



OUR FATHER'S HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

Issue 31-1

A non-denominational ministry serving people in need



From the President

I'm smiling at the same time I have a tear in my eye as I look at this picture of my mother Eleanor and me from 1992 preparing to serve the homeless at the kitchen.

After twenty-seven years of my blessed association as a volunteer and with the last seven of those years as the Program Director, God has tapped me on the shoulder in many different and unexpected ways.

Did Jim and I think we would be doing this at our stage of life? Definitely No. We had retired and

moved east to the "sandbox" to play and relax but Jim pointed out that it seemed the Man Upstairs had another plan.

When I formally signed on to this position, little did Jim or I realize what challenges were ahead of us. Funds were so limited we could not even afford Christmas lights for the 4-foot plastic tree we found in the attic.

Fortunately Jim, my Irish optimist, said "Surround yourself with people a lot smarter than you" and it worked!

The plain and simple truth is that our Angels, the many wonderful volunteers, have made all the difference. In the past seven plus years we have made an amazing transformation and I want to thank each and every one of the volunteers, donors and all who have promoted this cause with their often simple "Acts of Kindness".

How many more years do we plan on doing this? How many more years of homeless mothers, children without a bed to sleep in or families coming to our back door seeking food after doing without for a couple of days? How many more years of our honored veterans coming to us because they have not received any benefits and are simply looking for a job and dignity? How Long? The day these problems are solved that's the day we can call it quits.

May God be with you all.

Katie Crissy

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"ofhsoupkitchen" or instagram
#ofhsoup



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Pompano Beach, FL 33069
Mailing: PO BOX 668571
Pompano Beach, FL 33066
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www.ofhsoupkitchen.org

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

Yes, We are Open!

You think old Georgie Custer had a bad day with the Lakota Indian boys just witness a day at our "kitchen" trying to feed those who have no other food source due to perpetual poverty or after having been laid off.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have requested all volunteers to shelter at home and are managing with our loyal staff including a few that have moved into the building.

Yes, we are still serving a hot meal plus a bagged meal to go and are on the road picking up donated food items six days a week.

From day one, we are distributing the meals though the front door for consumption outside using a method incorporating plexiglass screens, masks and gloves.

Every day we have witnessed more and more feeding programs closed such as the Salvation Army, etc. which means our demand is increasing. Many churches have suspended services



Toney, Liz and Dave serving take-out lunches

which means canned food drives have ceased. Our food pantry supplies are getting dangerously low but by the Grace of God this too shall pass

We are therefore asking everyone to please think of the less fortunate at the extremely challenging time. We are in desperate need of money to help the 4,000+ that come to our doors each month. We receive no federal or state funding - only your donations.

In 1929, during the Great Depression, the song was "Hey Buddy Could You Spare a Dime". It's now 2020 and it still applies.

For a \$5,000 donation, we will have a beautiful stained glass window made for you in and hung in our chapel. Plus your gift will feed 1,650 homeless!

A \$1,000 donation will feed 335. \$500 will help 167, etc.

100% of all income, expenses and all bank statements are reported directly to our CPA for review and compliance monthly.



Jim Crissy is ready to help

them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.

This should last a day or two ...

We received this wonderful gift that will be put to use immediately to refresh the 175 to 200 who come to our door during these hot Florida days. .

From Isaiah 49:10 - *He who has compassion on*



"Old Greenie" to Rust Heaven

After 26 years and 210,000 miles as a family van, vacation hauler, moving van, kids' college van, then being donated to us for our daily food pickups, Greenie has earned her retirement.

She has been used by us 6 days a week to pick up everything from food and clothing to building materials as well as sometimes being used to help those in need to get medical help. We shall miss her and of course, that means ***We Need a Replacement...***



Ferguson to the Rescue!

We get a call from Tim Young at Calvary Chapel in Fort Lauderdale to let us know that they have pallets of non-perishable foods that we can pick up. Unfortunately, we do not own a large enough truck so we ask our good friends from Ferguson for help.



Ferguson has been a huge local supporter and Kim Horn and Andy Crowe and their families have been so wonderful donating their time and talents where needed. In this case, it was the use of a forty-foot flatbed truck along with a driver to also help with the unloading process.

In addition, the good folks at Ferguson, upon learning about one of our specific needs, donated 300 military-quality plastic serving trays to be used in lunch service once we install our commercial dishwasher.

THEY ARE THE BEST!

Sneakers and Much More from Pine Crest School



So many people are surprised at how many shoes we give out each and every day. It is one of our most requested items and also one of our most difficult to obtain.

That is why the arrival from fifteen enthusiastic and good-hearted students from Pine Crest School of Fort Lauderdale was especially welcome. Along with their two adult chaperons, they arrived early in the morning bringing us a huge assortment of footwear and a can-do attitude to help where needed. We put them to work sorting and marking cans and other food items for our pantry as well as of course sorting and putting away all of the new shoes.

And if that wasn't enough, one of the students noticed something missing from our small chapel and provided us with a beautiful menorah to include on our altar.

This is Your Kitchen and Chapel Ready to Celebrate the Birth of Baby Jesus

We were lucky and blessed with a happy and peaceful holiday season this past year thanks to a visit from "Santa" and the joy of giving out donated toys and gifts to those in need. Thank you to all who contributed.



Bev Capasso, Stefani Green and Katie Crissy with "Santa" and his reindeer in the dining room



The Chapel decked out for the holidays

Where's the Beef?

Dear Friends of Our Father's House Soup Kitchen and Family Services,

For more than nine years we were blessed with twice a week meat donations from a non-profit in Coral Springs who closed their doors a year ago. According to our CPA those donations were estimated to be approximately \$252,000 worth of "Gifts in Kind" annually.



Needless to say, it is almost impossible to replace this quantity on our limited budget and still maintain a good quality and nutritious meal for the less fortunate.

WE ARE IN NEED OF MEAT PRODUCTS!

If you could please help us just once a month with ground beef for the thousands we feed each month with at least 50 pounds it would be most appreciated. No need to deliver. We would be thrilled to pick it up. All we need is a phone call, email or contact us via our contact form on our website ofhsoupkitchen.org.

God Bless and Thank you,

Jim Crissy, Director jfcrissy@aol.com 954-610-5341



Pictured here are Jessica, Stefani and Beverly with our amazing cook Doug.

Now We're Cooking!

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Jessica Eisenfelder, Stefani Green, Beverly Capasso and Allison Fiedel we were finally able to replace our ancient, problematic and increasingly unreliable commercial range. A centerpiece of our daily workflow in preparing nutritious, hot and delicious meals, this new commercial range is a huge upgrade. These ladies can't be thanked enough.

Their work in organizing and hosting a very successful fundraiser last October at the exclusive One Door East Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale was a huge success. We will be

using even more of those funds to soon start upgrading to a commercial dishwasher and sanitizing area.



Christine Enjoying Her Favorite Spot at the Kitchen

An Irish Send-off



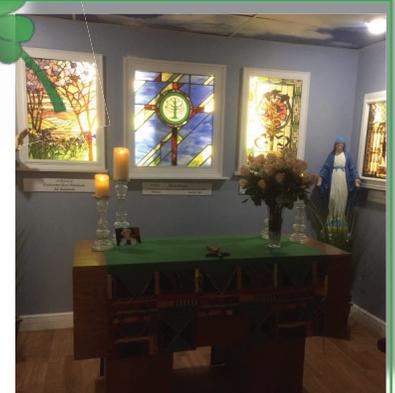
It's with a very sad heart that we had to unexpectedly say goodbye to a wonderful lady, Christine Becker, who lost her life on March 3rd at the age of 77.

Christine was honored with a memorial service, graciously hosted by Father Tony Mulderry and attended by many of Christine's friends.

Christine had always felt at home at Our Father's House Soup Kitchen and enjoyed chatting with her special friends while enjoying her main meal of the day - always at her favorite spot right by the main entrance.

Christine felt her life had a special purpose when Katie asked her to be in charge of the "Hygiene Supply Room" and she approached that responsibility with an enthusiastic zeal. The room has since been dedicated in her memory.

We would like to thank not only Father Tony for his service but that of several of our very compassionate volunteers who helped make this possible. Most touching was the bouquet of pink roses for the altar which was Christine's favorite.



Chapel Altar With Christine's Favorite Pink Roses



The Hygiene Room is now named after Christine



Katie with Andy and Jill

Our "Angel" Scout

84 YEARS IN THE "BOY SCOUTS" AND STILL GOING STRONG!

Since the age of 7, Andy has been in all phases of the Boy Scouts.

In the most recent years, he would command a division of mentally challenged young scouts and take them camping on the weekends.

At 91 years young, Andy still gets up every morning at 3:30 for a 3-mile walk and from there works out at a local gym then it's back home for a hearty breakfast and then off to work. Yes, even at age 91!

A fixture at Saint Gabriel Catholic Church, Andy still runs the Sunday pancake breakfast starting at 6am.

On Friday of each week, 52 weeks a year at approximately 7:30am, Andy and Jill pull up to our rear gate to deliver the breads, pastries and cakes from the Publix Supermarket that we serve to the homeless for that day.

The secret to a long, productive and happy life? --- You just read it!

Help to Belle Glade

Located less than 70 miles from the kitchen, Belle Glade is a community of over 19,000 souls with the highest poverty rate in the state.

Father Matthew DeGance, a Cardinal Gibbons High School graduate and Pastor of Saint Philip Benizi Catholic Church in Belle Glade has been working with us so we can share some of our donated items to those in need within that community and we are so thankful to be able to help whenever possible. His parish consists of many migrant farm workers and their families with limited resources..



Father DeGance with mom Jackie

Father Matthew is following the role model set by his parents. His mother Jackie is one of regular volunteers willing to help no matter what the task. She is here beginning at 8am 4 days a week. His father Joe, a retired attorney, spends much of his spare time teaching bible study at the federal prison in Homestead, FL.

Just a few facts about Belle Glade according to a 2019 Wall Street Journal Report

- Median Household Income is \$25,873 (state: \$50,883)
- Poverty rate is 39.1% (state: 15.5%)
- Median home value is \$111,400 (state: \$178,000)
- One in four households earn less than \$10,000 a year compared to just 7.2% of households across the state as a whole.





Pictured from the Knights of Columbus #4955 are PGK Bill Whiting, PGK Don Macejko, Robert McCormick, Guy DeJohn, PGK Miguel Dorante, Matt Flynn, PG Kyle Rybel

able benches. This along with some more large patio umbrellas being installed for shade and rain protection will allow all to spread out a little and still dine in relative comfort.

So to the Knights of Columbus, Chapter #4955 of St. Gabriel's Catholic Church in Pompano Beach, FL we give you our biggest thank you!

Knights Build Benches

COVID-19 has not slowed down the feeding program at Our Father's House. Our program director, Katie Crissy, has worked extra hard alongside our wonderful staff to rearrange and change our whole work flow and service to:

Outside Dining Only

One of our necessary pieces to this change required increased and comfortable outside dining so all it took was one email from Jim Crissy to PGK Bill Whiting and within an hour, Bill had made a few phone calls and promised that we would have new benches the upcoming Saturday delivered right to our premises.

The 150-200 guests that come daily, 52 weeks a year for a hot meal and a bag lunch to go are now treated to these newly constructed and comfortable



Reaching Out to All Our Friends

Do you know anyone who has access to scrap metal from the fishing industry? Maybe some old knows, metal pipes or scraps of any kind?

We employ disabled veterans who are very mechanically talented and use the scraps to make items for resale. Some of these artists are former welders and in particular make one kind of lamp which we are willing to put on our web site for purchase.

If not specifically from the fishing industry, we are interested in pretty much any type of used metal from trades such as plumbing, fire sprinklers etc.

We're Heading for the Guinness Record for Sandwiches

Every Friday, the wonderful people from St. Paul's Catholic Church in Lighthouse Point Florida deliver hundreds of freshly-prepared and high quality meat and peanut butter sandwiches to be given to our guests starting on the following Monday.

It's an often overlooked fact of our operation, but after the 5-course hot lunch is served, each guest is offered a bagged extra meal consisting of a sandwich of their choice plus some sort of sweet dessert and a bottle of water when available. Thank you to the Angel Volunteers of Saint Paul's!

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 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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