



SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

LA PARROQUIA DEL TRABAJADOR

March 11, 2024

Eddy Cantu
Hidalgo County Precinct 2
300 W. Hall Acres, Suite G
Pharr, Texas 78577

Dear Mr. Cantu:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of Saint Joseph the Worker and our Food Pantry, currently operated within the facilities of Hope Clinic on Jordan Street, South McAllen. Our Food Pantry is a cornerstone for many families in need, providing essential food assistance from Monday through Friday. Currently, we serve 800 families, with new applications arriving weekly. The average family size is four, highlighting the substantial impact of our efforts within the community.

To enhance our operations and support our growing need, Saint Joseph the Worker has invested significantly in resources including a box truck, a forklift, a pallet jack, a dedicated program coordinator, and a devoted group of volunteers. Despite these investments, as the demand for our services continues to expand, we are encountering significant logistical challenges. Our current facility's limited space restricts our ability to serve effectively, with inadequate parking leading to families waiting in their cars, a situation that becomes particularly dire during the summer months. Furthermore, our storage capacity is no longer sufficient to manage the volume of assistance required.

After thorough analysis and multiple discussions, we have decided to relocate and expand the Food Pantry to the parish grounds of **Saint Joseph the Worker at 2315 Ithaca Ave.** This move will allow us to build a new facility tailored to better accommodate and serve the growing needs of families in the area spanning from Business 83 to Military Hwy, regardless of their faith affiliation.

To make this vital project a reality, we are seeking your support. We respectfully request consideration for funding of **\$200,000** which will enable us to construct a 2,400 square foot Food Pantry facility. This new space will significantly improve our ability to serve the South Side of McAllen and any family in need that comes to our doors.

In addition to the construction of the new facility, our plan includes the critical need to build robust shelving, and to install state-of-the-art refrigerators and freezers for food storage. These additions are essential for enhancing our food storage capabilities, allowing us to maintain a larger inventory of perishable and non-perishable food items in optimal conditions. Robust shelving will organize our supplies effectively, making them easily accessible and maximizing space.

2315 ITHACA AVE. · McALLEN, TEXAS 78501 · OFFICE (956) 682-1351
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CCD (956) 686-6871



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Meanwhile, reliable refrigerators and freezers will ensure that we can store fresh produce, dairy, and meats under appropriate conditions, thus extending their shelf life and ensuring we provide families with nutritious food options.

This investment will not only expand our capacity to serve but will also enhance the dignity and efficiency with which we can offer our services. **By supporting this project, you will be directly contributing to the well-being and sustenance of countless families in our community.**

Thank you for considering our request. We are eager to discuss this proposal further and are available for any questions or additional information you may require. Your support could make a lasting difference in the lives of many, and we look forward to the possibility of working together towards a brighter, more nourished future for our community.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Edouard Atangana, PhD, STL
Pastor