



# OUR FATHER'S HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

A non-denominational ministry serving people in need



*I wish I could say 2021 was an outstanding year and a fond memory, but truth be told, we were happy to see the clock strike midnight this past New Year's Eve.*

*Here it is May already and we pray daily that 2022 will be blessed with all the good things that will service our precious guests - hot meals, kind words and a blessed hour of peace from their harsh world. Our daily prayers are with all those experiencing the horrors of war in Ukraine as well.*

*On a more positive note, we are pleased to welcome all the volunteers and support from within our own community. Most recently, the kind folks from the Episcopal Church of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Martin in Coral Springs and Pompano Beach.*

*God's grace continues to shine on us as we have not had to close a day due to the dreaded and dangerous coronavirus. With no fundraisers since 2019, plus the extra challenge of the churches, schools and synagogues having limited activity, the question is often asked: how did this affect us financially?*

*All I can say is WOW! While not nearly as devastating, Jim and I more deeply understand what our parent's went through during the great depression of the 1930s and the true meaning of sacrifice can be seen here at the kitchen.*

*God did watch over us though and saw that the keys (with a little WD-40) still opened the doors on New Year's Day 2022. It's hard to believe this will be our 33rd year serving the community with hot lunches, clothing and many other important and vital services.*

*Thanks to all of you reading this newsletter. Your 'Acts of Kindness' will allow each of these things to happen and remember...*

*"The great pleasure in life is doing what people say cannot be done." ~ Walter Bagehot*

God Bless,

*Katie Crissy*



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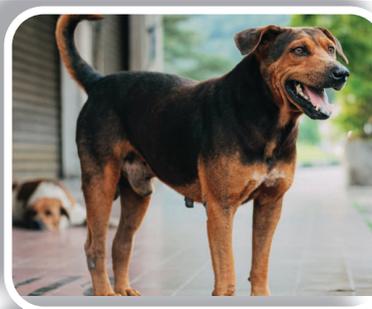


Our Father's House Soup Kitchen, Inc.  
Location: 2380 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Pompano Beach, FL 33069  
Mailing: PO BOX 668571  
Pompano Beach, FL 33066  
954-968-7550  
www.ofhsoupkitchen.org

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



Just a little gasoline for their car and a bag of food for the family. Day after day this is the scene in the rear parking lot. Many of your donations go directly toward helping out families just like these.



## Dogs and Cats

Thanks to the Pet Supermarket and Ramblewood Animal Hospital, both in Coral Springs, we have numerous animal food items to give to our homeless that live with their furry friends.

To many, these precious animals are their family and provide not only much-needed companionship but protection as well.

## “Christmas Tree Mike” aka “Bicycle Mike”



Every year for the past 12 years, “Bicycle Mike” would put up our two Christmas trees and decorate them with bulbs, tinsel, etc. We always put up one in the main dining area as well as our chapel.

Mike loved doing this and wouldn’t allow anyone to help

him. This was HIS Christmas since he didn’t have a place to decorate his own tree.

Tragically, just a couple of weeks before this past Christmas, Mike was struck and killed on his bicycle just a few blocks from our building. We miss him each and every day. God Bless You Mike.



## The Salad Gang

Beginning at 8am sharp on Tuesday and Wednesday each week, we watch a dedicated group of five amazing volunteers chop tomatoes, shred lettuce and whip up the salad dressing to create a healthy, fresh and nutritious side dish for our 175 lunch diners.



Pictured above with Katie from left to right are Nicole (long-time staff member), Jack, Father Tom, Father Bob of Boston, Lily and Jackie. Thank you for your service!



**Katie Crissy accepts a \$500 check from St. MM&M members Debbie Teate and Carolyn Allen**

## Quilting For a Good Cause!

Carolyn Allen and a talented group of quilters from The Episcopal Church of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Martin in Coral Springs and Pompano Beach, made a quilt and auctioned it off with the proceeds to benefit our charity. Thank you to all who participated and what a great way to use your God-given talents!

We have been further blessed with other members of this church volunteering on a regular basis as well as providing meat sandwiches, water, chips, cookies, and clothes as well as helping with the daily lunch service.



## Who's Cold?

No, we are not getting ready for a winter expedition to scale Mount Kilimanjaro, but thanks to the “Acts of Kindness” at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale we would have been ready with plenty of blankets.

This is the second year in a row that Coach Witt and the members of the school’s track team organized a blanket drive for the less fortunate with this year collecting a whopping **940** blankets. Also, due to the massive humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, we were able to send quite a few over there as well. Way to go guys!

## Murphy’s Law Strikes Again



Of course, at 6:15 in the morning our cook notices a smell of leaking freon coming from our walk-in

freezer which holds the majority of our meat, etc. He immediately calls B’s Refrigeration and reaches the owner Steve.

Then, a miracle happens. Steve came right out and by 7:30 was diagnosing the problem and we were back in business by 8am ... the best Refrigeration and A/C Company in Broward County!

## Pie With Your Coffee?

St. Coleman’s Catholic Church in Pompano Beach donates 50-100 delicious pies to be enjoyed by our guests. Shown here are two of the St. Coleman members along with Katie, Jim and one of their grandsons Finn Crissy.



## Christmas Backpacks Galore

Thanks to Bev Capasso and many valuable community members, we were able to give out hundreds of backpacks to the homeless as Christmas presents. Each gender-specific pack contained brand new toiletry items, underwear, and a blanket. Shown are just some of the packs since we had them spread out through the chapel and dining area. Thank you to all the generous and hard-working people who not only donated the items but their time and talents. This is the true meaning of an “act of Kindness” - Thank You!!



## Helping Ukraine

We are all affected by the devastation happening overseas so when two young ladies, Tania and Heidi Dumke began collecting new blankets, medical supplies and food for the Ukrainian refugees, Katie and Jim were ready to help. Postal Worker, Mr. Mervin Berkley organized community donations and a shipping company to send collected items to Poland and Ukraine.



L to R: Heidi, Lexi, Mervin Berkley and Tania with the large boxes of blankets

Since we had received so many blankets from the Cardinal Gibbons track team this year, we were able to include 200 new blankets for the shipment. They were thrilled! Tania and Heidi are busy young ladies but manage time to help in the kitchen as well as collect hygiene items and put together kits for us to hand out.



## Hot Showers for the Homeless

Thanks to the kindness of Joe Markham and Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, we now have a donated decommissioned school bus to be converted into “mobile” free-standing hot shower units.

We strive to not only feed and clothe our guests, but are excited to add this additional basic necessity.

The City of Pompano Beach sponsored a mobile shower bus in 2017 to the tune of over \$100,000 but we are looking to not only provide showers but a laundry service as well for a cost of \$50K to \$70K.

Project schedule is a 6-8 month time frame and will require skilled workers such as plumbers, electricians, welders and hard-working volunteers.

We already have the facilities, clothing, towels, soaps , etc.

Do we need you? Of course funding is always a concern so if this is of interest to you, please consider donating.

Can you imagine not having access to a hot shower for a day, a week or maybe much longer?

***Yes, the things we take for granted, someone else is praying for.***



## Just Add Water

Ryland and Keegan, began the “Just Add Water Project” (JAWP) last year which is their way of helping the local homeless population. By collecting donated toiletries and using cash donations to purchase whatever else is needed, they were able to put together all of these bags for us to distribute and all we or the recipients have to do is “just add water”. Even though it started as just the two boys, they’ve since enlisted the help of classmates and friends to help their causes. Shown here L-R are Ryland, Presley, Isabella, Keegan and Peter.



## Knights of Columbus Erect Tent

The good folks from Saint Gabriel and the Knights of Columbus came to our rescue when they answered the call to help with assembling and erecting our new twelve-post 600 sq. ft. canvas tent to cover the outdoor dining area. We have previously been piecing together patio umbrellas for protection from the sun and rain.

The help in constructing this enormous tent was made up of Walt from the Knights of Coral Springs, Don Macejko, Kyle Riebell, John Yardley, Guy DeJohn, Kevin Harris, Anthony Brogna and Bill Whiting of the #4955 chapter.

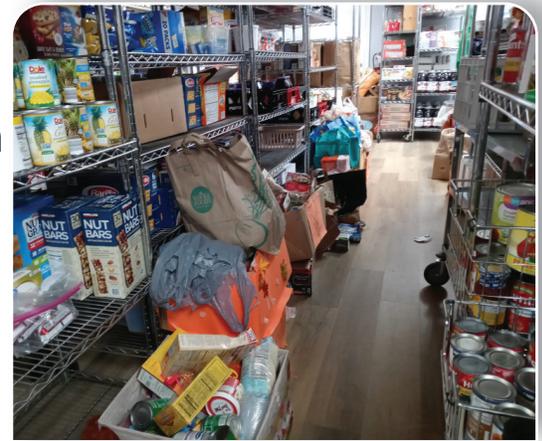
The Knights of Columbus answers the call of helping God's needy.

## Saint Jude's Catholic Church Hunger Program

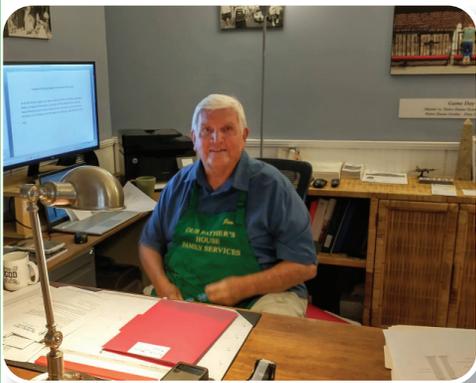
We are blessed to have Father John Horan and his church remember us this past Christmas season. Imagine all the less fortunate we are able to feed.

During the busy holiday season, we received a call from two of their members, Lisa and Mike, for us to come pick up food bags after their Sunday mass. Usually, we are thrilled to receive 30-40 bags but this year we needed not only our van but Jim and Katie's son Matt's truck. We estimate this was able to save us from having to purchase \$5,000 in food. So yes, we believe in Santa!

We are blessed with cash donations twice a year from this hunger program as well.



Our Overflowing Shelves at Christmas



## The Beggar's Corner

Katie's husband Jim can usually be found at his crude desk writing notes to donors, or running to a meeting to get the word out in the community about our services and future projects. He's also filling in running errands or picking up food donations

What are the current needs?

- Cash: As usual, after the flurry of the Christmas holidays, donations all but disappear but unfortunately the need does not. We are still buying food products, serving supplies, and paying utilities as well as providing monetary assistance to those in an emergency situation.

- Donated food items: Specifically, large cans of coffee, vegetables, to-go serving plates (9") from Dollar Tree.

- Money for our clients' bus passes, health supplies, etc.
- A volunteer for early morning bakery item pickups at the Publix in the Palm Lakes Plaza in Margate. We are asking for only one morning of your time. It's not a large quantity so no special vehicle is needed but must be picked up by 7:30. Call if interested. Thanks!



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.

*To give thanks in solitude is enough. Thanksgiving has wings  
and goes where it must go. Your prayer knows much more  
about it than you do. - Victor Hugo*

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