



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Amy Aguiñaga
210-573-2847
wac@safnaz.org

West Avenue Compassion Choice Pantry Receives \$30,000 Expansion Grant from the San Antonio Area Foundation

San Antonio, TX (February 19, 2019) — West Avenue Compassion (WAC), a small nonprofit quietly serving the needs of the roughly 18% of San Antonio residents who strive below the poverty level, received a boost to their Choice Pantry program in late 2018: a \$30,000 grant from the John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation, a fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation. They have already begun to expand the program, which provides 40 pounds of fresh food like produce and meat to families each week, with vastly augmented cold storage capacity.

WAC, in partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank and others, provided over half a million pounds of food in 2018. An outgrowth of their weekly food pantry and senior food distributions, the Choice Pantry offers families a more traditional shopping experience worth scheduling in advance. Aided by surplus donations from local retailers and restaurants, volunteers create a store each week from which clients select fresh food best suited to their families' cultural and health needs using a point system at the checkout. The result is diminished waste and better nutrition across the community.

While her clients appreciate any assistance with food security, the Choice Pantry's appeal of nutrition with dignity and cultural accommodation increased its popularity beyond capacity quickly, explains WAC Director Amy Aguiñaga. "We're thrilled the Area Foundation has granted us the opportunity to scale beyond the fraction of all the families we serve participating in Choice, with appointments scheduled 4-6 weeks in advance; and can't wait to offer this

experience to more clients.” She welcomes San Antonians to share in the excitement, urging potential volunteers to visit the organization’s website.

“The goal of the San Antonio Area Foundation is to successfully fulfill the charitable goals of donors who want to ensure key community needs are being addressed. Our community advisory committee selected West Avenue Compassion because of the organization’s successful program of feeding the hungry, and we are pleased to support their efforts,” said Rebecca “Becca” Brune, president and chief operating officer at the San Antonio Area Foundation.

About West Avenue Compassion

West Avenue Compassion, a 100% volunteer organization established in 2010 as a food pantry serving 13 families, has expanded to serve over 4,000 clients annually through varied programs including: Choice Pantry; Tuesday Food Distribution; two Senior Food Distributions; nutrition, health classes; Community Garden; and Job Listings/assistance. WAC has consistently been a model agency for the SA Food Bank, receiving five Golden Apple Awards since forming our partnership in late 2010. WAC will continue to add services in response to community need, next expanding to offer a Job/Education Center, job readiness clothing pantry, and GED/ESL classes to continue moving our community forward. Learn more, donate, or volunteer to join us at westavenuecompassion.com

About San Antonio Area Foundation

The San Antonio Area Foundation has served as the sole, designated community foundation for the San Antonio area for over half a century, growing to become one of the Top 20 foundations in the nation based on asset size. The Area Foundation helps donors achieve their charitable goals, managing more than 500 charitable funds approaching \$1 billion in assets. Coordinating efforts with numerous area nonprofits, the Area Foundation serves as a collaborative leader, connecting donors to address key community issues and investing in our future. Since 1964, over \$400 million for scholarships and grants have been awarded to enhance the quality of life in our region. Learn more about your community foundation at saafd.org

