



DESERT SPRING
Community Resource Center

Desert Spring United Methodist Church

2020 “A Different Kind of Christmas” project:

The creation of the Desert Spring Community Resource Center

To help meet the needs of families struggling financially due to the pandemic

www.DesertSpringChurch.com

THE NEED

The pandemic has impacted all of our lives. For some, the impact has included financial hardship. Currently Three Square, our local food bank estimates 18.2% of the people living in the zip code of the church (89144) are food insecure. This amounts to more than 3500 people, and is almost double the number of people who were struggling prior to the pandemic. Other zip codes near to the church report a similar story. There are many, many people who are financially struggling, some for the first time in their lives.



THE GOAL



To raise \$80,000 through our “Different Kind of Christmas Campaign.” We already have a lead gift of \$10,000 so we are well on our way toward meeting the goal. The lead gift has made it possible to begin phase 1 of the plan now. The money raised will:

- ◆ Purchase food to distribute to people in need
- ◆ Provide staff support to operate the Resource Center
- ◆ Provide additional types of financial and emotional support for families that are struggling

THE PLAN

Desert Spring UMC is called to help meet the need. Our plan is to do so through the creation of “Desert Spring Community Resource Center.” In order to address the need for food as soon as possible, we will develop the Resource Center in phases.

Phase 1: We will partner with Three Square, our local food bank, to open a mobile food distribution location at Desert Spring UMC. We will have 2 food distributions per month. Distributions will be held on Saturday mornings in the church parking lot. Families in need will be informed of the opportunity to receive free food through the local schools, libraries, community centers and police department. Our first food distribution is scheduled for December 5.

Phase 2: We will open a food pantry at Desert Spring UMC in order to have food available for families who are unable to come to the scheduled Saturday food distributions. Days and hours the pantry will be open will be determined by the needs of the families we serve.

Phase 3: We know that many people struggle with more than food insecurity at this time. So, phase 3 will expand our assistance to meet additional needs. The types of assistance and programs that will be developed will be driven by the expressed needs of families who receive food through our pantry and Saturday distributions.

HERE IS WHAT A GIFT CAN DO:

- ◆ A gift \$1.00 provides 3 meals of wholesome food
- ◆ A gift of \$10.00 provides 30 meals for a family in need
- ◆ A gift of \$60.00 provides a family of four with 3 meals a day for 15 days.
- ◆ A gift of \$120.00 provides a family of four with food for a month
- ◆ A gift of \$1000 provides resources we can use to help families with needs beyond food
- ◆ A gift of \$4000 provides a commercial refrigerator for the food pantry, allowing us to have food available for families during the week.

The more we raise, the more we can do to help families struggling due to the pandemic!

HOW DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS WORKS

A Different Kind of Christmas is one way Desert Spring UMC celebrates the birth of Jesus. Christmas is his birthday, so as a church, we give a gift to him by helping people in need of assistance, people Jesus loves. We ask our children to willingly give up at least one gift so that the money saved can be used to help other children have food to eat. In addition, many of the adults to whom we will give gifts don't really need anything. So, we make donations to our “Different Kind of Christmas” project in their honor. Their gift gives the life giving food to people in need. Maybe you have friends or family members who would appreciate you making a donation in their honor this Christmas?

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