

Parish Food Co-Op - SHARE at Blessed Sacrament

Summary Report 2009 - 2018

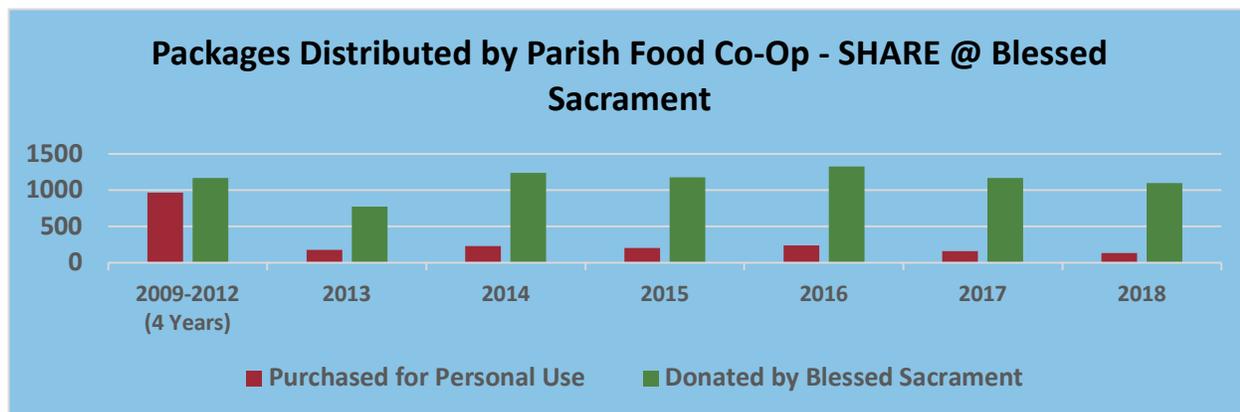
You And SHARE @ Blessed Sacrament – A Great Partnership

In the past ten years, SHARE @ BS provided 11,876 food packages for an average of 1,188 packages a year. In 2018 through generous donations from parishioners, SHARE @ BS provided 1,098 food packages to those in need. Plus, a number of parishioners took advantage of your Parish Food Co-op to buy wholesome packages valued at \$43 for \$22 or half the price at grocery stores. Parishioners' charitable giving and co-op buying power for parishioners are the basis for a great partnership and community service. Two factors make this possible:

- Donations from parishioners allow us to serve a broad range of people facing hard times: unemployed, seriously ill, home-bound seniors, former homeless families, veterans and others with limited resources. Responding to the need among this population has expanded our program by more than six fold since its inception in our parish in 2009.
- SHARE @ BS, as part of a regional network operated by Catholic Charities of Washington, can use the bulk buying power to serve the needy and also make wholesome food available to customers for purchase at budget-stretching prices. Since 2009, individuals purchased 2,107 packages.

The variety of monthly “special packages” – meat, poultry, seafood or other items – at comparable savings, makes your Parish Food Co-Op an even more attractive food source. Purchasing is simple and convenient. We purchase food at lower cost than found at retail stores. Food purchases by parishioners increases our wholesale buying power even more and allows us to help those not so fortunate. We invite and urge you to try the nutritious food values SHARE @ BS for yourself and perhaps as a gift for someone else. We think you'll like it!

Our parish Food Co-Op is an important and established source of food for parishioners and the wider community. Reflecting their exceptional, continuing generosity, parishioners contributed \$28,207 in 2018, allowing SHARE @ BS to accomplish its mission. This compressed chart shows how much your kindness has enabled us to do during the past ten years. Notably, the need increased dramatically in 2013 and has continued upward since then. Last year, an organization receiving donated food for their clients had logistical difficulties and reduced the level of its requests. We expect the level to increase in 2019.



These figures don't show the countless ways SHARE @ BS impacts individual lives: an unemployed parent coping with myriad concerns receiving food for her family; a family hit by unexpected illness and loss of income finding discreet relief.; an older parishioner on a tight budget delighted to discover the low-cost Food Co-Op food variety and value. Especially gratifying is the number of former SHARE recipients, now economically stable, making contributions to the program.

With humble gratitude for your generosity and support, the volunteer SHARE @ BS Team looks forward to the continued growth of our Parish Food Co-Op - SHARE @ Blessed Sacrament . . . the two faces of SHARE provide benefits to parishioners and, through your kindness, blessings to those in need. God Bless You!