses to burnish her English, became a citizen and began working in restaurants, sometimes up to three different ones at the same time.

But a routine mammogram early in 2017 brought bad news. She had surgery in March of that year. She told the children of her diagnosis that summer, after the school year had ended.

Now Sehan is well enough to work but says that finding a job at her age, 55, has been tough. "They need young," she said.

If she needs a job recommendation, she could get one from the staff at Food Pantry LAX. To thank the food pantry for helping her family, Sehan occasionally brings the staff a plate of her homemade tabbouleh, a Middle Eastern parsley salad. It is delicious!

In Loving Memory: Dorothy Nino, 1934 - 2019

Food Pantry LAX lost part of its heart and soul in February when Dorothy Nino, an extremely long-serving and dedicated volunteer, passed away from congestive heart failure at age 84.

Dorothy began volunteering at the pantry in 1987, only two years after it was started by the Westchester-Ladera Clergy Association. At one point several years ago, it seemed as if Dorothy were running the pantry single-handedly – shopping for food, picking up donations, coordinating volunteer schedules, planning the menus, handling the banking, submitting required monthly reports, even recording the temperatures of the refrigerators and freezers to make sure they complied with health regulations.

Even in the last couple of years, when she needed a walker and could not stand up for long periods, Dorothy worked at the pantry every Friday, as well as serving on the board of directors.

“She constantly dedicated her time and effort to helping others, most notably at the food pantry,” Christine Beasom, a close friend, said at a memorial celebration of Dorothy’s life in March.

Dorothy Jean Bell was born in Winnipeg, Canada on March 8, 1934. After high school she attended the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing. Then, wanting to escape the cold weather, she and three friends moved to sunny California – to Fresno at first, but then eventually to Los Angeles, where she raised three children.

In 1987, having retired from nursing and with her children grown, Dorothy was looking for something new to do when she saw a sign at a church recruiting volunteers for a still fledgling operation to distribute food to the needy. She stayed for 32 years.

Many volunteers from the food pantry attended the memorial celebration of Dorothy’s life, held in the backyard of her house in Westchester. Scott Tanner, president of the pantry, spoke at the event, recalling how he had become mildly alarmed when he first realized how dependent the pantry was on a single person. “I’m so grateful she was a part of my life,” he said.

Dorothy is survived by her three children – Susan Guillo, Jeff Nino and Michelle Schroder, and three grandchildren. Even in death, Dorothy is helping feed the hungry – the family requests that memorial donations be made to Food Pantry LAX.



Dorothy Nino at Food Pantry, LAX.

Hot Lunch Program

St. Jerome Catholic Church

5550 Thornburn Street
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Hot meals served to those in need every 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:30am to noon.

“Helping others and being generous to them increases happiness.”

~ Phillipe Tobler

Be happy. Give to Food Pantry, LAX.



Chip Presley: Volunteer of the Year

As far as he knows, Chip Presley is not related to Elvis. But at Food Pantry LAX he is as big a star as his famous namesake. He has been named the Wilma Matz Volunteer of the Year for 2018, an award named after a generous benefactor to the pantry.

Chip has made a huge impact in the two and a half years he has been volunteering at the pantry. In the back room he became the maestro in preparing special bags of food for homeless clients. But his biggest impact has been in the front, dealing with customers. Chip knows many of them by name, making them feel welcome. He knows each person's special needs or desires, such as for baby food, pet food or sardines. Many clients know him by name and are disappointed when he is not there.

"My favorite part, really, is interacting with the people," Chip said. Chip, whose legal name is Marion Ernest Presley Jr., is originally from Pensacola, Fla. His mother, while still in the hospital after giving birth to him, heard someone being called Chip and decided that would be a great nickname for her son as well.

During his career Chip was a software developer, mainly for Citicorp and Colonial Life Insurance. He and his wife, Deborah, came to Los Angeles in 2007 to be closer to their two children, who had moved here for career and climate reasons, and their three grandchildren.

But the couple always envisioned retiring in the Southeast, where they had spent many happy years. So at the end of April, Chip and Deborah moved to Southport, N.C., ten minutes from the Atlantic Ocean.

"One of the hardest parts is leaving here," Chip said, referring to Food Pantry LAX.

But the big loss for the pantry and its customers will be a gain for hungry people in North Carolina. Chip has already found a food pantry there at which he will volunteer.

Volunteering and helping others can reduce stress. De-stress your life by joining the Food Pantry, LAX team of volunteers!

From left to right: Mary Thompson, Madeline Nolan, Mary Cantwell, Chip Presley, Scott Tanner, Ed Hayes, Willie Hodges, Andy Pollack



A Ministry of the Westchester/Ladera Clergy Association since 1985

Food Pantry, LAX

is located at
355 E. Beach Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90302
Phone: 310-677-5597

Between La Brea &
Centinela; one block
North of Florence Ave.

Mailing Address:

8726 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Suite D PMB 741
Westchester, CA 90045

Email Address:

FoodPantryLAX
@gmail.com

OUR MISSION: Food Pantry, LAX is a supplementary food resource for low-income clients in Inglewood, Westchester, El Segundo, Hawthorne and portions of Los Angeles. Our policy is to provide food for 2 days or six meals to our clients. Clients may come to the Pantry once per week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

W. Scott Tanner, President
Andy Pollack, Vice President
Willie Hodges, Treasurer
Madeleine Nolan, Secretary

Board Members

Mary Cantwell Mary Thompson
Ed Hayes Johnny Albano
Biz Tanner Steve McCollum



Donations



In mid-November, Food Pantry, LAX received a sizable donation of goods from Westchester Lutheran Church and School.

Photo left: Jessica Yoshimoto and Henry Mera standing with the donation.

**BE A HUNGER STOPPING
SUPERHERO**



**Donate to Food Pantry, LAX
TODAY!**



The local Knights of Peter Claver Juniors donated 30 bags of food to our annual Bag-It-Up program in December 2018.

Photo left: the Juniors with their donation.

Hilltop Community Church of Christ in El Segundo donated several bags of goods.

Photo right: Kerrie Clark (left) delivering the food to volunteer, Armin (on the right).

