



OUR FATHER'S HOUSE SOUP KITCHEN

A non-denominational ministry serving people in need



It's approaching 10:30am on Ash Wednesday and while quietly waiting for Father Saul Mejia of Our Lady of Guadalupe National Catholic Church to begin a short mass in our beautiful (though small) stained-glass chapel, I began thinking about how far our little operation has come since our first meal in 1989.

From the early days of cooking for 35 to 50 people on a hot plate, we now have a full kitchen and are serving 200+ daily. For Thanksgiving we served 264 and that doesn't even include the turkeys and "fixins" that were given to families we are lucky to call our neighbors!

If you are reading this, you are one of many that made this possible!

For my own personal journey, I truly believe that in 1990 God sent a special angel to me. The message? Find out more about the fledgling feeding program called "The Our Father's House Soup Kitchen". The message was delivered through my dear mother by way of a small notice in our church bulleting asking for volunteers. What a blessing that was with the added benefit of both my mother and I bonding together while doing His works in her final years.

As you will note, our services are always needed. In particular, life is hard enough for our local immigrant farm families so when we found out recently about several Guatemalan families with children having to sleep on floors, a very generous donor arranged for 30 high-quality beds and bedding to be donated and delivered to that community.

We also, very recently added our **14th** Ministry called "A Safe Haven" to provide temporary housing for mothers with children in need of help. For obvious reasons, we will keep details of this location under our hats.

Without your help, none of this is possible. God will bless each and everyone of you. Thank you all and God Bless.

Katie Crissy, CEO/Program Director



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#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

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



Double Decker Barber Shop

Our plan to repurpose our beautiful bus into an on-site barbershop hit a major snag when we realized its positioning was incorrect. After five moving and towing companies insisted the job was impossible, Raul Suarez Sr., the Heavy Duty Market Manager at Guardian Fleet Services, stepped up to help.

In just two hours, Mr. Suarez skillfully hoisted the massive vehicle and rotated it 180 degrees, placing it exactly where it needed to be.

Though we expected this specialized service to be a significant strain on our modest budget, Mr. Suarez surprised us by refusing payment, saying, "It's on us!"

We truly view this as another miracle for our kitchen. Our deepest thanks go to Raul Suarez and the entire team at Guardian Fleet Services for their incredible generosity.



A Beautiful Christmas Surprise!

Parkland's beloved "Mrs. Santa Claus" and devoted weekly lunch volunteer, Beverly Capasso, has once again proven that the spirit of giving knows no season. Pictured here in her signature festive attire alongside 300 brand-new backpacks, Beverly and her incredible team of volunteers have stepped up to support our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

These aren't just backpacks; they are kits of dignity and care. Each one is packed with essentials, including soap, towels, and toothpaste, as well as warmth-providing blankets and grocery gift cards to ensure no one goes hungry.



We are beyond grateful for Beverly's tireless heart and the "magic" she brings to our community every week.



...And Spreading the Generosity

As the holiday season came to a close, the spirit of giving was alive and well at Oriole Elementary School in Lauderdale Lakes. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of our volunteers and donors, the holidays were a little extra “merry” for some of the disadvantaged boys and girls in our immediate community.

Mike Crissy had the privilege of delivering to Principal Seporia Bolden, Assistant Principal Eyvonda Cooper and Coach Stevin Scott more than a hundred backpacks filled with toys and clothing.

Each backpack was not just about the contents, but also the hope, care and the reminder that these blessed children are seen and cared for.

Miracle on 23rd Street

The year 2025 presented significant challenges, beginning with the unfortunate loss of four of our dedicated “angel donors.” The strain on our resources intensified when our community partner, St. Vincent de Paul, closed its local storefront, and a Fort Lauderdale church was forced to shutter its daily feeding program due to a lack of funding. These closures left our organization as the sole remaining daily feeding program in all of Broward County.



Amidst these trials, we received an unexpected visit from Bill Whiting of the Knights of Columbus #4955 (Saint Gabriel Catholic Church). He arrived with the monumental news that the Juliet Cardillo Trust, managed by his wife and trustee Susan Whiting, would be providing a substantial donation. (Pictured alongside Bill is James Olsen, a fellow knight and longtime friend of our Kitchen.)

We were absolutely stunned to learn the true scale of this generosity: the trust contributed \$120,000, which was further bolstered by a personal gift of \$10,000 from the Whitings. This extraordinary total of \$130,000 provides a vital lifeline for our mission and the community we serve.

No Bed, No Food and Little Hope

All five children were sleeping on the floor.

This was the stark reality shared by a local priest who recently visited our kitchen. He came seeking food, clothing, and any resources we could provide for his parish of agricultural workers—migrants primarily from Guatemala living in the Florida City area.

Though they are located over seventy miles south of Pompano Beach, their need is felt deeply here. These seasonal laborers work incredibly hard under primitive conditions, yet their faith remains unshakable. In fact, they gather for weekly Mass in the middle of a cornfield—a sacred space known only to their immediate community.

These families have come to the United States to escape brutality and extreme poverty in their home countries. While we provided what we could from our immediate supplies, Jim felt called to do more. He began making calls to secure proper beds for this community, starting with one of our long-time anonymous donors in the medical field.

The response was nothing short of miraculous.

This donor arranged for thirty top-of-the-line medical beds, complete with full bedding sets—sheets, pillows, and blankets. The equipment was transported from a facility in Tampa to a partner group in Lake Worth that works directly with the migrant community.

We are filled with gratitude for the many servants who answer the plea for help. This donation is a testament to a community that cares for those seeking refuge and dignity. We celebrate the generosity of our donors and the resilience of the faithful who remind us of the power of hope, even in the middle of a cornfield.





Christmas Cheer

It's that time of year and Santa is on his way with hundreds of donated toys for the many delighted families that came to the rear of the kitchen this year. Our group of dedicated and hard-working volunteers estimate that more than 1,000 gifts found their way into many grateful homes.



Acts of Kindness

“When we first met her, she was navigating the harsh reality of life on the streets, her world narrowed down to the immediate need for survival alongside her companion. By providing her with steady employment, we didn’t just give her a paycheck; we gave her the first tool needed to rebuild. With incredible discipline, she scrimped and saved every cent until she could finally secure a modest room—a place of their own where the door finally locked out the uncertainty of the elements.



However, the journey didn’t end with four walls. Realizing that long-term stability required a dual effort, we stepped in to help her companion find his footing, too. After a few introductions and a bit of advocacy, he secured a position at a local dealership. Today, the sound of the city streets is just background noise outside their window, rather than their bed for the night. They aren’t just ‘off the streets’; they are moving forward, together.

Twice a month, our dedicated volunteers load up one of our buses and head to a local neighborhood, fondly known to residents as “The Hole.” Our mission is simple but profound: to deliver approximately 50-70 bags of nutritious groceries to families in need.



Each bag is filled with essential items like canned goods, cereal, and meat products, providing more than just sustenance; they offer hope. While this area may have a reputation that keeps some visitors away, we have found a vibrant community grateful for this vital lifeline of support. These deliveries aren’t just about food; they’re about building trust and offering a hand up, ensuring no one is forgotten.

What began as a small gesture has blossomed into a remarkable partnership for sustainability and service. Initially, our friends at John Knox Village shared about two dozen rewashed meal containers, seeing an opportunity for these resources to be repurposed rather than discarded. That modest start has grown exponentially, with residents now delivering an incredible 1,500 containers every month. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Karen Donalson and Linda Stackhouse for their leadership and vision in turning this “act of kindness” into a lasting community impact.



Additionally, one of their services groups hosted a “Restore Dignity to Homeless Women” drive, and collected much-needed basic personal hygiene items to help bring comfort to homeless women in our community. Their “act of kindness” was delivered directly to our “kitchen” (shown).



... Kind Words

Once a year, I try to travel from my convent in Philadelphia to south Florida to visit friends. Yes, I have always loved the beach but the highlight of my week is visiting "Our Father's House". I immediately feel welcomed and at home. Perhaps part of it is that for the past 35 years I had the privilege of spending my days with so many men and women who have experienced homelessness, poverty and multiple challenging conditions.

The spirit of welcome is palpable in the staff, volunteers, and most especially the guests. On my annual visits, I am amazed by the beautiful environment - from the fresh flowers in the chapel to the cleanliness of the facility to the inspirational quotes on the wall. I am inspired by the adaptations of the creating of comfortable space outside beginning with our covid pandemic and always adding on more dimension to

create safety and enhanced services. As I gaze at the piping hot food on the stove and all the fresh trimming, I think I'd rather eat here than at a local restaurant!

My thanks to the amazing Crissy family for first introducing me to Our Father's House and to all of their companions who have joined in this special mission.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Sister Eileen Sizer, RSM

Who's Next?

Every Friday, Toney (valued employee for 15+ years) hands out one of 50 or so boxes of food. Katie along with her volunteers, organize the gathering, sorting and packing of canned goods, meats, cereal, etc. From our pantry for the local families in need.



Miracle of Notre Dame Cathedral



Katie and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary with a very special trip to Paris arranged and hosted by our son, James II.

It has always been our dream to be able to actually kiss the holy **Crown of Thorns** worn by Jesus at his crucifixion.

For those who aren't aware, that special experience is only available on the first Friday of each month and requires a special reservation.

The cathedral, after the five year renovation, was of course spectacular but thanks to our family, we were able to fulfill this lifelong wish.

Nothing can top this!

God Bless,
Jim and Katie

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.

*For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore
I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your
brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' ~
Deuteronomy 15:11*

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