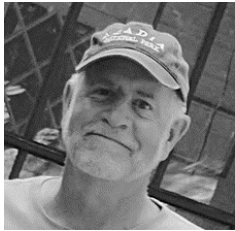


# To 'Be Here' for People in Need

Dear Immaculate Heart of Mary Parishioner,



Greetings and warm wishes to you from all of us at Boulevard Place Food Pantry, as we move into 2023.

In 2022, you name the metric and we exceeded it, overcoming a trifecta of challenges: rising costs, supply chain issues and less-available inventory. Because of collective generosity, those who entered the Pantry's green client door arrived empty-handed but departed with dignity and items to feed themselves and loved ones. An all-time high of 51,000 individuals were served at 4202 North Boulevard Place. I hope you personally feel a connection to them because the relief we provided was also about you.

When a client selected a can of low-sodium beans or a box of pasta shells from our shelves, it likely originated from *your* pantry. When a client chose a package of high-quality frozen beef from our reach-in freezer, it likely came because of the check *you* wrote. When a client finished shopping with a smile from a volunteer's face, it likely was *your* fellow Parishioner sending the good vibes. And when a shopper felt relief, they were allowed to come back again the next week if their situation warranted—always at no cost to them—it was because of the stewardship that *your Immaculate* Heart of Mary board member (Trinda Metzger) provided. IHM donated \$9,576.96 and contributed an impressive 20,755 pounds of food in 2021 and 24,655 in 2022. In addition, IHM represents 20% of our volunteer base through roles that range from delivery support to assisting clients on shopping days, not to mention the great students and parents who volunteer at the Pantry on Tuesdays.

Our Pantry exists because of a consistent Catholic commitment stretching back 40 years. It was built on a foundation communally shared by those from St. Luke, Joan of Arc, Christ the King, Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Thomas Aquinas, in addition to the mighty support of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and its leadership as well as the SVdP council. The opportunity to lead more than 125 volunteers as part of a valuable, unique and intricate role the Pantry plays in the Indy Hunger Network ecosystem nudged me out of retirement for this unpaid role after 50+ years in Catholic leadership and education.

The mission hasn't changed, so the question I ask you as we embark on the 2023 fiscal year is: Can our primarily all-volunteer Pantry organization continue to count on you—whether it is for your time, talent or treasure? Can you '*be here*' for people in need? I hope the answer remains "yes."

Sincerely,

*Matt Hayes*

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