



Soup Kitchen News Bytes!

- Richard Crowe has managed soup kitchen volunteers and operations for 15 years with great dedication, skill, and compassion. He says, "Before each meal, I gather the guests to quiet their minds and give thanks for the food. Sometimes I have the opportunity to direct guests to organizations that can assist with addiction, joblessness or mental health issues...People are more apt to listen if they have a full belly." *Thank you, Richard, for seeing your work as a vocation.*



Kitchen Director Richard Crowe

- During the month of June, Monday through Friday, 2997 meals were served by St Francis Catholic Kitchen volunteers, for an average of 136 guests per day. *Thank you, volunteers!*
- At the soup kitchen's "Boutique". 491 people received clean used clothing, toiletries, blankets or shoes, for an average of 45 people per day, every Monday, Wednesday & Friday. The majority of items received were provided by individual donors. *Thank you, donors!*



Founded in 1983, the soup kitchen is the only facility in the City of Santa Cruz that offers a nutritious, hot lunch for the homeless every weekday--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 Director Richard Crowe, (831) 459-6712.**

St Francis Catholic Kitchen Jesus Mary Joseph Home

Newsletter

September 2016



Volunteers In the Spotlight: What motivates the kitchen volunteers? Curious, we asked a few to reflect on their service.

For over nine years, **Monday Chef Paige** loves to create wonderful, nutritious meals with eclectic donations received in the kitchen's pantry. Having been almost homeless herself, Paige says, "I know the needs of the guests, so now I pay it forward. I was introduced to the kitchen through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and the Homeless Garden Project. Later, I brought along **Famous**, my baby grandson. He's six now and very happy to help serve beverages, desserts, and everything. After his home burnt down last year, he witnessed firsthand the kindness of strangers who came forward to help his family." Like his grandma, young Famous has learned to selflessly give his time and to allow his love to bloom for others.



Every Thursday, for the past five years, **Madelyn** has dedicated herself to making the best-ever split pea soup for the guests. Smiling in reflection, Madelyn says, "I am involved in many other volunteering adventures; but when I am making soup for the hungry, I know, and feel, that it is the right thing to do." A vibrant simplicity of knowing and her love of faithful service shine brightly from deep blue compassionate eyes.



Wednesday Day Leader Jennifer says, "Team spirit lifts me up. I am happy, simply loving & helping others. I came to the kitchen five years ago, thanks to Joseph Carota 's invitation to carve

...More on next page

In the Spotlight, continued...

Thanksgiving turkeys." Making new friends and helping the community give her a beautiful smile, with love shining through.



Thursday Day Leader Diane came to St. Francis Catholic Kitchen because she was invited to check it out by Marie Elich who was retiring after 15 years of soup-making. Diane says, "Marie's invitation turned into a regular event in my life. Weeks, months, now over ten years have passed, and quickly. I meet and work with so many great people with whom I share the same values. Preparing and serving a healthy meal at the soup kitchen gives me a chance to meet individuals and families with whom I wouldn't normally come in contact. It's really my good fortune to be here. I can serve food with a smile or kind gesture. As I take off my blue apron at the end of the day, I say, "Amen...it has been a fulfilling day, brushing shoulders with my fellow man."



VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED:

Telephone or express your interest via email:

[<saintfrancissoupkitchen@gmail.com>](mailto:saintfrancissoupkitchen@gmail.com)

TUESDAY AFTERNOON OFFICE ASSISTANT. Help with St Francis Catholic Kitchen's thank you letters, data entry, and office organization. Confidentiality of information a must. Office located in downtown Santa Cruz. Training & supervision provided. Interested? Phone Board Member Beatrice, (831) 457-2530 (h).

SOUP KITCHEN CAMPUS MONITOR. Help maintain a peaceful lunch hour experience for guests & volunteers. Provide a firm but kindly presence on campus from 12 noon to 1 PM on weekdays. Regular volunteers needed. Choose one day per week. Tuesdays through Friday still open. Guidelines, supervision & lunch provided. Interested? Phone President Wayne, (831) 427-1380 (w).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER. Share duties & responsibilities for governing the St Francis Catholic Kitchen California non-profit public benefit corporation. Make policy/staffing/financial decisions. Help with fundraising. Meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month. The right person will be comfortable with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Interested? Phone President Wayne, (831) 427-1380 (w).

IN MEMORIAM...Fr Peter Carota



Our dear Fr. Peter passed away on July 8, at the age of 67, after a long illness. A late-vocation priest, he was ordained in 1997, after giving up a career as a successful real estate broker in Santa Cruz. To serve the poor and marginalized, he founded the St Francis Catholic Kitchen in 1983 and the Jesus Mary Joseph Home in 1989. When working in the soup kitchen, before his ordination, he was often mistaken for a priest. May God bless you--a priest forever.

Requiescat in pace et in amore.



What's New at Jesus Mary Joseph Home?

- ✚ Summer 2016 occupancy rate in the shelter program is at 100%, with five young moms, two infants, one toddler, and two children, ages 8 and 9. May God bless them all.
- ✚ Kudos to three moms in the program who have attained important educational goals in the past year: one finished a G.E.D., one completed a certificate in cosmetology, and one entered graduate school. Aspects of their success were made possible through a working relationship with **Rising International**. Congratulations and thanks!
- ✚ At their June 23 meeting, **Rotary Club of Capitola- Aptos** awarded Jesus Mary Joseph Home a \$1,000 "Service Above Self" grant. Accepting the award, **Director Pat Gorman** presented the history, format & goals of the shelter program. Well done, Pat, and thanks!

Jesus Mary Joseph Home is the beloved sister facility of the St Francis soup kitchen. Located in a residential area of Westside Santa Cruz, JMJ Home is noted for its loving & healing 24/7 Christian shelter program for homeless women & children. The goal of the program is to enable families to return to independent living. JMJ also offers free hospice care for the indigent poor with terminal illnesses. **Questions? Call Director Pat Gorman, (831) 459-8046.**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping us on the board of directors re-affirm the commitment to showing God's mercy to the poorest of the poor with offerings of food, clothing, and shelter.

We continue to depend on, and are thankful for, all volunteers at the kitchen and shelter who help to carry out the St Francis mission.

This summer, we were blessed to receive a private donation which enabled us to replace the soup kitchen's outdated wooden shelves & counters with stainless steel ones. We have also replaced Kitchen Director Richard Crowe's worn out pick-up truck with a newer, more dependable, and safer model.

At this time, we must also bid a sad farewell to our founder, Fr. Peter Carota, who passed away this summer. It was a rare privilege to know him and to be inspired by him to care for those who struggle with hunger & homelessness. Fr. Peter was loved and will be missed by all at St Francis.

Sincerely,

Board President Wayne Shaffer

**St Francis Catholic Kitchen
Board of Directors:**

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



Can you help? St Francis Catholic Kitchen needs donations: clean, wearable men's & women's clothing (especially sweats & underwear); sturdy footwear (especially sizes 10, and up); blankets & sleeping bags; oral hygiene & shaving supplies. Such basics are given at no cost directly to the needy. **Items may be dropped off at the kitchen M-F, 8 AM to 2 PM. Questions? Call Kitchen Director Richard Crowe at (831) 459-6712.**

**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS
GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.**

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

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

www.stfrancissoupkitchen.org

Please visit our website to learn more about our mission and for options such as PayPal.

**JMJ Home telephone: (831) 459-8046
Soup kitchen telephone: (831) 459-6712**



**About St. Francis Catholic Kitchen
& Jesus Mary Joseph Home:
Our 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.**



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Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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