

Southwest Region Administrator
Episcopal Diocese of Colorado
2211 Leroy St.
Alamosa, CO 81101

Re: St. Patrick's Grant Report Food Pantry

Greetings Southwest Region,

This year, St. Patrick's in Pagosa Springs was the grateful recipient of a \$10,000 grant to realize a new vision for our food pantry.

After interviewing our guests, we became aware that a more efficient way of nourishing our neighbors would be to create a space that would give them the agency and dignity to choose those foods they wished to prepare and consume, rather than handing out a pre-packaged box of staples. Therefore, we created a "grocery store" where our guests may shop for the items they want, linger, have coffee and chat with volunteers and each other, instead of grabbing a box and heading out the door.

This has helped us build community in ways that we did not anticipate, and has become meaningful for our guests and our volunteers.

With the monies granted to us, we are able to stock our shelves with flour, sugar, baking powder and soda, cooking oil, evaporated milk, honey and more so that meals can be created at home rather than simply opening a can of soup. We have stocked our refrigerator with butter, cheese, yogurt and seasonal produce. We are able to stock our freezer with a more robust variety of frozen meats, including bacon, sausages, whole chickens, and more.

St Patrick's is grateful for the support of the Southwest Region through this grant, and we give thanks for God's grace and abundance in giving us the work to feed his children.

Respectfully Yours,

The Reverend Deacon Wendy McAllister
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church