

# Alliance Aims to Keep Food Pantries Filled Year Round

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A decommissioned rice dryer in Pearland is still being used for the task it was built for – providing food for the hungry.

The current tenants of the rice dryer at 4401 Rice Dryer Road, Christian Alliances for Humanitarian Aid, have converted it into a food bank which has provided 28 million pounds of food, water, clothing, medicine and medical equipment to people in need in 26 countries since March of 1998.

The food is donated by various corporations, non-profit organizations and 300 churches.

“We will work with anyone as long as they are doing good work,” said Greg Hucker, Christian Alliance coordinator of church relations.

A pair of natural disasters, Hurricane Mitch, and flooding in Venezuela brought international exposure for the organization.

According to Hucker, after those two disasters some people thought that they were not focused on relief efforts closer to home.

“We are trying to put more focus on the greater Houston area,” Hucker said.

Most recently, a truckload of canned foods and bananas was given to the Pearland Neighborhood Center as well as food banks in Alvin and Galveston.

Christian Alliance has 60,000 square feet of warehouse space full of food and other supplies waiting to be distributed to the hungry.

“We’re trying to get the word out that we have food available here,” Hucker said.

Aside from Christian Alliance’s food bank, the organization also refurbishes 40-foot-long shipping containers into self-contained medical clinics, which are shipped across the world.

“Instead of going in like the arrogant Americans telling people what we think they need, we find out the needs and custom build the trailers to meet those needs,” Hucker said.

The supplies for the trailer medical labs are all donated and the transformation process from trailer to clinic usually takes about a month.

Each of the labs is self-contained with electricity and running water.

Currently, Christian Alliance has a surgical trailer and laser equipped trailer awaiting shipment.

The laser trailer is being sent to El Salvador will it will be used to remove tattoos from former gang members.

“The gangs in El Salvador put tattoos all over the face and necks of its members. They are basically marked as gang members for life even after they leave the gang,” Hucker said. “This trailer will allow former gang members a chance at a normal life.”

According to Hucker, the largest cost incurred with the trailer to clinic process is shipping the clinics to the various locations where they will be used.

Although Christian Alliance is busy sending food to various organizations, according to Hucker, they are not any busier now than at other times during the year.

“There is a lot of emphasis put on feeding hungry people around Christmas,” Hucker said. “People are still hungry in February and March. We want to feed hungry people year-round. That is what we do.”

For more information on Christian Alliance for Humanitarian Aid, call (281) 412-2285.