

★ **St. Francis Catholic Kitchen** ★
JESUS MARY JOSEPH HOME Newsletter
Christmas 2016



What's New At

Jesus Mary Joseph Home?

Sara came into JMJ's program twice, once when Eli was a baby, and again this year. Starting with her father's heart attack, a series of adverse events left Sara in need of a mother's help. **On November 1st, Sara and her 10 year old son Elijah, returned to independent living.** JMJ Home was able to provide Sara and Eli with donated furniture. To cover moving expenses, a check was generously donated by the local chapter of YLI/Young Ladies Institute.



Sara & Eli

"Director Pat Gorman is my second mother," says Sara. "I love Pat for her selfless hard work for others," she continues. "It has truly inspired me and she is a role model for me. All that anyone who comes to JMJ wants is a chance." Having been given that chance, Sara is sincerely grateful. "My life is once again back on track," she says. "For this, I'd like to thank everyone involved with JMJ for all their help!" *You are very welcome, Sara!*

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 program's goal is to enable families to return to independent living. JMJ also offers free hospice care for the indigent poor.

Questions?

Contact Director Pat Gorman (831) 459-8046.

As of November 15, JMJ is at capacity, with each resident busy with her own plan for returning to independence. One is studying for the state board exam in cosmetology. Three are working, either full- or part-time. All children are thriving, either in day care or enrolled in school or pre-school. *Keep up the good work!*

A family-style Thanksgiving feast was prepared by residents on November 22. Residents gave thanks for many blessings, including (to name just a few) the (1) commodities drive conducted by the **Religious Education Ministry at St. Joseph's Church of Capitola**, (2) completion of the beautiful 'Circle Garden' by **Youth Group from Resurrection Church**, and (3) food & gifts drive sponsored by **Santa Cruz Elks Lodge**. *Thank you!*

Christmas joy for JMJ families—a partial list of supporters: **UCSC Volunteer Center, the Latin Mass Group, Holy Cross parishioners, Valley Churches United & YLI.**



Silent Night, Holy Night!



Soup Kitchen News Bytes!

During the month of October, 2799 meals were served by volunteers at St. Francis Catholic Kitchen, every Monday through Friday, for an average of 132 guests per day. Over 40,000 meals are served per year. *Thank you, volunteers!*

At the kitchen's "Boutique," 406 people received clean used clothing, toiletries, blankets or shoes in October. Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday, an average of 41 people per day was assisted with basic necessities. *Thank you, donors!*

Fr. Justin Bianchi of the UCSC Newman House celebrated mass and led the annual retreat for 35 of the regular kitchen volunteers. The retreat was held in October at Shaffer Park in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. *Thank you, Fr. Bianchi.*



Guests enjoying our annual Thanksgiving

hjygu

Founded by the late Fr. Peter Carota, St. Francis Catholic Kitchen is the only facility in the City of Santa Cruz that serves a nutritious, hot meal for the homeless & hungry every weekday noon--as well as clean used clothing, toilets & showers—at no cost.

Soup kitchen volunteers try to show each guest the merciful face of God. A kind welcome and a safe space are provided to anyone who suffers from chronic poverty, substance abuse, mental illness or physical disability. Questions? Contact Director Richard Crowe (831) 459-6712.

St. Francis Catholic Kitchen & Jesus Mary Joseph Home's mission is an expression of the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi by providing food, clothing, and shelter, with dignity and love, to the poorest of the poor in Santa Cruz. Established in 1983, St.

Francis/JMJ is a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.



Budgets for St. Francis & MJM Home are tightly stretched, due to increased food costs & operating expenses.

Most of our food, clothing & monetary aid is donated by individuals.

Please consider sending a 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

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

Can you help? Donations of clean, wearable men's & women's clothing, footwear (especially sizes 10 and up) & blankets are needed this winter by the homeless. Also appreciated are sweats, underwear, oral hygiene & shaving supplies. Such basics are distributed to the needy at no cost. **Items magtrfty be donated at the kitchen on any weekday, 8 AM to 2 PM. Questions? Contact Director Richard Crowe at 831-459-6712.**

***In Memorial...
Fr. Peter Carota, founder
Lew De Pedro, past board member***



In the Spotlight...



John Carter

is the Tuesday chef at St. Francis, a responsibility that he loves & embraces. He says: "Often during the lunch hour, I like to work at the exit door of the dining hall, collecting used bowls and utensils from our guests. Many of them thank me for the meal, which feels good! And I try to say thank you, as well, to every man & woman who approaches me. Sometimes a guy will ask what I'm thanking him for. My answer is that I'm thanking him for being our guest, for the honor of having him as a guest. I leave the kitchen with an inner glow. The two-way flow of gratitude is just as important as the heartiness & healthiness of our wonderful soup!"



Nick Wilson

says, "I come to St. Francis because of the people. This includes the people I serve with as well as the people who line up and are fed. Through spending time with these people I am fed in a way that fills me with gratitude. The simplicity of what happens inside the walls of St. Francis brings me back again and again."



Thanksgiving crew

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

Call President Wayne at (831) 427-1380

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER. *Share duties & responsibilities for governing St. Francis Catholic Kitchen, a California non-profit public benefit corporation. Make policy/staffing/financial decisions. Help with fundraising. Monthly meetings are held on 2nd Tuesdays, or as needed. Must be comfortable with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.*

INTERNET WEBMASTER. *Creatively re-design & maintain existing St. Francis Catholic Kitchen's website. Prefer certified professional with proven Dreamweaver skills.*

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 every Thursday. Guidelines, supervision & lunch provided.*

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.*



Kitchen Donors Making a Difference!

A local company that reaches out to neighbors in the community, the legal department of Plantronics sponsored its "10th Annual Cook-Off," an in-house contest for company employees on December 8. Besides being fun & delicious, this event is an annual holiday fund-raiser for St. Francis Catholic Kitchen. *Way to go!*

For 20 years, Five Star Catering of Watsonville has donated extra food to the soup kitchen. Five Star likes to network with local sources to provide the finest in seasonal cuisine & service ware, using ecologically friendly products. For 5 straight years, this caterer has received the WeddingWire Couple's Choice Award™ for excellence in quality, service, responsiveness and professionalism. *Way to go!*



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year !



**From the St. Francis Catholic Kitchen
Board of Directors:**
*Richard Crowe, Beatrice Easter, Pat Gorman,
Kirk Hatfield, John Lynch (Member Emeritus),
Kathy Manus, Wayne Shaffer & Mike Shumate.*

Wayne Shaffer
Realtor®



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