



HIGHLAND PARK FOOD SHELF RE-OPENS

Neighborhood House takes over operation of Francis Basket

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SAINT PAUL, Minn. – Neighborhood House, a 115-year-old nonprofit located in Saint Paul, has taken over the operation of the Francis Basket food shelf, a 20-year-old food program located near the Sibley Plaza Shopping Center in the city’s Highland Park neighborhood. The program re-opened on August 10 and will continue to serve people in the area who need help.

Formerly run by the Saint Paul Franciscan Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Angels (OSFs), the Francis Food Basket faced staff challenges due to age advancement and health-related issues and needed operational assistance. The OSFs turned to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) in Saint Paul to help transition and secure a partnership with Neighborhood House, which operates the largest single-site food shelf in Ramsey County and serves more than 2,500 pounds of food daily to more than 9,400 families annually.

“Neighborhood House has operated food support programs in the Saint Paul community for more than 115 years; we know the face of hunger, the needs of the hungry, and how to meet those needs,” said Armando Camacho, president of Neighborhood House. “We are pleased to lend our expertise to a highly acclaimed and utilized food shelf program.”

“This is an important partnership that will help people in our community who are struggling,” said Saint Paul City Councilmember Chris Tolbert, who represents the Highland Park area.

“These are times of change and continued challenges for too many people in our community. The leadership from Neighborhood House will help ensure that a needed resource will continue help people make ends meet.”

The Francis Food Shelf has been an important resource for a growing number of Highland Park residents who are experiencing hardship. In 2011, the food shelf provided more than 61,000 pounds of food to 1,940 households.

“The Franciscan Sisters are grateful that Neighborhood House will continue this important ministry and are hopeful that the donors and volunteers will continue to support the food shelf at that location through Neighborhood House” said Sister Mary Lucy Scheffler, regional superior for the OSFs.

About Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House, a nonprofit organization based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, helps people, families and organizations develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to thrive in diverse communities. Neighborhood House has been a multicultural, multilingual resource network for immigrants, refugees, and low-income families since 1897. Housed in the Wellstone Center with six Family Centers located throughout the city, Neighborhood House provides basic needs resources, lifelong learning programs, and community-building opportunities to nearly 15,000 people each year. Learn more at www.neighb.org.

About the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet are a Roman Catholic community of women religious who are committed to continuing the mission of Jesus in the world by responding to the needs of the times, moving always towards profound love of God and love of neighbor without distinction. Founded in south-central France in 1650, they came to Saint Paul in 1851 to teach. Today they continue ministries in the areas of spirituality, education, healthcare, social services, creative arts and advocacy for change. (www.csjstpaul.org)

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