



TABITHA'S WAY  
LOCAL FOOD  
PANTRY

North Utah County

## Annual Report: 2018

### Our Mission:

To help individuals and families through tough times by:

1. Providing temporary food assistance
2. Recommending resources for self-reliance
3. Helping neighbors help neighbors

### *The Need in our Local Communities*

In the 9 cities of North Utah Country, over 24,000 people live at or below the federal poverty line. National surveys show that 63% of all US citizens have zero savings. Our clients are working-class neighbors who are living paycheck to paycheck, until a disaster strikes—like chemotherapy, surgery, car accident, job loss, loss of family member, increasingly high medical costs, and so on. Among this group are schoolteachers, service workers, seasonal workers, and other working-class neighbors. Over half of the individuals we serve are children. On average our clients shop at the pantry only 6 times and receive 3 months of food assistance, and then they are on their feet, have gotten through their tough times.

### *2018 Results:*

#### *The Key Metrics*

- Client shoppers: 9,156
- Family members provided with food assistance: 35,098
- Approximate number of meals provided: 1.6 million
- Food provided to other local agencies fighting food insecurity: 70,000 lbs. to 10 organizations
- Total pounds of food distributed: 1.56 million lbs.

#### *Noteworthy News*

- We serve clients in the 9 northern cities of Utah County: Clients in Pleasant Grove (25%), American Fork (19.8%), and Lehi (15.3%) receive the most assistance.
- Seven percent of our clients are veterans and seniors.
- We distributed to the needy: 360 Thanksgiving and 100 Christmas dinners to be cooked, 300 birthday kits, and 2021 backpacks with school supplies to children in the Alpine School District.
- Hundreds were provided warm clothing through our Deseret Industries grant; hundreds more were referred to other agencies to improve their self-reliance (jobs, housing, health, etc.).
- All of our clients going through tough times received a welcome, encouragement, and some hope.

#### *Generous Donations*

**Local Volunteer Support:** Many caring volunteers assisted at the pantry, donating a total of 13,667 hours of their time. Volunteers came from youth groups, families, businesses, schools, clubs and churches. Regular volunteers who commit to and serve 2 or 3 hours each week have been extremely valuable. More are needed. 100% of our volunteer hours are local.

- **Local Food Donations:** We received donations of food and needed item that total 1,598,945 lbs. Donations from local families and organizations totaled 463,547 lbs., donations from local grocery stores totaled 1,007,897 lbs. (Our grocery rescue team takes a box truck out 6 days a week to collect this food), and 127,501 lbs. came from the Utah Food Bank in SLC. We appreciate every neighbor who donated, and a special shout out to Scouting for Food (86,844 lbs.), Postal Carriers Drive (38,651 lbs.), and our Grocery Rescue Partner stores—Harmon's, Smiths, Winco, Sprouts, Trader Joe's, and Costco. In total, 149 groups from schools, businesses, and families held formal food drives. Thanks to all who have donated. Please keep it up.
- **Local Financial Support:** There are many costs involved in operating a food pantry and making food accessible to needy, food-insecure neighbors. These costs include rent, utilities, payroll, insurance, a box truck, equipment, and other standard operating costs. Donations from generous individuals and businesses are helping to reduce hunger in our local communities. A food pantry is a key component of the process. With the donations of food and the help of volunteers we can operate very efficiently—we are able to provide the needed with a meal for less than 20 cents per meal. We are 100% funded by local individuals, groups, and businesses. We could use more help in this area. Donations of any size helps; it all helps.

### ***Looking to the Future***

We firmly believe that no child or family in Utah County should go hungry! We also believe that this is an achievable goal. Our larger vision is aimed at creating a No Hunger Zone—a specific area where no one ever has to face hunger or food insecurity because neighbors (citizens, businesses, schools, churches and other organizations) have taken emotional and financial responsibility collectively to assure that this never happens. To achieve that vision, we need to engage many more individuals and organizations to volunteer, donate food, and donate money. A heartfelt thank you to the many donors, partners, employees, volunteers, and neighbors for helping us reduce hunger and food insecurity locally in 2018. We invite you to come and visit us, and join or volunteers, partners, and donors to achieve this mission.

Sincerely,

Mike Carter  
Co-founder and volunteer  
[mike@tabithasway.org](mailto:mike@tabithasway.org)

Al Switzler  
Co-founder and volunteer  
[al@tabithasway.org](mailto:al@tabithasway.org)

920 E. State Rd. American Fork, Utah 84003 801-6921881 [tabithasway.org](http://tabithasway.org)  
Tabitha's Way Local Food Pantry, a 501(c)(3) public charity, opened on July 27, 2016

#### ***A Client's Story - Health Care Costs***

B.N. is a wife and mother in a family of 5 that lives in North Utah County. Her husband has a good job and has good health insurance through his work. After experiencing many health challenges, she went to the doctor and found out she was diabetic and insulin dependent. Her son is also diabetic and insulin dependent. The combined amount of money for their insulin, which her health insurance does not cover, is over \$2000 per month. That is more than half of their monthly take home pay. She started skipping meals so her children could have enough to eat.

Tabitha's Way was able to provide B.N. with almost all of the food they need monthly, reducing their monthly expenses by hundreds of dollars.

#### ***A Client's Story - Widow living on a fixed income***

Grandma J. is a widow in her 70's who lost her husband several years ago. She lives in low-income senior housing in North Utah County. Her sole source of financial support is a check for \$800 per month that she receives from the Federal Government. She must pay for housing, utilities, health care costs, and other expenses each month. She cannot afford to own an automobile, and has to ask for help with rides to her doctor and other places. She has to choose monthly between purchasing food and paying other bills.

Tabitha's Way was able to provide Grandma J. with almost all of the food she needs. She now is able to cover her expenses and no longer has to choose between food and other bills.