



Special First Sunday Sharing is April 6-7

Next weekend is First Sunday Sharing. Food collected that weekend, as well as our “40 Cans for Lent” food drive, benefits the Boulevard Place Food Pantry, a St. Vincent de Paul ministry.

This week through next weekend’s Special First Sunday Sharing (April 1-7), a \$5,000 donation will match dollar-for-dollar all contributions to support the expansion of the Food Pantry. You can make a donation by [clicking here](#) or by putting your donation in an envelope the weekend of April 6/7.

The Pantry opened in 2012 at the present location (4202 Boulevard Place), serving about 250 clients per month. Five parishes support the annual operations: Christ the King, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Saint Joan of Arc, Saint Luke, and Saint Thomas Aquinas. Additional support comes from: Second Helpings, Broad Ripple Farmers Market, the Saint Luke Knights of Columbus, Butler University Students, Fairview Presbyterian Church, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis, St. Simon’s Scouts, Hatch Eggs, Sharp Gardens, and IPS Schools, among others.

Now, the Pantry’s clients have more than tripled, to over 800 per month in 2018.

Because of this growth, the Pantry needs to expand. The waiting room is no longer even remotely large enough; sometimes, as many as twenty clients are in line. Due to limited space only four clients can shop at any time. Food storage space has been stretched to the limit and volunteers now have to sort donations in the parking lot, exposing the food to the elements.

The five parishes which support this Pantry, including St. Luke, are attempting to raise \$100,000 to expand the Pantry by 10000 square feet. This will eliminate the client waiting room limitations, increase the shopping area, expand the storage areas, and allow for increased volunteer safety for the foreseeable future.

Waiting Room:

Currently, there are often twelve to fifteen clients waiting to be served, with another dozen or so arriving shortly after the Pantry opens. This creates confusion and unhealthy crowding in a waiting area with only nine seats. Renovating this area will create a comfortable setting with seating that will allow up to twenty-five clients at any time. In addition, a permanent preparation and serving area for our food demonstrators and educators will be available.

Increased Shopping Area:

Currently, the shopping area allows only four clients to be served at any given time. Space now used for storage adjacent to the shopping area will be converted to allow for more clients to shop simultaneously.

Storage:

The walk-in freezer and refrigeration units will be moved into the new space and the floors leveled to allow ease of movement of food pallets. The expansion will include a garage door which will allow the pallets, pallet jack, and other items to be brought inside the building. This will provide needed space for sorting and storing food donations.

Volunteer Needs:

Leveling the floors will eliminate a possibility for volunteer accidents. A more secure space for storage of volunteer personal items and a restroom are included in the plan.