

# together



**three square™**

together, we can feed everyone

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING AMERICA**

## You Stepped Up

***Because of you, families struggling through this pandemic have the food they need.***

Christina had a great job working at the front desk of a dermatologist's office ... then the pandemic hit. She was shocked when she lost her job last May.

Christina said, *"I thought we were safe ... being in a doctor's office. But even essential services had to cut the schedule in half, which led to me being let go. It's just a struggle every day."*

Christina tried for months to sign up for unemployment benefits ... often on the phone for hours trying to get through. It took her nearly five months before she even got the process started.

Christina's mom had moved in with her two years ago, needing care since she has a heart condition, so

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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 recently lost three lifelong friends to COVID-19. In an instant, the scourge of this pandemic became personal and visceral. I know each person reading these words has their own story of 2020. The travails that gripped our world and pierced our hearts will not be forgotten with the turning of the calendar.

The other indelible part of 2020, however, is the incredible outpouring of goodness in response to human suffering.

As I reflect, I find myself humming that wonderful song from the Broadway musical Rent called Seasons of Love. 525,600 minutes. How do you measure a year, a life, in inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife?

Many images crowd my mind as I replay the year from my perch at Three Square. The little girl walking in our lobby to donate her birthday money. The elderly couple with faces lined with worry, asking where to find help. Volunteers loading food boxes into trunks of cars that curled around city blocks. Dedicated Three Square staff leaving their own children each day in the care of others so that other children can eat.

As we embrace a new year with new possibilities, we give thanks for you. You've given so much without giving up. You've listened, encouraged, cared, and shared. Without you we could not have handled a 57% increase in the number of hungry people in Southern Nevada.

Our team is committed anew to reaching every single person who worries about their next meal. Three Square was built for such a time as this, and we rise to the challenge without hesitation.

May you find solace in slowly reclaiming safe proximity to friends and family later this year. Please remain vigilant and safe until we conquer this disease, but have heart that we now see that day in our sights.

For your steadfast support and lifesaving generosity, we continue to rely and give thanks.

~Brian Burton, President & CEO



## You Stepped Up continued from page 1

healthy food is critical. *"Food is not cheap. Inflation is increasing every day on necessary items. And the healthier you eat, the more expensive it is."*

***"Before the pandemic hit I was working ... and now it's just a struggle every day."***

Christina volunteered at Three Square Food Bank several years ago, so she knew she could turn to Three Square for help. She got in her car, lined up with hundreds of other



## *Service Above Self: Dennis' Story*

Dennis may be retired after serving as a firefighter for 35 years, but that doesn't mean he's not working. His heart for helping others led him to volunteer at his church, where he learned about Three Square Food Bank. First, he helped pack food into bags and boxes. Then, he started making food deliveries to local seniors. So, when Three Square asked him to run a popup pantry at his church on Fridays, he gladly agreed.

*"My problem is I have a hard time saying no," he says laughing. "To give is to receive, and that's why I do it. And not just money ... give your time, talents and effort."*

Though health and safety restrictions have made it harder to volunteer, Dennis still does everything he can to help in the wake of the pandemic.

*"My wife and I both got COVID-19 early on and went through that whole process. Now I feel kind of*

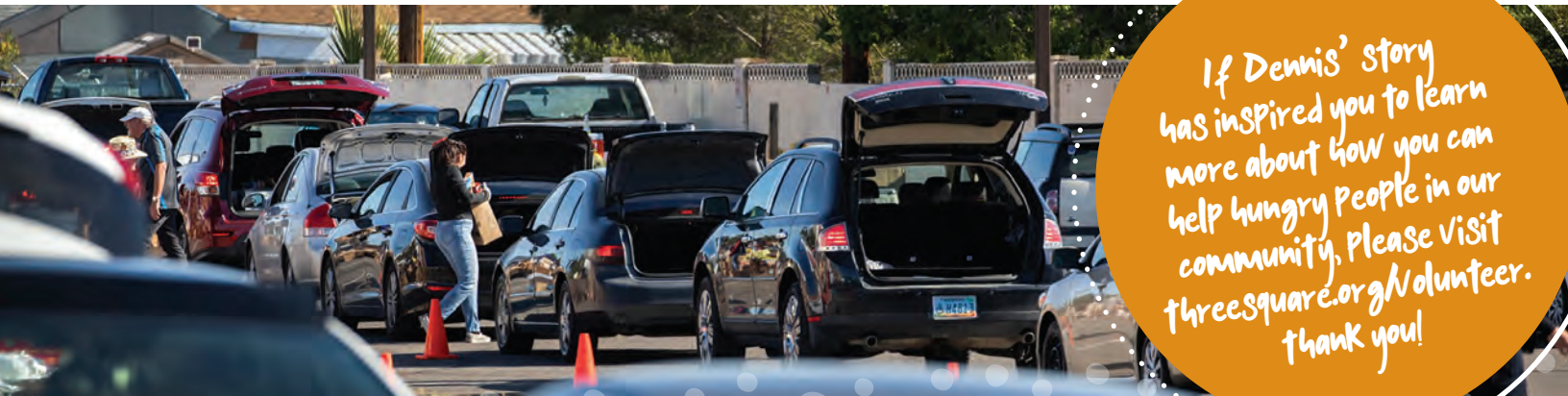
*resilient. Give me something to do and I'm out there. The people I see are clearly in need, so I feel good about giving my time to help out."*

What has impressed him most during these difficult days is the outpouring of community support and encouragement. He has seen so many people in need who are so grateful for every bite of food they get.

*"We help about 420 cars every Friday, which equates to about 2,000 people at just our popup pantry. It's amazing to see the smiles on their faces during this difficult time. And there are others who pull up and say, 'It's not for me... I'm delivering to neighbors.' People wait in line for three hours or more to get food. I feel humbled and grateful to help, but also sad that so many people here in Vegas are hurting."*

When talking about his volunteer experience, Dennis is clear he *"doesn't want it about me."* Saying, *"It's about the people I work with ... I have to lift them up, too. It's everybody serving as a team throughout the whole process."*

*If Dennis' story has inspired you to learn more about how you can help hungry people in our community, please visit [threesquare.org/volunteer](https://www.threesquare.org/volunteer). Thank you!*



people and waited for the safe, contactless delivery of food to her car. Though she was nervous the first time, she was surprised at how friendly everyone was.

*"People were really nice. It was heartfelt that people were out there doing all they can to help thousands of people in the Vegas Valley. And it was good seeing other people just like me ... who had income coming in before the pandemic hit."*

*"Now I'm looking for jobs and it's really hard," she says, with tears in her eyes. "Thank you, because it*

*means a lot and goes a long way helping people in Las Vegas. Every dollar you donate gives meals to a needy family. We will be back down at Three Square — helping you guys and donating as soon as we can."*

**The economy in Vegas suffered a devastating blow this year and affected so many of our neighbors. But thanks to your incredible generosity, they won't go hungry. Thank you for seeing the need and stepping up to help!**

# Down but *Not Defeated*

Las Vegas is primarily known for the glitz and glamour of the Strip. But now we'll be known for something else: **it's predicted that we will most likely experience the longest recovery of any city in the nation.**

The COVID crisis has drastically affected our community and weakened our economy that relies heavily on travel and tourism. Seemingly overnight, many of our neighbors have lost their jobs and their livelihoods. **More people than ever are experiencing hunger — often for the first time.**

Though it will take some time for our great city to recover, you have demonstrated time and again that your hearts are big and you are always ready to lend a helping hand.

**Thank you for your continued concern for people in Southern Nevada who are hungry and hurting, and for stepping up to help during the difficult days ahead.**

Before covid-19, 1 in 8 of your neighbors was hungry



now, 1 in 5 neighbors struggles with hunger



## *Vivi's Jar*

### 6 years later and still going strong!

Vivi is an incredible young lady. When she was just five years old, she asked friends and family to donate to Three Square in lieu of birthday gifts. She filled a mason jar with \$250 ... and over the last several years, has raised \$1,465 and inspired countless others to donate.

She hopes that her story will inspire other kids to help their neighbors. *"When you give a lot, you receive. I think it's important to give to people who need it. And then hopefully they'll give as much as they can to other people, so that the circle can get bigger and bigger."*

Vivi's mom, Gabrielle, is proud of her daughter's drive and determination. *"I want her to appreciate where we are and what we have. That there's a big world out there and a lot of people are in very different places in their life than we are, so we should be supporting our neighbors. We call Vegas a small town in a big city because there's so much outreach, philanthropy and support for the needs of our community,"* she says.

When asked if she'll continue "filling the jar," Vivi says with enthusiasm, *"Even if it's something small, I would love to give for my whole life!"*

Today, you can help "fill Vivi's jar" to fight hunger. And since just \$1 provides three meals, your dollars will go far to help feed hungry children, seniors and families here in Southern Nevada! **If you are able, please make a gift today at [threesquare.org/donate](https://threesquare.org/donate). Thank you!**

*"We try to donate as much as we can to spread more meals and happiness in our community. Food is important. Some people are having a hard time affording groceries and we should help them."*

-vivi