



## 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 66 parishes, schools and other organizations during Lent 2020, \$9,388.86 went to the following 8 local organizations that work to alleviate hunger and homelessness in our Archdiocese:

- 1. St. John the Baptist Lunch Kitchen—Santa Fe** The kitchen operates three days a week. They served about 7,378 meals over the last 12 months. It is operated by volunteers and supported by the parish's stewardship. They are a distribution point for food commodities to those in need.
- 2. Villa Therese Catholic Clinic—Santa Fe** The clinic provides free services to the most vulnerable populations: the undocumented, immigrant, and homeless families. The *Blessing Bag Program* helps to reconnect with their patients as well as seek out additional families who may need support especially during this time. Each bag contains toiletries and masks. The clinic is supported by the Catholic parishes and schools in Santa Fe.
- 3. 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, and hygiene supplies. They also provide food bags that contain dry and canned goods for their clients. They receive help from San Miguel Parish.
- 4. Catholic Charities—Albuquerque** offers to support the basic needs of families who have struggled with homelessness or are precariously housed, recently resettled refugee families, and homebound seniors. Also, helps to maintain the pantry that fills our program participants' emergency essential needs, including food, toiletries, household goods, and cleaning supplies.
- 5. Good Shepherd Center—Albuquerque** is an emergency shelter for homeless men and provides meals for men, indigent women and children in the community. Due to the pandemic, they stopped taking new guests, only taking guest referrals for medical respite care and substance abuse treatment programs if the person had a negative COVID-19 test. They reduced their capacity and meal schedule to accommodate social distancing.
- 6. 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 1,800 people last year. Local parishes in Santa Fe help with financial support, food, donations, and provides volunteers.
- 7. 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.
- 8. St. Teresa of Calcutta Soup and Blessing—Our Lady of Belen Parish** offers a weekly hot meal for "take-out." 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](mailto:justice@archdiosf.org) for an application.

