

Food Pantry, LAX



A Client Story: Sherrie Pollard

Written by Andy Pollack

When Sherrie Pollard's children were taken away from her because of her years-long drug addiction, it spurred her to get her life in order. She split from her husband, who was a drug dealer, spent three months in rehab, and went back to school, earning a college degree. She has even self-published two novels, which she describes as horror stories with a Biblical twist.

But being a single mom raising four teenagers has not been easy. In March, Sherrie and her family lost their apartment and became homeless. "We go in and out of motels," she said. But when there is not enough money for that, the family lives in her car.

This summer, Sherrie began coming to Food Pantry Lax, which provides homeless people with food that does not require cooking or refrigera-

tion. Her children look forward to what they receive. "This is the one place they always say, 'Mommy, don't forget to go on Tuesday,'" she said.



Sherrie Pollard at Food Pantry, LAX.

Sherrie, 51, was born in Tampa, Florida. Her mother died in childbirth and her father, who was in the military, was deployed to Vietnam. So as a toddler, she was moved to Inglewood to be reared by

an aunt and uncle.

A few years ago, she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Cal State Long Beach. But she has not been able to find full-time employment. She works at concerts and sporting events, taking tickets, checking bags and helping customers find their seats. The job pays only minimum wage, though it has flexible hours, making it easier for Sherrie to care for her children.

"I'm ready to go back to work full time," she said. She is also trying to find a new place to live, working with the nonprofit St. Joseph Center, which provides housing assistance.

Sherrie said that eventually she hopes to be able to repay Food Pantry LAX for its assistance. "I can really see myself coming in here one day with a truckload of stuff" to donate for others in need, she said. ♦

Food distribution at 355 E. Beach Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90302
Open for distribution on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am-12pm
Contact us! (310) 677-5597 or via email at FoodPantryLAX@gmail.com
For more information visit FoodPantryLAX.org

We are very grateful to all who so generously donate to Food Pantry, LAX. Here are just a few of the donations we have received in the past few months.



Food Forward continues to be a generous partner for Food Pantry, LAX. In 2017 alone they donated over 13 tons of fresh produce from local growers, making use of surplus goods that would otherwise go to waste. To learn more about Food Forward visit FoodForward.org.

Girl Scout Troop 2005 from Redondo Beach collected and donated several bags of canned goods to Food Pantry, LAX.



Ryan Rossow, a student at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, made a donation to Food Pantry, LAX on behalf of the South Bay Food Initiative, a club he started at his school.



Food Pantry, LAX was the lucky beneficiary of 90 cases of cherry tomatoes from Manuel Huerta Trucking located in Rio Rico, AZ.



On October 21st the Westside Food Bank held its 28th Annual Hunger Walk fundraiser. Food Pantry, LAX had a team of 15 participating in the event this year and raised over \$7,500! Many thanks to all who donated to the Food Pantry, LAX team.



There are a few simple ways that you too can support Food Pantry, LAX:

1. Participate in the annual Food Pantry, LAX Bag-It-Up Campaign to provide holiday meals to those who would otherwise go without.
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! 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.