

St. Philip/St. Teresa Rural Food Program Annual Report 2015-2016

The Rural Food Program is beginning a new fiscal year this month so I wanted to take this opportunity to briefly report on our performance over the past twelve months. During this past fiscal year (July 2015-June 2016), we served 1239 families. The monthly collection brought in \$23,486 and additional donations brought in \$5,575. We used \$10,000 of grant money revenue to cover our expenses for the year that totaled \$39,207. **The Rural Food collection covered about 60% of the total program expenses.** From July 2015 through June 2016, we logged in 2096 hours of volunteer service!!!! Thanks to all of our parishioners and donors for your financial support and for the many generous volunteers from St. Philip and St. Teresa who enable us to offer this critical service to those in need.

Thanks to a generous grant from the McCann Family Foundation, we secured additional funding to support the addition of more frozen protein items and continued support for the “Betty Bag” program (in memory of Betty Gluch) for families with children providing an additional bag of nutritious groceries (including milk and juice). We distributed 277 bags last year. We also received a generous grant from the Freitas Family Foundation that continues to support additional produce purchases from Andy’s Produce to provide healthy vegetables and fruit for our client families as well as additional low sodium, low-fat and gluten-free grocery items in order to provide more healthy food options in response to the 2015 Client Survey. We are indeed blessed!

In partnership with the Redwood Empire Food Bank we are receiving vegetarian entrée meals prepared in their commercial kitchen. As a result of input received from our clients in the 2015 survey we added cheese and each month we receive donated Clover milk from the Luther Family Dairy in Occidental. We are also providing organic, grass-feed pastured eggs from parishioner Jack Balestreri’s Coastal Hill Farm.

The Rural Food Program makes a monthly contribution to the Catholic Charities Rural Food Outreach in Sonoma and Lake counties as well as to the Family Support Center that provides shelter to homeless families. Additionally, the program pays for the use and cleanup of the parish hall as well as utility usage for the freezers.

If you have any questions about the Rural Food Program, please contact me through the parish office (874-3812) or by email at roddemar@comcast.net. Please consider visiting our program and lending a hand when you are able. It is a privilege to coordinate such a long-standing outreach program for our parishes of St. Philip & St. Teresa. Blessings and peace,

Rod DeMartini -- Coordinator