



St Francis / JMJ Newsletter

Easter 2016

Volunteer Issue

What's New at Jesus Mary Joseph Home?

In the Spotlight, Bekkah!



The Blessings of New Life...

- ♥ JMJ's February 2016 occupancy rate is at 100%, with five young moms, two newborns, one 9-month-old baby, and three children ages 1, 2 & 8 in the shelter program.
- ♥ JMJ's moms are signed up for Early Head Start Program's parenting classes. This is a socialization evening for JMJ families. All teaching materials, supplies & snacks are provided by the Head Start program. Thanks!
- ♥ Upgrades: Mark & Duke Powers Construction & Ron Miller Roofing volunteers donated time & materials to build a new French drain and to repair JMJ's roof & gutters. A portion of the Perlino Hospice Grant was used to replace all window screens at the JMJ facility. Thanks!

National Volunteer Week

April 10-16, 2016

JESUS MARY JOSEPH HOME GIVES THANKS for volunteers: Morris Cowen & Luis Rosa, handypersons; babysitter Maddy Clawson; Jim Collopy, delivery of food donations; Olivia Levine & Kate Orchard, UCSC Community Studies Interns; Monterey Bay Area Latin Mass Community; Resurrection Youth Group; Santa Cruz Hillel; St Raymond's Youth Group of Dublin, CA; UCSC Student Volunteer Center & Young Ladies Institute/YLI.

UCSC student Bekkah Scharf has been a JMJ volunteer since 2013. Bekkah says:

"What I enjoy most about serving at JMJ is playing with kids for a few hours every week and getting to see them grow, learn their ABCs, and have fun. I love how the kids are happy to see me. Babies & children are so easily pleased. They constantly live in the moment... Every time I volunteer, I am so humbled by how much energy it takes to be a mom! Simply by having a babysitter for just a few hours, JMJ mothers can take a little time off, either to take care of themselves or to do other tasks. I have also enjoyed assisting residents with English homework or college applications. This will help them reach their goals in life.

What else? For my own life, through JMJ, I found my passion for garden-based, environmental education. I may want to teach elementary school or get involved in nonprofit work. And yes, working with Pat has been an inspiration. This has surely changed my life. Never have I met someone so kindhearted, determined, and who always puts others first. Pat is my role model... At the same time, families eventually do leave JMJ, and I may never see them again. It can be heartbreaking. However, this has taught me to savor my relationships & to give my love to others while I can."

In March 2016, Bekkah will receive a B.A. from UCSC in agro-ecology & sustainable food systems with a literature minor. Thank you, and best wishes!

Soup Kitchen News Bytes!

- ♥ During January 2016, Monday through Friday, 2820 meals were served by St Francis volunteers, for an average of 134 guests a day. Thank you!
- ♥ 469 people received clean used clothing, blankets or shoes, for an average of 39 a day, every Monday, Wednesday & Friday, at the “Boutique”. The majority of these basic necessities were provided by individual donors. Thank you!
- ♥ Parishioners of St. Joseph’s Catholic Community donated over 800 pairs of new socks during Advent. Thank you!
- ♥ Over 3500 rain ponchos were purchased for less than one dollar each through private funding. Ponchos help save the lives of the homeless by preventing exposure injuries and illnesses due to cold & rain. Thank you!
- ♥ KFC has joined the St Francis roster of food donors. It’s good news to the poor when local restaurants actively address the community issue of wasted food in the midst of hunger! Restaurant extras are a welcome addition to weekday hot lunches. Thank you!

Want to invest your time & make new friends in a fulfilling volunteer gig at the soup kitchen or JMJ Home? Find one-time events, recurring projects or be matched with long-term service by researching online:
scvolunteercenter.org/volunteer

- ♥ St Francis/JMJ Home received generous donations from 3 separate fundraising events held by local organizations: Chili's (Capitola Mall) “Give Back Days”, 2016 Delaveaga Park Disc Golf Tournament & Plantronics’ Legal Department’s annual cook-off at corporate headquarters. Thank you!

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC KITCHEN GIVES

THANKS for volunteers: regular kitchen day leaders, chefs & servers; scores of adults and youth who serve special occasion meals for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas & St Patrick’s Day; Holy Cross parishioners who prepare special occasion desserts; students of all ages from Bellarmine College Preparatory School, Cabrillo College, Gateway School of Santa Cruz, Good Shepherd Catholic School, St Raymond’s Youth Group (Dublin, CA), San Jose State University & UCSC Student Volunteer Center, UCSC Student Parliament & UCSC internship programs.

“Happy Easter! During this season of hope, please join me in saying ‘hello and welcome’ to the precious ones now living at JMJ Home. It is a rare privilege to be able to care for those who struggle with homelessness & hunger, especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. May we pray to continue to live year-round in the giving spirit of Easter.

As board president, though, I can’t forget about repair work that still needs doing at the soup kitchen. About \$30,000 would take care of deferred maintenance and upgrades to the interior and exterior of this facility. We are still looking for a newer full-size pickup truck for collecting food supplies.

While praying that donors can help, we on the board of directors re-affirm our commitment to showing God’s mercy to the poorest of the poor with offerings of food, clothing, and shelter. In this newsletter, we also thank all the volunteers who help to make the St Francis mission possible.”

Sincerely, Board President Wayne Shaffer



In Memoriam...

Tony Lebourveau, chef

Ginny Malbon, past board member



The Late Ginny Malbon

JMJ Director Pat Gorman shares fond memories of Ginny, who passed away in January, 2016, after a brief illness.

“Ginny was a long-term, all-round volunteer at the soup kitchen and at JMJ Home. She served on the Board of Directors for many years, was responsible for the database, thank you cards, and performed many other duties. Because of Ginny, the kitchen guests had plenty of socks. It was Ginny who insisted on installing the sinks so that the guests would have a place to wash up before eating. She always went the extra mile to help many people at the soup kitchen and all of the residents and staff at JMJ.

Christmas gift-giving at the kitchen and JMJ was huge for her. It was through Ginny that JMJ was blessed to make the acquaintance of two more remarkable people, Cheryl & Ken Beck. Thanks to Ginny, for the past 10 years, the Becks were able to provide a really amazing Christmas experience for families at JMJ. Due to increased disability, however, the Beck’s are now unable make the lovely Christmas parties & gifts happen. Christmas 2015 was the last occasion for their generosity. In a way, this was also Ginny’s final Christmas gift to the needy...she will be missed!”



About St. Francis Catholic Kitchen & Jesus Mary Joseph Home...

St. Francis Catholic Kitchen’s mission is an expression of the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi in providing food, clothing and shelter, with dignity and love, to the poorest of the poor in Santa Cruz. Established in 1983, St Francis Catholic Kitchen / JMJ Home is a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization.



Can you help St Francis Catholic Kitchen in affirming the dignity of the poor? Donations of wearable men’s & women’s clothing, footwear (especially in sizes 10 and up) & blankets are needed by the homeless. Also appreciated are sweats, underwear, oral hygiene & shaving supplies. Such basics are distributed at no cost directly to the needy. **Items may be donated at the kitchen on any weekday, 8 AM to 2 PM. Questions? Contact Richard at 831-459-6712.**



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.

Budgets for St Francis & JMJ remain tightly stretched, due to increased expenses. The majority of food and monetary aid is donated by individuals. Please consider sending your tax-deductible check for any amount to:

**St. Francis Catholic Kitchen
205 Mora Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

Please visit the website for options such as PayPal, and for more information:

www.stfrancissoupkitchen.org

JMJ Home telephone: (831) 459-8046

Soup kitchen telephone: (831) 459-6712



St. Francis Catholic Kitchen
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Happy Moms have Happy Kids!



The printing of this newsletter is through the generosity of Shaffer and Associates, A Real Estate Agency at 831-427-1380.

Happy Easter
From St Francis Catholic Kitchen's Board of Directors:

Richard Crowe, Beatrice Easter, Pat Gorman, Kirk Hatfield, John Lynch, Kathy Manus, Barbara Monahan, Wayne Shaffer & Mike Shumate

Founded by Father Peter Carota in 1983, the soup kitchen is the only facility in the City of Santa Cruz that has a nutritious, hot meal for the homeless every weekday noon--as well as clean used clothing, toilets & showers—always at no charge. **St Francis Catholic Kitchen** tries to show each guest the merciful face of God--no questions asked. A kind welcome and a safe space are provided to all who suffer from chronic poverty, substance abuse, mental illness or physical disability.

Questions? Call Kitchen Director Richard Crowe at (831) 459-6712.

In Addition to the soup kitchen St Francis Catholic Kitchen operates the **Jesus Mary Joseph Home**, a second facility which is located in Westside Santa Cruz. JMJ is noted for its loving & healing 24/7 Christian shelter program for homeless women & children. Upon completion of the program, families are able to return to independent living. JMJ also offers free hospice care for the poor who have terminal illnesses.

Questions? Call Director Pat Gorman at (831) 459-8046.