



**Nevada Council on Food Security**  
*COVID-19 Response Efforts Update*  
June 30, 2020

**Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada and the St. Vincent's Programs  
Report**

**Response Summary**

During the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada and the St. Vincent's Programs (CCNN) continues to provide direct support to nearly 30,000 northern Nevadans a month. During this time, hardworking families and individuals living in poverty have been particularly hard hit—financially and emotionally. We have continued to meet the growing demands of the working poor and homeless throughout northern Nevada while adhering to federal, state, and local COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Based on monthly trends before the pandemic, we expect to feed more people at the end of the week/month when bills are due and government funds have run out. With COVID-19, we are seeing the following:

- Decrease in clients at the Dining Room (due SNAP, unemployment, stimulus funds, and homeless camp sweeps), but an increase in young adults.
- Increase in clients at the Food Pantry, including requests from smaller pantries throughout northern Nevada.

**Resolutions/Successes**

During the government-ordered shutdown, CCNN temporarily closed its thrift stores and donation centers and repurposed those staff to help with food preparation and distribution on the main campus. No staff were laid off because of COVID-19. Even with Governor Sisolak's phased openings, CCNN continue to take extra precautions and has created rotation teams for each department to minimize exposure to our employees, volunteers, and clients. Teams rotate working on-campus and remotely.

**St. Vincent's Dining Room (~9,000/month)**

During COVID-19, the Dining Room has shifted its in-door seated, served food to take-away meals with little to no-contact between staff and clients.

- Open for lunch 6 days a week and starting 7 days a week in July.
- Before COVID-19, served approximately 500 clients a day from the Dining Room.
- During COVID, serving approximately 250 clients a day from the Dining Room. As



government support ends, we the area to receive food and

expect clients to migrate back to other services.

- Send hot to-go meals to the nearby women’s shelter at approximately 75 meals a day
- Send hot to-go meals to Crossroads Sober Living at approximately 100 meals a day.

**St. Vincent’s Food Pantry (~21,500/month)**

As the largest food pantry in northern Nevada, we offer free fresh and shelf-stable food to individuals and families in need across the state. The majority of the food we distribute is through our “main campus” pantry in Downtown Reno. In addition to the pantries we support through our Funds for Healthy Nevada grant, we provided food to these 13 additional food pantries as part of COVID-19 response.

*Washoe County*

NAME	LOCATION	ESTIMATED	
		FOOD (lbs)	INDIVIDUALS SERVED
St. Vincent’s Food Pantry	Reno	390,000	13,800
Washoe Valley Christian Church	New Washoe Valley	52,000	1,850
The Bridge Church	Reno	6,500	240
Boys & Girls Club of the Truckee Meadows	Reno	16,250	575
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Reno	13,000	475
St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry	Incline Village	39,000	1,380
St. Peter Canisius Catholic Church	Sun Valley	13,000	475
Gerlach Senior Citizens Center	Gerlach & Empire	13,000	475
St Peter Canisius Catholic Church	Sun Valley	13,000	475
Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church	Reno	6,500	230
A Voice in the Wilderness	Reno	3,250	125
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>565,500</b>	<b>20,100</b>

*Seniors & Disabled*

Through our St. Vincent’s Resource Hub’s Benefits Enrollment Center, we serve safe home-delivery to more than 90 clients a month (5,915 pounds of food) and are increasing this service:

- Sierra Manor (a VOA senior/disability low income housing complex);
- Carville Apartments (low-income housing); and
- Private residents throughout the Reno-Sparks Metro Area.

*Other Request*

Just this month, Children’s Cabinet reached out regarding a few of their families and we immediately responded with 65 pounds of food for each family, as well as other services. We receive these types of requests weekly, if not daily, and they have increased since COVID-19.

*Rural & Frontier Nevada*

In addition to the rural and frontier pantries we support through our Funds for Healthy Nevada state grant, we supported these additional pantries in the frontier counties as part of the COVID-19 response. For example, we recently received a call from West Wendover asking for



food to feed 345 individuals, as well as other services.

NAME	LOCATION	ESTIMATED	
		FOOD (lbs)	INDIVIDUALS SERVED
St. Joseph Catholic Community	Elko	6,500	250
White Pine Ministry Center	Ely, Ruth, & McGill	6,500	250
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Ely, Ruth, & McGill	6,500	250
St Paul's Catholic Church	Winnemucca	16,250	575
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>35,750</b>	<b>1,325</b>

We are hoping to increase our outreach to Austin and Caliente who have also contacted us for support. These locations would increase our outreach to at least 500 individuals, which includes the surrounding communities (i.e., Austin, Eureka, Caliente, Pioche, Panaca, and Etna).

### *Northern Nevada Tribes*

We continue to work with both the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. The tribes come to us as needed and, then, distribute to their other areas including, but not limited to, Hungry Valley and Wadsworth. We also serve members of this community with many of our other programs.

### *Barriers/Needs/Gaps in Services*

- Need licensed mental health professionals for the Dining Room, Food Pantry, and Outreach as we see an increase in food insecurity and mental health issues.
- Need for on campus security. While we have appreciated the support we get from the Downtown Reno Partnership's Ambassadors, they cannot dedicate security ambassadors to us every day. Tempers rise with the heat and added safety measures.
- Need temporary bathrooms and showers with hourly deep cleaning to eliminate human waste in the surrounding areas; this would also increase the need for security.
- Need on-campus testing and vaccines (when available) as our clients are comfortable with our employees and volunteers, which could make organizing this type of response much easier.
- Concerns with local pop-up support that may not provide the additional services and/or know how to address all the diverse needs of this population.
- Concerns with the City's sweeps of homeless camps that decrease their ability to access the services they desperately need and receive from CCNN and others.
- Concerns for the winter months when we cannot gather our clients inside or around heaters for a few hours of warmth also checking on their food and physical needs.
- Too much canned food (high sodium) and less fresh food creates concerns for our clients with health issues.