



SPECIAL NOTICE:

Starting July 1st, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada will begin operation of Washoe County senior nutrition services, to include both home-delivered “Meals on Wheels” and congregate meals in our local senior centers.

Q: Why is this change taking place?

A: Due to the growing senior population and an increase in the need for senior meal services, Washoe County is seeking an opportunity to create long term sustainability of the senior nutrition program. By partnering with Catholic Charities, an established non-profit organization, we hope to reduce meal production costs while providing more meals to participants of the congregate and Meals on Wheels programs.

Q: What is Catholic Charities?

A: Known to many people simply as “St. Vincent’s,” Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN) is an independent, 501c3 non-profit organization that has been providing meals, clothing, shelter and other human services to local residents since 1941. They serve all people, regardless of race, religion, age or background. CCNN is very experienced in food production and service, and currently operates two large-scale food service programs. Combined, the St. Vincent’s Dining Room and the St. Vincent’s Food Pantry provide more than 425,000 each month to local men, women, children and seniors.

Q: Will I still get my daily meals?

A: Yes. There will be no interruption in service for Meals on Wheels clients or seniors who gather to eat at the congregate meal sites. In consultation with an on-staff dietician, Catholic Charities will continue providing delicious, nutritious meals to our clients using a prescribed list of essential nutrients that are proportional to the needs of seniors.

Q: Will I be charged to participate in the congregate or meals on wheels programs?

A: The congregate and Meals on Wheels programs are available to seniors or disabled individuals who meet the following eligibility requirements:

Home-delivered Meals on Wheels participants must be 60 years of age or older, homebound due to illness, disability or geographic isolation and unable to attend a congregate meal site.

Congregate meal participants must be 60 years of age or older, the spouse of an individual who is 60 years of age or older, a person with a disability who resides with an individual 60 years of age or older, or an individual of any age who provides volunteer services during congregate meal hours.



The suggested donation for program participants is \$2.00 per meal. Individuals under the age of 60 are invited to participate in the programs for a charge of \$4.00 per meal.

Q: Will my meals be different than before?

A: Yes, the recipes and menu cycles will change slightly when Catholic Charities takes over kitchen and delivery operations, but the changes will be positive. CCNN has been working very closely with and adopting the best practices of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, which provides more than 500,000 home-delivered meals each year to Las Vegas seniors. Our agency has a longstanding commitment to fighting hunger and improving nutrition for low-income and fixed-income residents, as well as nearly 75 years of experience with feeding people. Clients should not notice an immediate difference in their meal program until we have completed the transition and are able to begin improving meals and recipes based on client feedback and best practices. We plan to create a menu filled with healthy and tasty meals that are similar to the menu choices you are used to eating, but with improvements in taste and quality.

Q: Will the congregate meals be the same as the daily meal served at the St. Vincent's Dining Room off Fourth Street?

A: No. Much of the food used to prepare meals at St. Vincent's Dining Room comes from private donations from local restaurants, grocery stores and other local businesses. Congregate meals in our senior centers will be prepared using a pre-scheduled menu and ingredients purchased from an established food vendor. The menu items will be determined based on senior nutritional guidelines and a goal of serving clients a variety of delicious, quality food. Catholic Charities will be adding new menu items and exciting salad entrees to the senior nutrition menu.

Q: Will my delivery days change?

A: Due to potential for growth in the number of home-delivered meals, there may be changes to the delivery days and times for home-bound seniors. Catholic Charities and Washoe County are working together to make the transition as seamless as possible, and will notify clients in writing and by telephone of any changes in their delivery schedule.

Q: Will there be new kitchen staff and drivers also?

A: The majority of the current staff will continue providing your daily meals and deliveries, although you may see new faces. The experience and expertise of Catholic Charities allows for the potential to provide more than just a daily meal to seniors. As Catholic Charities becomes acquainted with seniors who participate in the Meals on Wheels and congregate meal programs, they plan to extend some additional programs to seniors, such as haircuts, free pet food and additional services on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Who can I call if I have questions?

A: If you have additional questions, please call: 775-328-2575.