



Soup Kitchen News Bytes!



A special Easter meal will be served at noon on Monday, April 17. Families of Holy Cross have again volunteered to prepare tasty bunny-cakes for all!

"During this season of hope, it is a privilege to be able to care for those who struggle with homelessness & hunger.

Together, we can do this! While praying for your 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."

*Sincerely, Wayne Shaffer
Board President*

On March 6, Chipotle on 41st AV held a fundraiser, generously donating 50% of the day's sales to St Francis. The restaurant also regularly donates its extra food to the soup kitchen. *Thank you for reaching out, Chipotle.*

In February, 2,717 meals were served to guests of St. Francis Catholic Kitchen. At the "Boutique," 468 received basic necessities: clean used clothing, toiletries, blankets or shoes. Thank you, donors & kitchen volunteers!



During a heavy winter rain, the roof started to leak during lunch. Dining tables were moved aside and a bucket set down to catch the drips. Undampened in spirit, volunteers quickly resumed meal service. Although the roof has been temporarily patched, Director Richard Crowe advised the board that further repair and other capital projects are still needed at the soup kitchen. *Thanks for carrying on, Richard.*

Kitchen Director Richard Crowe has been successfully re-certified in food safety management. The kitchen remains in compliance with State food service requirements. Kudos to Richard & volunteer crews.



To benefit St Francis soup kitchen, Mark Karleskind once again served as director of the 18th Annual Disc Golf Tournament in January at DeLaveaga Golf & Lodge. *Thanks, Mark. Thanks, Kirk Hatfield, for serving as fundraiser liaison. Thanks, Richard Crowe, for making THE BEST CHILI! Thanks for playing, disc golfers!*

Collectively, dedicated board members have over 115 years of board service to the needy at St. Francis Catholic Kitchen & Jesus Mary Joseph Home

*Richard Crowe, director
Beatrice Easter, member
Pat Gorman, director
Kirk Hatfield, secretary
Kathy Manus, member
Wayne Shaffer, president
Mike Shumate, treasurer.*

St. Francis Catholic Kitchen & Jesus Mary Joseph Home's mission is an expression of the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi, 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.

A special Easter meal will be served at the soup kitchen on Monday, April 17.

Founded by the late Fr. Peter Carota, St. Francis Catholic Kitchen is the only facility in the City of Santa Cruz that offers a nutritious, hot lunch for the homeless & hungry every weekday--as well as clean used clothing, toilets & showers—all at no cost. Soup kitchen volunteers try to show each guest the merciful face of God. A kind welcome and a safe space are available to anyone suffering from chronic poverty, substance abuse, mental illness or physical disability. Questions? Contact Director Richard Crowe (831) 459-6712.



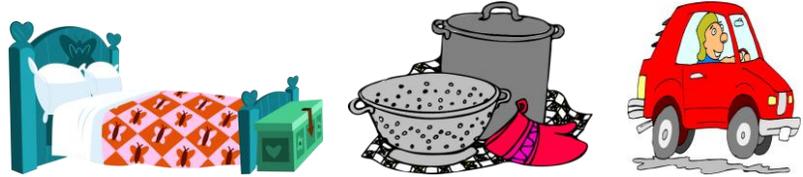
Currently, JMJ is housing three infants and two school-age children.

Jesus Mary Joseph Home is the beloved sister facility of the soup kitchen. Located in a quiet 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.



What's New At Jesus Mary Joseph Home?

In March, after completing her education, stabilizing her life, and finding an affordable apartment, another JMJ mother was able to return, with her pre-school son, to independent living. Her strong motivation to turn her life around has inspired everyone at JMJ. To support the move, JMJ gave her \$200 for moving expenses, and gifted her with a car (donated to JMJ), a bed & dresser, and a set of pots & pans. A hard worker as well as an artistic dessert-maker, she'll be missed. *We wish her well!*



When the vacant room has been cleaned and painted, it will be offered to yet another homeless mother with children. It won't remain empty for long. There are many needy mothers on JMJ's waiting list. Currently, JMJ is housing three infants and two school-age children. Early Head Start comes twice a month to work with some of the families. Mothers are working, either full- or part-time. Children are thriving, either in day care or attending school. *Go, moms & kids!*



Acquiring new skills to even better serve JMJ residents, Program Director Pat Gorman is currently enrolled in Community Studies at UCSC. In addition to having the benefits of higher education, she has been able to network with and invite energetic teachers and students to JMJ, both to develop new ideas for the program and to volunteer. Later, for her upcoming field studies, Pat will intern with Catholic Charities' Family Support Services, focusing her continuing education on administrative advocacy. *Way to go, Pat!*



“How Are We Doing At The Soup Kitchen?”

By Beatrice Easter, board member/volunteer

On a rainy beautiful first day of spring, I set out to ask guests at random how it helps them to come to us at St Francis:



Pushing a wheel chair, **Tommy** has been coming every day for about one month. Giggling a little, he says that he was referred by a good friend. “I love the place,” he says. “It feels comfortable, a bit like home, safe. I can meet good friends, stay dry, and not be hungry.” With his big grin, Tommy certifies, “Everything is beautiful,”



A second newbie, and somewhat shy, **Jeremy** appreciates feeling safe for a while during the day. “The hot lunch helps me feel full,” he says, nodding, his face expressing gratitude, happy to just sit quietly on the courtyard bench, waiting for the doors to open.



It was way back when that **Jeff** first started coming to St. Francis. He remembers bygone days when the soup kitchen's founder Fr. Peter Carota was still helping to serve the noon meal. (I myself remember Jeff coming then, and working with Fr. Peter.) Jeff likes to reminisce about the way the dining room got started. He recalls, “Yes, it had booths, not tables...and there was a shelter, too. I was 19 years old...Now I only come when I'm really down-and-out, when things are screwy and fall apart for me...I feel safe here.” Wrinkling his nose, he adds, “Except when there's an intense blow-up or confrontation, mostly about someone else not following the rules.” Wisely, he has learned when to exit the dining room and how to reinforce the good behavior of fellow guests. Overall, Jeff gives the soup kitchen services “a thumbs-up...Faithfulness means a lot, right?”

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED. Due to increased facility repairs, food costs & operating expenses, budgets for St. Francis & JMJ Home are often tightly stretched. 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.sfrancissoupkitchen.org

**JMJ Home telephone:
(831)459-8046**

**Soup kitchen telephone:
(831) 459-6712**

Please “Like” us on Facebook.



JESUS MARY JOSEPH HOME

This is a great way for us to connect with new volunteers and to provide opportunities for you to support our kitchen guests and shelter residents.

Please consider “sharing” our page with your family & friends.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED Call President Wayne at (831) 427-1380



THURSDAY 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. 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 is a must. Office located in downtown Santa Cruz. Training & supervision provided.



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

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Happy Easter!

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