



# OUR FATHER'S HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

A non-denominational ministry serving people in need



Here it is Fall and on many days the heat outside remains unbearable for our homeless guests. The temperature at lunchtime is in the 95 degree range and very high humidity.

Under the tent in our outdoor dining area, the misting system we installed in an attempt to make it a little cooler, is working hard. We have two giant containers of ICE WATER and cups available for those waiting to be fed.

Even with these amenities, however, some of our guests waiting in line can get a little "testy".

By day's end, depending on the time of the month, 175-200 will be fed. I find that one of the most difficult parts of this feeding ministry is looking at some of these saddened and hardened faces and wonder - What happened? How did you come to this station of life? The stories I could write. No, make that a novel!

Just last week, I was forced to shelter a frail-looking young lady in her early 20's in our chapel as her life was being threatened by an ex-boyfriend who had just been released from prison. She had no place to go and no place for protection but God was watching and I was able to find her a temporary safe haven.

On my drive home, I sometimes think of Saint Teresa and would love to ask her how she cared for the "poorest of the poor, year after year".

Then, one evening I'm reading about Saint Teresa and there it was...

"You don't do this because it is easy."

With that said, to all you that donate, volunteer or give spiritual support to this cause, God will bless each of you for making life for the less fortunate a little easier, if only for an hour or so, due to your concern, generosity and kindness.

*To Each and All God Bless,*

*Katie Crissy*



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"ofhsoupkitchen" or instagram  
#ofhsoup



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](http://www.ofhsoupkitchen.org)

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

## THE FISHERMAN

It's 6:30am and Katie, in a slight panic, realizes that we have 300 pounds of freshly caught Florida Kingfish that needs to be cleaned and fileted.

A generous donor had dropped off a large container with the fish caught in a tournament. The only problem... none of us knew how to properly prepare them for cooking.

Several phone calls were made to no avail.

The next morning, however, Guy DeJohn, a retired General Contractor and Knights of Columbus member dropped off the Wednesday morning breads and pastries from Publix and when we asked if he might know someone his reply: "Yes, me!"

It took couple hours of hard work but what a treat for our "guests"!



## Clean Up on Aisle 2!

For our regular visitors, you will recognize Mark Wysznski (at the back and with a hat on). Mark is the one always enthusiastic and loving what he's doing no matter his current living situation.

We took him under our wing and put him to work from 8am to 1pm five days a week helping with the outside lunch crowd, and just generally doing

whatever was needed.

One day, Jim had noticed Mark cleaning up the parking lot at a local 7-11 and asked him if he would like to work at the kitchen as well. Mark still kept the 7-11 job as well as working for us.

Sadly, one day Mark shared that he was not feeling well so Katie took him to the hospital where he had surgery and was released a week later. Immediately after he was released, he walked across the street to a local store and fell unconscious and unfortunately never recovered.

One of the "good guys", God has him cleaning "Aisle #2" in Heavens Banquet Hall.





## Thank You Publix

Thanks to a very long relationship with Publix, we pick up from three different local stores six days a week. We estimate a savings of \$260,000 annually from these items alone.

Because of this, we were extremely pleased to have a visit from one of their corporate representatives John Kalis (shown here with Katie) so he could see how these items directly benefit those most in need. With their help, we will continue feeding over 100,000 meals yearly.

## Meet Tom - Crossing Guard and "Salad Man"

A retired member of the clergy, Tom continues to serve the community by working as a crossing guard at a local middle school. Shown here on the right, he also helps out here at the kitchen twice a week. On those days, you will see him starting bright and early doing whatever needs to be done. Here, Tom helps prepare the fresh salad needed for the 175-200 we will expect each and every day.







## Great Community Support

We want to thank the Broward Sheriffs Organization (BSO) for their recent cash donation through their Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETF). Shown here are Sheriff Gregory Tony, Jim Crissy and the BSO's Undersheriff Nichole Anderson. A special event was held to honor all the recipients.

Not only does BSO help us this way but their employees are always dropping by with food donations and offering helping hands. Though we try to minimize the need to call in law enforcement, we feel better knowing that this great group of professional men and women are protecting and supporting our community.



## OSHA Requires Steel Toe Work Boots

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to purchase new work boots 2 to 3 times a year. With these, we are able to remove at least one obstacle to those seeking and or maintaining employment where this is a condition for hiring. We take the precaution of contacting the prospective or current employer to verify the need.

Because of you, our supporters, we can document at least 250 former or current homeless who are able to be employed.

Jim is shown here with a recent \$1200 purchase.



## From “Our Father’s House” to the “Tiny House”



This speaks for itself. We have come full circle. God has asked that his precious people be fed, clothed, showered and sheltered. It has happened... Sheridan House, a non-profit established in 1968 has working mothers with

children that are living in their cars. We are in the process of converting school buses into “Tiny Homes”. Once completed, each home will go to the Sheridan House for placement at their very large piece of property in Davie, FL.

Pictured here is one close to being converted complete with A/C, shower, fully functional kitchen and room for sleeping five. We all know that housing is very expensive so imagine if you don't have enough income to even cover rent. In the meantime, Jim stumbled across what we hope is a workable solution to those who are working hard to provide for their families and put a solid roof over their heads.

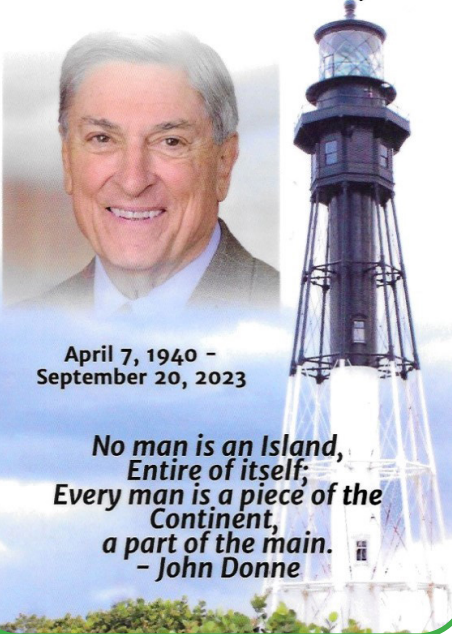
In July, we purchased two additional retired school buses adding to the one donated previously by Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale. That one is earmarked for food deliveries to the surrounding community on the weekends.

The additional buses are being painted, gutted and refitted to workable living spaces. The main target is working mothers with children.



## Frederick R. MacLean, Sr.

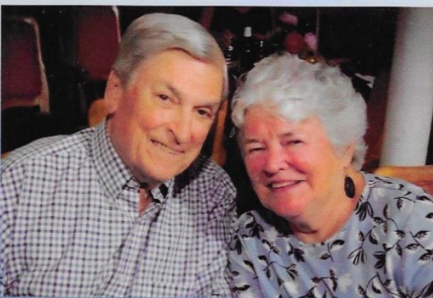
Frederick R. MacLean, Sr.



April 7, 1940 –  
September 20, 2023

*No man is an Island,  
Entire of itself;  
Every man is a piece of the  
Continent,  
a part of the main.  
– John Donne*

*To See a World in a Grain of Sand,  
And a Heaven in a Wildflower,  
To Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand,  
And Eternity in an hour.  
– William Blake*



*Your life was a blessing,  
your memory a treasure.*

Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather,  
Great-Grandfather & Friend

It is with deep sadness that all of us at Our Father's House mourn the passing of one of the "Best of the Best" that this feeding and clothing ministry has had the privilege of knowing.

"Big Fred", as he's known to his loving family, and his wife Sherry go back many years with the Crissy family.

Fred, in 1975 and just two years into a long and successful law practice, prepared the legal incorporation paperwork for Jim's title company. Jim remembers it well as all was accomplished on a Saturday morning from the comfort of Fred's screened-in front porch at Lighthouse Point.

The entire MacLean family has been a blessing with their direct contributions to those in need here at the kitchen. Fred and Sherry often dropped in with many much needed items which were put to good use. Jim's entire humble office is furnished with quality retired furnishings from Fred and Sherry including tables, office chairs, sofa, artwork, etc. Fred, Sherry and the entire MacLean family, through their generous contributions, have been instrumental in helping to upgrade our food preparation operations by helping us purchase a new convection oven, a restaurant-quality Robut Coupe Food Processor, steamer table and a recently ren-

ovated and rebuilt walk-in refrigerator and freezer.

In Fred's honor, a stained glass "window" will be made and mounted in our chapel for all to remember him by.





## Closing Out 2023

Let's reflect on what happened in 2023. Here it is November and we still have the rest of this month and all of December left to close out the year.

So many feeding shelters and programs have closed their doors this year as food suppliers have cut back and prices have increased.

We are now the largest daily feeding program in

Broward County and the responsibility is daunting to say the least.

In April, we will have been incorporated and serving for 35 years and it all started from a single hot plate. Our director, Katie, has been serving for 33 years and has personally been involved in so many aspects of the operation and vision.

Our annual projected budget when you include "gifts in kind" is now close to \$1.9 million and is the source of many sleepless nights.

Our Father's House Soup Kitchen receives no federal or state funding or financial aid. YOUR donations are what keeps the doors open. Most recently we have been confronted with the following "issues":

- We are required to complete a 40-year building inspection which includes structural integrity as well as plumbing and electrical work. While we have regularly maintained the building, we never know what might come up and the cost involved since the building itself is well over 40 years old.
- While our flat roof is relatively new since it was replaced in 2017, the warranty has now expired as we found out recently when we had a leak.
- While we have successfully refurbished our walk-in refrigerator/freezer very recently thanks to generous donors, we are constantly maintaining and replacing our other units so that we can maintain safe storage of perishable goods.
- While we do receive donated food from churches, schools, community groups and Farm Share, we still have to make 2-3 large and expensive shopping trips a week. We also have to keep three vehicles maintained, registered, and gassed up for picking up the donated food.

And this is why we constantly "beg" for cash donations no matter how small.

***Hey, Buddy can you spare a dollar or two?***

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.

*Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant ~ Robert Louis Stevenson*

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