



Where Does Our Lenten Rice Bowl Money Go?

Anne Avellone, Director, Office of Social Justice and Respect Life

CRS Rice Bowl is the official Lenten faith formation program of the U.S. Bishops. It focuses on fasting, praying, learning and giving as a way to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need. CRS Rice Bowl contributions support projects for the poor **both** overseas **and** here in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. 25% of the contributions fund local poverty and hunger alleviation programs in dioceses across the United States.

From the Rice Bowl money collected from 82 parishes, schools and other organizations during Lent 2019, \$19,160.00 went to the following 18 local organizations that work to alleviate hunger and homelessness in our Archdiocese:

1. **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Food Pantry—Taos** is starting anew as a food pantry under the parish's name, formerly under the title "Little Poor One Food Pantry." In the past, the food pantry serves an average of 15-20 families a week. It is anticipated that in the coming year, the same amount of people will be served, perhaps even more.
2. **St. Vincent de Paul Society—Holy Family Food Pantry—Albuquerque** helps families with needed food assistance by distributing over 11,000 food boxes, each food box contains over 70lbs of food commodities. In the last year, over 31,000 individuals have been assisted with food assistance.
3. **St. Vincent de Paul Society—St. Helen Catholic Church—Portales** helps the community of Portales and surrounding rural areas with food from their pantry and utility assistance.
4. **St. John the Baptist Lunch Kitchen—Santa Fe** serves lunch three days a week. They served about 8,188 meals last year. It is operated by volunteers and supported by the parish's stewardship. They are a distribution point for food commodities to those in need.
5. **The Socorro Storehouse—Socorro** serves food boxes to underprivileged citizens in Socorro County. They average about 50 clients a week, who carry away 2,000lbs of food. They receive food donations from stores, churches and other organizations that sponsor food drives.
6. **Villa Therese Catholic Clinic—Santa Fe** serves those in need of medical and dental service in northern New Mexico since 1937, and helps those on the WIC program and others with emergency food grocery cards in times of need. They support vulnerable mothers and children by providing access to baby formula and groceries. The clinic is supported by the Catholic parishes and schools in Santa Fe.
7. **Puerto Seguro Safe Harbor, Inc.—Socorro** helps people experiencing homelessness in Socorro, Sierra, Catron, and Valencia counties. Puerto Seguro is a day shelter providing food, showers, laundry, clothing and emergency temporary housing. They also provide dry and canned goods for their clients when the shelter is not open. They receive help from San Miguel Parish.
8. **Catholic Charities—Albuquerque** offers a food pantry for refugee children and families that are participating in educational support and Team Refugee programs.
9. **San Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen—Española** is a volunteer program that prepares food baskets and hearty, nutritious meals 5 days a week for those in need in Española Valley and surrounding communities. They also provide food baskets to anyone referred to them by a church or state agency. It collaborates with other Catholic churches in the area.
10. **Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish—Peralta** helps provide meals, clothing, shoes, school supplies and hygiene products to elementary students in their community that live in poverty and hunger. They are supported by and collaborate with St. Vincent de Paul and the Catholic Foundation.
11. **Comedor de San Pascual, Inc.—Las Vegas** provides hot meals two evenings a week at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. They also distribute food boxes at the parish hall and the Las Vegas Senior Center.
12. **Good Shepherd Center—Albuquerque** is an emergency shelter for homeless men and provides meals for men, indigent women and children in the community. Good Shepherd Center is an independent Catholic agency within the Archdiocese run by the Hospitaller Brothers of John of God and is not connected to any parish or school.
13. **Interfaith Community Shelter—Santa Fe** provides safe, hospitable shelter, food and clothing for men, women and children experiencing homelessness. Last year they served 64,683 meals to those in need. Catholic churches and community groups in Santa Fe help with the shelter.

14. **St. Elizabeth Shelter, Good Samaritan Fund—Santa Fe** makes small disbursements, to help homeless individuals overcome obstacles to their making progress to improve the quality of their lives. St. Elizabeth has assisted 1,640 people in need so far in this calendar year. Local parishes in Santa Fe help with financial support, food, donations, and provides volunteers.
15. **Magdalena Samaritan Center—Magdalena** provides food every week to over 60 families/individuals who are in need. They receive help from San Miguel Catholic Church.
16. **Samaritan House—Las Vegas** has been providing emergency food and shelter, transitional housing and support, and affordable used clothing and household goods through a thrift store for forty-three years. It is the main non-profit agency addressing poverty issues in San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe counties and is supported by local parishes and organizations to ensure regular food distribution.
17. **St. Felix Pantry—Rio Rancho** is sponsored by the Felician Sisters of North America. The pantry has been providing food, clothing, educational and referral services to over 1,000 guests/households for over 27 years. St. Felix Pantry enjoys a collaborative relationship with many of the Catholic parishes that surround the Pantry.
18. **St. Teresa of Calcutta Soup and Blessing—Our Lady of Belen Parish** offers a hot meal once a week. The numbers of those being served have risen steadily and consistently since the time the soup kitchen opened. It is supported by parish donations and community donors.

If you know organizations that qualify for a Rice Bowl grant, or want to apply, contact my office for an application. Applications are due in Office of Social Justice and Respect Life by November 1 each year. Organizations must be working to alleviate hunger or homelessness within the boundaries of the Archdiocese, be a non-profit and be connected to, supported by or collaborating with a Catholic parish, school or Archdiocesan entity. Contact the Office of Social Justice and Respect Life, 505-831-8205 or justice@archdiosf.org for an application.

