



OUR FATHER'S HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

Issue 30-1

A non-denominational ministry serving people in need



From the President

Is This a Stress Test?

It is just a little after 8am when I open the pantry door leading to the rear parking lot. I immediately see a precious and beautiful 2-year old girl walking toward me shaking and afraid. A few short steps away is her grandmother.

I know it's bad. I don't say a word but gently lead the grandmother and child to our clothing boutique next door. I learn the child's mother was sent to prison over the weekend and this sweet young lady had nothing other than what was on her tiny little back because the police were not allowing them into her home.

Holding my tears at bay and a little cough to clear my throat, I tell the little girl, "Your mommy left all these pretty clothes here for you to pick up".

As things so often happen around here, Polly Sheehan from the Fort Lauderdale Children's Aid club had been here on Friday with a load of much-needed supplies they bring each and every month. Their donations usually include diapers and baby wipes. This particular load, however, had also included bags of new children's clothing so it was "Christmas Morning" for this little one.

Along with the many church organizations, schools, civic groups, clubs, synagogues, etc. that make this ministry a haven for those in need, we thank God daily for the small role I am able to perform. Stress? Yes, but it's stories like this and all the generous and unselfish help that make it a true blessing.

Thank YOU for what you do for us!

Katie Crissy



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"ofhsoupkitchen"



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Mailing: PO BOX 668571
Pompano Beach, FL 33066
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www.ofhsoupkitchen.org

Hot Lunches
Monday - Friday 11:30 to
1:00



Reverend Dalton 1945 - 2018

The Reverend Bryan J. Dalton

In the 25+ years of coming to this kitchen, most have been positive and rewarding. We've never considered it anything other than a blessing.

Then one experiences THAT day - the one you did not want to face.

Our grandson attends Saint Ambrose Catholic School in Deerfield Beach. Since they know of our involvement helping the homeless, we are often asked to pick up donated clothing at the church.

Since we were directed to the rear door of the rectory, Katie said "I hope this is not what I think it is?" Yes, it was Father Dalton's clothes. He had passed away recently.

Carefully, Jim put into the van the eleven bags of clothing along with seven "over the arm" piles of sports jackets and dress shirts.

This was 35 years of clothing Father Dalton had collected from his years of service at Saint Ambrose so in her heart, Katie knew they needed to go someplace special. She instructed our staff to put them in the second floor storage room and immediately called one of our "special angel" volunteers Jackie whose son Matthew is a priest. "What is his size?", Katie asked. Jackie tells Katie who starts checking labels and of course, they were the same size!

Young priest Father Matthew is a graduate of our local Cardinal Gibbons High School and presently serving as pastor of a rural parish church in the sugar cane area of Belle Glade, Florida.

Father Dalton is still among us sporting his casual look via Father Matthew DeGance at St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church.

All is good in Leitrim, Ireland, Deerfield Beach, and Belle Glade! --- *Jim and Katie Crissy*



St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church



Where do the Clothes Go?

Recently two members of the Exchange Club of Pompano Beach, Louis and Kyle, dropped by for a visit. While Jim was chatting with them, Katie was helping a young man who had his clothes stolen while taking a shower in one of the nearby shelters. She was appalled to see the gentleman in his underwear but unfortunately we had no pants in his size to give him.

Thank goodness, Louis and Kyle were also unloading a large load of gently-used clothing which included size 34 pants (very high demand) and shoes so before they left they were able to experience first hand what their donation provided. The transformation from nearly naked to well-dressed was priceless! Louis smiled and said, "I often wondered what happens to clothes I donate and now I know".

A New Smile!!!



Thanks to Dr. Sean E. Yockus, DMD and his lovely staff we

were able to provide one of our own valuable staff members with some fairly major dental work. This is a major problem among the homeless.

It's great stories like this and such amazing professionals that make our efforts worthwhile.

The gift basket was to show our appreciation.

The Story of Eric's Shoes

Born out of an unspeakable tragedy, "Eric's Shoes" has been a memorial to an outstanding young man's way too early death.

Eric was turning into his school's parking lot when his car was hit by a driver going over a hundred miles per hour. His life was cut short that day but not his memory.

Eric's father has chosen to memorialize his son by making a sizable donation to help the homeless. Sharing a close friend's story that was told at Eric's funeral service in Boca Raton, it seems Eric was known to suddenly stop the car, open the trunk and then pull out a new pair of shoes to give to a homeless person on the side of the road and had been doing it for a couple of years.

Eric senior never knew this about his son and with tears streaming down his face, vowed to continue his legacy. He had always wondered why his son always needed money to buy a new pair of shoes. Now he understood.



Calvary Chapel and Publix bring Christmas to the Kitchen in May



We love the month of May. This is the time of year that we often get a call from our good friends Calvary Chapel of Fort Lauderdale to get ready for their semi-annual food pickup and distribution in conjunction with Publix.



This means that we have to either rent or beg for a large truck in order to pick up pallets of non-perishable food items such as canned goods, mashed potatoes, etc.

Our generous and friendly friends from Ferguson Plumbing and specifically Andy Crowe and Kim Horn are able to help out with their 40-foot flatbed truck and driver for the short drive from Calvary Chapel.

The driver met us there and helped load the 7-10 pallets which are part of the Publix Food Donation program called "Helping Thy Neighbor". Then, back at the kitchen, we enlist the help of ten to fourteen of our homeless to help unload and stack for use later in either the food pantry or in the daily food preparation.



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Edible Extras Closes



Michelle, Jim, Gary, Sam and Toney

Nine years and more than a million dollars worth of food items donated to the homeless of Our Father's House Soup Kitchen has come to an end.

Jim with his associate, Toney, made this food pickup 52 weeks a year for several years. Our board member, Patty Garitty was instrumental in working with this ministry by helping with their web site.

Michelle and Gary Musselman both retired from Publix supermarkets and focused their energies

on Edible Extras whose main purpose was to provide normally-discarded food and supplies to almost twenty local churches and food ministries. Two refrigerated trucks with lifts were on the road daily picking up from places like Lucky's, Publix and Fresh Market to name a few.

In addition to all that we received, they also made a generous cash donation and gifted us one of their gently used commercial freezers.

How can we possibly thank Edible Extras for their acts of kindness? We simply don't have enough descriptive adjectives. Just know that God will have a very special seat set at His dining table for Michelle, Gary and their great group of volunteers and supporters.



A Man and His Dog - the Walk-In Miracle

Jim is in his office late one Tuesday afternoon figuring out which bills to pay when the phone rings. The voice on the other end asked if he will be there much longer and Jim tells him he will be there for another hour or so.

Within the hour, a car pulls up to the rear of the building and out jumps a beautiful Irish Setter and Father Liam Quinn, Pastor of Saint Gabriel's Catholic Church on A1A in Pompano Beach.

Father looks around the shelter and says he has heard a lot of good things about us and thought we could use a little help.

His definition of a "little help" was a generous five-figure check made out to "Our Father's House Family Services".

Jim nearly passed out from the shock and the only reply he could muster up was "THANK YOU! You don't know what you just did for so many!"



Full Circle...



Jim, Katie and Marie

It started around the Sunday afternoon dinner table when Jim Crissy (the 3rd) was a sixteen-year-old at Pinecrest High School in Fort Lauderdale. His grandfather told a story about one of our regular guests. He asked "Pop-pop, what do you

mean when you said he went to Gulliver Prep and Duke University and now he has a regular seat for lunch every day at the soup kitchen?"

To satisfy his own curiosity as to how someone with that much intelligence and opportunity ended up living on the streets, young Jim took it upon himself to meet this person and interview him for several days. He later used those notes and that special connection as the basis for his college application with the theme of "The life of a homeless person - looking at one's own life from the inside looking out".

With that perspective and all his other credentials and achievements, Jim was awarded early admission to a very prestigious Ivy league college, completed his undergraduate degree and is now on his way to graduate school.

While on his most recent break, Jim returned to volunteer at the kitchen where it all started. This time he brought his good friend and law student, Marie Louvet who also volunteers helping the homeless in her home city of Paris. Pictured are Jim and Marie helping to serve a hot meal along with his grandmother Katie.



Congratulations Knights of Columbus Family of the Year

Our own Jim and Katie Crissy were honored recently for their dedication toward helping those in need. Way to go!!!





Shirt Off My Back? No - Hat Off My Head!

One of our younger volunteers and a senior in college, was working at our clothing boutique and was asked by one of our homeless guests for a hat.

She could see that his head was heavily sunburned and really needed protection but unfortunately we had nothing to offer.

So what does she do?

This compassionate young woman then took off her own favorite cap and asked another volunteer to take it out and give it to him.

When asked why she did this, she simply said "*I can always buy another cap but he can't*".

God bless the younger generation - our future is in good hands!

So What Does the Our Father's House Kitchen Need?

Needless to say, we are always short on cash. If you are reading this and are either already a donor or are thinking about it. Here are just a few ways your donation will be used.

First of all, we are funded solely on private donations - Your donations!

We are in need of a NEW KITCHEN. Our last "new" item was a commercial ice maker by Deacon Bill and his lovely wife Karen of St. Gabriel Catholic Church on A1A in Pompano Beach. With this we supply an estimated 8,000 refreshing cups of ice each month.

For the kitchen, we need:

- New multi-unit oven. Our aging gas oven has been a work-horse but we've been having some issues that are getting more and more expensive and difficult to resolve.
- Walk-in freezer and refrigerator (our current units are over twenty-five years old)
- New Prep tables
- Dishwashing equipment upgrades

Our conservative estimate for what is needed is \$29,000 to \$35,000.



CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

"Some days you have to create your own sunshine."

Mark Your Calendars for the annual 'One Door East Dinner to Benefit the Kitchen' on Monday, October 14th. Please visit our website at ofhsoupkitchen.org for upcoming details and ticket purchases.

Your Donations Also Go To ...

- ♥ A lady living in automobile and needs to go to the hospital for surgery. We helped pay for a motel room until she was able to be on her own. She had no one else. YOU are her only family.
- ♥ Numerous guests have extremely poor eyesight or are considered legally blind so we work with a local optician for prescriptions and glasses.
- ♥ By registering with Broward County, we are able to purchase bus passes at a 50% discount. Hundreds are distributed to our homeless patrons.
- ♥ On a case-by-case basis we are able to work with a local dentist for emergency dental care.
- ♥ We have paid for transportation for abused women to seek shelter.
- ♥ In conjunction with Respect Life, we will provide assistance to young mothers and mothers-to-be.
- ♥ A young father came to our door with a problem - the hospital would not release his newborn unless he had a car seat. We were able to provide one. This came from YOU.
- ♥ OSHA requires steel-toed boots for construction work and other heavy labor. Because of YOU we are able to supply 10-15 pairs per month for those we are able to verify as a legitimate need.
- ♥ We either buy or have donated many, many hygiene items such as underwear, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.
- ♥ This happens all too often but YOUR donations will sometime buy a tank of gas for a young family living in their car.



The list goes on and on and we invite each and every one of you to come visit and see first-hand what you are doing with your donations.



Compassion Comes from One of Law Enforcement's Finest

An elderly, homeless lady is living in her car and parks in front of our building at 7am every day. This is after she has spent the night in the Walmart parking lot.

Our patrolling officer tapped on her car window to check and make sure she was okay.

Immediately recognizing her situation, he told her to follow him and they drove to the nearest service station where he used \$40 of his own money to fill up her tank.

To the truly good police officers in the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) of Pompano Beach, we say THANK YOU!!!

Our Father's House Soup Kitchen
PO BOX 668571
Pompano Beach, FL 33066-8571

Return Service Requested

Mission Statement

Our Father's House Soup Kitchen, Inc. , a charitable tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization located in Pompano Beach, FL is dedicated to feeding the homeless and needy with respect and without discrimination. The primary mission is to provide hot lunches Monday through Friday in a peaceful and sheltered Christian environment and to provide other emergency food pantry items and clothing assistance on an as-needed basis. The overall goal is to provide nutrition and hope to give guests a hand up rather than a hand out.

*"Somewhere along the way, we must learn that there is
nothing greater than to do something for others."
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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