REGIONAL DIOCESAN GRANT REPORT, JULY 2024

SUPPORT FOR WHITTIER PANTRY AT ST. JOHN’S EPIOCOPAL CHURCH

For the past nine years, the Whittier Pantry at St. John’s Episcopal church has provided families of children at Whittier Elementary in need with items most of us consider staples. (e.g., shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.) Over those years, the only source of income for the Pantry has been donations from parishioners. When inflation combined with cuts in SNAP funding emerged, our budget rose from approximately $6,000 annually to approximately. $7,000 annually. We were concerned last year about being able to meet the needs of the 25 Whittier Pantry families we currently serve, which is the highest number of families the Pantry has served in our 9 years of existence. Because of the Regional Diocesan Grant for $1,200, the Pantry has been able to provide needed supplies, not covered by SNAP, for these families. They are grateful for this support.

The Social Action Team is also grateful for the grant which helped us meet the demand in the short term. For our long term needs , we conducted our first fundraiser, a Holiday Market, on our campus last year. That event netted us $3,100 dollars for all Social Action Ministries at St. John’s. Fortunately, we were able to give a nice amount of that to the Pantry. We plan to make our fundraiser an annual event so that we can sustain the good work in our Whittier Pantry along with other social action projects.

Thank you so much for supporting our work. We are now funded well into the fall and feel confident we can continue to meet the needs of Whittier Elementary families in need.

With Great Appreciation

Martha Dever

Chair, Social Action Ministries

St. John’s Episcopal Church

