



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What will the hours of the pantry be?

Sunny Side Market is scheduled to be open three days a week. The days include Monday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Thursday 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.; and Saturday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. We will monitor the hours as we evolve and will keep the neighborhood posted.

Q: Will there be limits to how often someone can visit the food pantry?

Neighbors will be able to visit the pantry once per week on any of the three days.

Q: How much food can a person get each week?

We have not defined limits just yet. We are evaluating how much food is going to fit into the market and doing our best to project the number of neighbors we can expect to serve. When we do establish the amount of food per neighbor, we will do so with fairness and equity at the forefront of our process.

This is Care and Share's first direct service Food Pantry so there will be trial and adjustments as we proceed. We visited and researched other well-respected pantries and we are starting with what we observed as best practice. We also recognize that what works in other communities might not work for East Pueblo. We will learn along the way, and we are excited to find what's right for the East Side Community.

Serving our neighbors is a balance between having enough without creating waste. As we open, we will be mindful of stocking enough food, however we are asking for a lot of grace as we get established and find the right balance. We appreciate the community's support in this process.

Q: Are there income guidelines?

In general, neighbors just need to come to Sunny Side Market and tell us that they are in need of food. We want the experience to be as easy as possible. We believe no one should go hungry and we want to make sure we provide a dignified experience for everyone who comes to Sunny Side Market.

The major exception would be if we are supplying neighbors with food through a USDA program. USDA programs require some self-declared income information in order to be eligible. Again, we will do everything we can to make the process as easy as possible.

Q: How will parking be provided?

There will be parking spots available west of the building, and throughout the neighborhood.

Are you located on a bus route?

Yes, the bus stops right across the street from the pantry on 8th street.

Q: How often are you planning on restocking the pantry and are the volunteers trained?

Restocking will happen based on demand. We will be able to access food from our Pueblo Distribution Center which is about 9 miles away. The Sunny Side Market will be able to place orders and pick up food regularly from the Distribution Center, just like our current partner agencies.

Volunteers will be trained by our Pantry Manager Jamey Farley in various positions throughout the pantry.

Q: Can anyone go to the pantry even if they do not live in the neighborhood?

Yes, Sunny Side Market will serve anyone who lives in Pueblo County. We will be asking for names and addresses but no other identification will be needed. We will welcome anyone who needs food.

Q: Are there any plans for delivery service?

No.

Q: Will there be staples like salt, pepper sugar etc.?

Much of the food provided by Care and Share is based in donations so we offer what has been gifted to the organization. If we can get access to those items, we will offer them.

Q: Can you share names and models of other pantries like this one that can be researched?

Anyone is welcome to email us at sunnysidemarket@careandshare.org for more information on other models and pantries we researched.

Q: Will you continue with the Friday Mobile Food Pantry once when the Food Pantry opens?

No. We believe Sunny Side Market will fill the need and offer greater access for the neighbors who have attended the Friday Mobile Food Pantry.

Q: How can community partners support the new market?

One of the best ways to help support our new Sunny Side Market is by spreading the word – helping us find [volunteers](#) and letting neighbors know about this new resource.

Q: Can donations be brought directly to the Food Pantry?

Financial donations can be made through our [website](#) or mailed to our Pueblo Distribution Center located at 100 Greenhorn Drive, Pueblo 81004.

We can accept produce and food donations directly at Sunny Side Market.

Q: Can local growers contribute, and would they need to follow the same process for donations?

Absolutely. If you are a local producer who wants to donate directly to Care and Share, please contact our resource manager, Jason Feld, at 719-434-4688 or by emailing Jason@careandshare.org.

Q: Will you be making improvements to the building's exterior?

Yes, we will be working on renovating the building between August and December. Most of the improvements will take place inside; however, we will be adding an awning and changing out some windows and doors. The building's exterior will also be painted.

Q: How is the fundraising going?

Fundraising for the Sunny Side Market is well underway but there is still plenty of opportunity to provide support. If you would like to be part of making this exciting project come to life, you can visit careandshare.org/donate to make a donation today or contact our Development team at Development@careandshare.org.

Q: How is Sunny Side Market funded overall?

Most of our work is funded through philanthropic donations. In Pueblo, we are delighted to also receive support from CSAC and the City of Pueblo.

Q: Where did the name Sunny Side Market come from?

We crowdsourced names from our staff and senior volunteers who offered numerous and diverse suggestions. Among the throng, Sunny Side really struck a chord for the team. We know hunger is hard. Neighbors in need sometimes do not know where their next meal is going to come from, so we want the name to be positive and optimistic.

This is the first of what we hope to be several Care and Share Food Pantries across our service area in locations where access to nutritious food doesn't consistently exist. All the pantries will share the name Sunny Side Market.

Q: Will there be any kind of a guest area with coffee, cookies, donuts, refreshments? A community area?

Our current capacity does not lend itself to this concept right now.

We want to make sure there is plenty of space for food. That is our top priority.

Down the road, we could see ourselves offering Cooking Matters classes, SNAP applications, and partnering with other organizations in the community. This isn't something we plan to do in the immediate future, but we have big plans for how we can grow moving forward.

Q: Will volunteers accompany residents through the Sunny Side Market?

If neighbors need help, we will be sure there is volunteer support to provide assistance.

Q: Will the building be ADA compliant?

Yes.

If you have any additional questions, please email sunnysidemarket@careandshare.org.