

together



three square™

together, we can feed everyone

MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA

Bob Ayoub, David Walker, and Kari Guerrero, Three Square Truck Drivers



Delivering Food and Hope With a Smile

If you've ever visited Three Square Food Bank, chances are you've seen Kari Guerrero working in our warehouse or kitchen. She currently serves as our Warehouse Assistant, but when she was asked to drive a truck again for emergency food distribution during the COVID-19 crisis she said yes without hesitation.

A Three Square truck driver's day begins

at 4:30 a.m. when they start loading trucks. "With the summer heat, we leave Three Square at 6 a.m. There are people out there waiting for hours, so cars get overheated and people get frustrated and angry. It's hard for them so we try to be done by noon."

Our drivers' stories are many. One Kari remembers is a mom at a recent

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Three Square Food Bank is to provide wholesome food to hungry people, while passionately pursuing a hunger-free community. Our vision is simple: No one in our community should be hungry. By bringing together the resources, experience and passion of the people and businesses of Southern Nevada, we can make sure no one has to. Together, we can feed everyone.

Three Square Food Bank is registered with the Secretary of State and qualified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, and a member of Feeding America. Established in 2007, Three Square is Southern Nevada's only food bank and the area's largest hunger-relief organization. Your charitable contribution to Three Square is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Food for Thought

“... I like to look for the blessings in these times.”

Once again we are being tested as a community. But the COVID-19 pandemic not only affects us in Las Vegas, it impacts us as a global community. This crisis came seemingly out of nowhere and disrupted all our daily lives. But instead of focusing on the negative impact it has made, I like to look for the blessings in these times.

I see families coming closer together and using this time to bond. Neighbors helping other neighbors who are unable to leave their homes. People who are still able giving financially to help those who are struggling. Volunteers gladly working long hours to care for their fellow citizens. Though we may be wearing masks, they are covering non-stop smiles of caring and compassion.

I am thankful for the continued support of friends like you, who are selflessly giving during this time. Just as the need for our service has increased exponentially, so has your financial giving increased to meet that need.

You are helping people like Kari (*cover story*) drive into neighborhoods and hand out life-sustaining food. You are welcoming people like Aubrey (*back page*), who lost her job due to the pandemic and turned to us for help for the first time ever. You are standing alongside our local partners like Sally (*page 3*) who are working the frontlines to serve our hungry neighbors. You are even inspiring friends like Jeff (*page 4*), who has been unable to work and instead volunteers with Three Square to distribute food and document this new era with his camera.

Things may be difficult for many local families for months to come, but all around me I see signs of hope that we will come out of this stronger than ever. Thank you for your faith in our work and heartfelt support to help us fight the growing hunger in our community. **Now more than ever, I truly believe that together, we can feed everyone.**

Gratefully,
Brian Burton
Brian Burton
President and CEO



Delivering Food and Hope With a

distribution who was really struggling. *“Her car started overheating and died, so I had to help her push it out of the way. She and her kids had been waiting there since 4 a.m. to get food. She ran out of snacks and water, and the kids were crying. It’s just heartbreaking. She said, ‘I can’t hug you but thank*

you, thank you.’”

Kari knows firsthand how painful it is to be a parent struggling to feed her family. *“I often wondered how I was going to get my kids’ next meal so I know how that feels. I think that’s why I have so much passion for what I do, and so much hope.”*

Caring for our Neighbors in Uncertain Times

Sally Hernandez is the Director at TCMI Agency, a local agency partner of Three Square Food Bank. In her role, she ensures the correct food is delivered, that the food is properly stored and distributed, oversees volunteers and keeps everything running smoothly. She has seen a lot in her years with TCMI, but it has never been as challenging as these past few months during the pandemic.



Sally wants anyone who is hungry to know they are welcome to stop by for food. There's no shame in asking for help when times are tough.

“Everybody who volunteers has a smile and we're here out of love. People need that smile and encouragement because they're going through a lot more than we will ever know. We're here to make sure everybody has food on their table, every week.”

“We've seen a huge increase since March. From helping about 2,000 families a month to serving nearly 1,300 families each week during our Saturday distribution. That's more than 20,000 people in one month.”

The additional safety precautions needed to prevent spread of the virus have also changed the way Sally and her team are able to work. They have had to switch to a drive-thru distribution system to limit physical contact with the families they help, but the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

“We start from 7 to 9 a.m., but we're ready by 5:30 a.m. By 2 a.m. we'll already have 50 cars lined up. And they're all really grateful. Some even donate a few dollars to help. We see the joy when we give them food and we get a lot of 'thank yous' ... it's just amazing.”

Thanks to you, our local agency partners like Sally and her team are able to get the food they need to serve their local communities. Thanks for opening your heart and giving generously to help those in need!



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Though it has been a challenge to meet the increased need of more hungry families than ever during the crisis, Kari remains optimistic and has a huge grin on her face for everyone she meets.

“I want to give people hope and put a smile on their face, because it's going to end. We have all come

together and we're going to get through this. There's hope.”

You are the reason hungry men, women and children have hope in their time of need. Thank you for caring about our neighbors who have been hit hard by this crisis and giving them a helping hand!

Three square truck drivers, volunteers, and agency partners are proud to be on the front line. Thank you for supporting them.

A First Time for *Everything*

This single mom never thought she would need help from Three Square.

Aubrey* has been a self-employed event planner here in Las Vegas for 20 years. She is proud of the fact that she has been able to run a successful business and provide for her 16-year-old daughter. So her world came crashing down when her job became non-essential during the pandemic and she was instantly out of work.

This is the first time in her life that Aubrey has ever been in this position. She was looking for help when she learned about Three Square Food Bank. It has literally been a lifesaver for her and her daughter.

"I go to a local church to pick up food and it's just amazing what they're doing. I usually go 2 or 3 hours before it's supposed to open, and there's still a line in front of us. We're very, very grateful for every little thing that we get ... to have a full stomach. I cry as I leave."

Aubrey shares the food she receives with her 85-year-old neighbor who is unable to leave her home. She isn't sure when she will be able to work again, so she is grateful for the support of Three Square and friends like you.

"If you have money to spare, Three Square is the best place it could go right now. It's helping hundreds of families that are in the same situation we are in. There are so many hardworking people that are completely out of work and cannot even get food."

*Her name has been changed and no photo has been used to protect her privacy during this difficult time.

Summer *Started Early*



Summertime can be challenging for parents already struggling to keep food on the table. All those extra meals put a strain on limited budgets. But what makes this summer even more difficult is that schools were closed for months before the summer due to the pandemic.

Before the pandemic, 1 in 5 children struggled with hunger, but now, 1 in 3 kids are going hungry right here, in

Southern Nevada. Please make a gift today to help feed hungry kids in our community. And, if you are able, now is the perfect time to consider becoming a monthly donor. Your monthly gift will provide a consistent, reliable source of support to help meet the increased need. **To learn more or make a gift today, visit threesquare.org. Thank you for feeding hungry kids!**

Photographing a *Piece of History*

Jeff Scheid, a photojournalist in Las Vegas, decided to use his free time to volunteer with Three Square during the pandemic. Many of the photos used throughout this newsletter were taken by Jeff.

"I've been out there every Tuesday through Friday, handing out fresh fruits and vegetables and protein. Good stuff. People are really appreciative. Especially kids ... you just see their eyes light up. Vegas is so special — we are unified to help everybody. I hope historians will look back at these photos and appreciate what people did to help Las Vegas."

Thank you for your time and talent!



Kindhearted friends like you are the reason we will get through this together and come out stronger.

Thank you!