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 77 parishes, schools and other organizations during Lent 2021, $18,122.93 went to the following 11 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 7,000 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. **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.

4. **Good Shepherd Center—Albuquerque** provides emergency food/shelter needs, transitional housing support for people experiencing homelessness. The Good Shepherd Center is financially supported by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and many of the parishes in Albuquerque.

5. **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 more than 1,000 people last year. Local parishes in Santa Fe help with financial support, food, and donations.

6. **Magdalena Samaritan Center—Magdalena** from July 2021 to date, the center has provided 251 clients with weekly food bags. They receive help from San Miguel Catholic Church.

7. **St. Teresa of Calcutta Soup and Blessing—Our Lady of Belen Parish** since July 2021 has served about 120-140 meals a week with both sit down and "take-out" meals. 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.

8. **Our Lady of Guadalupe, Food Pantry—Taos** supports local families of the community who are in need of food. The food pantry is a ministry at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish.

9. **St. Felix Pantry-Rio Rancho** feeds those in need. In the last calendar year, 81,306 has been served. St. Felix Pantry receives financial support and food donations from several local parishes.

10. **St. Vincent de Paul, Holy Family—Albuquerque** helps provide a nutrient balanced diet to the hungry in the area. In fiscal year 2021, food in 8,376 grocery carts were distributed to hungry families.

11. **The Food Depot—Santa Fe** is charged with providing accessible hunger-relief services to a diverse range of people experiencing food insecurity across nine counties in northern New Mexico. They collaborate with San Juan Bautista in Ohkay Owingeh, Sacred Heart in Española, St. Patrick/St. Joseph in Raton, St. Gertrude in Mora, and Immaculate Conception in Las Vegas.

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.

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