



### Family Pantry Provides for Seniors in Need in City of Cerritos



"A big thank you to Karen and John Wilson for creating a food pantry in their home and ensuring that the senior citizens in their neighborhood don't go hungry during this pandemic. When they asked #TeamGarcia for help, we were more than happy to donate food and masks" posted by Cristina Garcia.

By Karen Wilson

Our Neighborhood in Cerritos has had a Coordinated Neighborhood Watch for approximately the last five years, which covers over 886 homes in our zone area.

Throughout the years, some of our block captains have been CERT trained and certified. It was during those times that we created an Emergency Preparedness Committee within our neighborhood for any type of natural disaster.

In February, the world was struck by Covid, and our world as we knew it has changed. So, our Emergency Preparedness Committee, in conversations due to social distancing, started the Cerritos Neighborhood Senior Food Pantry.

We deliver to any seniors in need in the City of Cerritos. All food items are donated. We take food to our seniors on a weekly basis and give our seniors enough food to last them the whole week.

We are now serving food to over 45 seniors, meaning

that, if there are two seniors living at one address, that is about 100 seniors we feed every week.

The pantry is growing as people let others in need know about us. We have a refrigerator/freezer in the garage strictly for the food.

We receive milk, eggs, fresh vegetables and fruits, along with meats such as hamburger meat, chicken legs, ground turkey, bacon, etc. We freeze them for when our seniors request it.

We also accept frozen TV dinners. We receive the Hormel Completes, which are sixty second microwavable entrees as well.

We get canned goods for our seniors such as tuna, chicken, beef stew, chunky soups, salmon, sardines, etc. We accept any canned foods that can be used as a meal



Tony Perez and Karen Wilson

and warmed in a microwave, as some of our seniors do not cook anymore.

We have seniors who are diabetic or have medical issues and we take that into consideration when we are requesting foods in our Senior Pantry group on Facebook.

We also receive: low or no sugar fruit cups and oatmeals, wheat pasta and low sodium foods. We also accept toilet paper and paper towels.

We talk to each senior before delivering foods and let them know what is in our pantry at that time so that they can choose their foods to ensure they are right for that person and will be eaten.

We all have worked together during our time of this Covid crisis to keep our seniors home and not have to worry about going out in the public for food.

Since we have started our senior pantry, we've had over 60 people donate, including our state senator Bob Archuleta's field representative Tony Perez, our Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia. About half of those people donate weekly or monthly, when they are doing their own shopping for their own families. We have various anonymous donations, also.

We would not have been able to help our seniors without the total team effort of our neighborhood Pantry.

If you know a senior in need or would like to donate to our Senior Pantry, you can do so by joining Our Cerritos Neighborhood Senior Food Pantry on Facebook or by messaging me: Karen Elfman Wilson, on FB messenger for information on where to drop off donations.

### Cerritos Mourns the Loss of City Councilmember and Former Mayor Jim Edwards



The City of Cerritos is deeply saddened to inform the community of the passing of City Councilmember and former Mayor Jim Edwards. Councilmember Edwards died peacefully at home surrounded by his family at 3:14 a.m. on Sunday, May 10. His death resulted from complications related to cancer.

Cerritos Mayor Naresh Solanki said: "Jim was a remarkably dedicated and inspiring leader who loved serving the City of Cerritos. He will be remembered for his tireless dedication, professionalism and concern for the community. He made

outstanding contributions to the betterment of the City of Cerritos as an elected official, volunteer, coach and teacher, and he is greatly missed. I am honored to have served with him and extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Connie, and their children and grandchildren."

Members of the community are welcome to place memorial tributes to Councilmember Edwards at the City of Cerritos Veterans Memorial located in the Cerritos Civic Center. Councilmember Edwards served in the United States Army, including a year in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Councilmember Edwards was elected to the Cerritos City Council in 2005, was re-elected in 2009, and served as Mayor of Cerritos from 2008 to 2009 and 2012 to 2013. He was re-elected to the City Council again in 2015 and in 2020. A Cerritos resident for more than 43 years, Councilmember Edwards previously

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### Bruce W. Barrows Appointed to Cerritos City Council



Bruce W. Barrows was unanimously appointed to the Cerritos City Council on May 28 to fill the vacant City Councilmember seat left after the recent passing of former City Councilmember Jim Edwards. On May 29, Barrows was sworn in by the Cerritos City Clerk/Elections Official

and officially assumed office as an appointed member of the Cerritos City Council according to the provisions of the Cerritos City Charter and the California Constitution. His term of office will expire on March 5, 2024.

"I am honored to have been appointed to fill the seat of my good friend and former Councilmember Jim Edwards," remarked Barrows. "Jim and I shared a love and passion for Cerritos, and I will continue to work to make this City the best that it can be."

Barrows was first elected to the Cerritos City Council in April 1994 and was re-elected in 1999. After sitting out due to term limits, Barrows was

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