
Neighbors Pantry @ Anaheim UMC — Recipe for Success

A practical, ministry-friendly framework for launching and sustaining a dignified, guest-centered feeding program.

1. Who & What Do You Want to Serve?

Who

- Unhoused neighbors in immediate need
- Individuals experiencing food insecurity
- Guests seeking connection to health or housing services

What

- **Shelf-stable bags** (ready-to-eat items, hydration, protein)
 - **Hot lunches** (nutritious, consistent, culturally respectful)
 - **Toiletries** (hygiene kits, seasonal needs)
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2. Program Vision & Measures of Success

Vision Statement

To serve unhoused guests with dignity, consistency, and compassion while connecting them to pathways of stability, health, and housing.

Quantitative Measures

- Weekly, monthly, and annual guest counts
- Number of shelf-stable bags distributed
- Number of hot lunches served
- Number of toiletry kits provided

Qualitative Measures

- How many guests engage with **Street Medicine**
 - How many guests obtain **permanent housing**
 - How many guests obtain **shelter placements**
 - Guest feedback on dignity, safety, and hospitality
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3. Recruit Your Head Chef (Program Lead)

- Identify the program lead
 - Define responsibilities (operations, volunteers, partnerships, reporting)
 - Establish decision-making authority
 - Provide training, mentorship, and ongoing support
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4. Establish Your Team

- Core volunteer team
 - Rotating volunteer groups
 - Partner church volunteers
 - LDS missionaries & stake members
 - Service organizations (Lion's Club, Shriners, etc.)
 - Youth groups & school partners
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5. List Key Ingredients & Where to Find Them

Food Sources

- **Local Food Banks**
 - Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
 - Community Action Partnership of Orange County
 - Abound FoodCare
- **Food Rescue Programs**
 - Second Harvest
 - Abound Food Care
 - CareIt

- **Local Drives**
 - Church food drives
 - Community food drives
 - Schools
 - Service organizations
 - Local businesses

Volunteers

- Church membership
- Sister churches
- Non-UMC faith partners
- LDS missionaries & stake members
- Fraternal organizations (Shriners, etc.)
- Service organizations (Lion's Club)

Wrap-Around Services

- **Health Organizations**
 - CalOptima
 - Street Medicine
 - Hoag Community Nurse
 - City of Hope Mammogram Unit
 - **Health & Wellness Services**
 - Blood pressure checks
 - Flu clinics
 - Red Cross blood drives
 - Dental services
 - **Schools**
 - Katella High School
 - San Juan Avila
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6. Outline Needed Equipment & Tools

- Cold storage (refrigeration, freezers)
- Dry storage (shelving, bins)
- Display equipment (tables, racks, signage)
- Supplies (bags, gloves, utensils, cleaning supplies)

- Storage solutions (carts, totes, labeled bins)
 - Carts for transport and distribution
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7. Outline the Prep Work Required

- Gather food
 - Grocery rescue pickups
 - Receive food bank deliveries
 - Sort, store, and prep distribution items
 - Prepare hot meals (if applicable)
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8. When Will You Be Ready to Serve?

- Set a clear **goal for launch**
 - Establish a **task timeline**
 - Include periodic “doneness checks”
 - Reset or adjust timeline as needed
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9. Grand Opening

- You are **READY** to **SERVE**
 - Launch with hospitality, clarity, and joy
 - Communicate with community partners and guests
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10. Critic’s Review

- Evaluate regularly
 - Revise processes
 - Improve guest experience
 - Repeat the cycle
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