Mission

Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen is committed to providing no cost, hot nutritious meals and support services in a dignified, safe and caring environment. We provide services to all needy individuals with special concern for families, seniors and the homeless.

Holiday Schedule

Eastside Neighborhood Center
2150 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA

- Thanksgiving - November 26th
- Christmas Day - December 25th
- Volunteers needed 3:45pm-6pm

Grocery Bag Program
St. Maria Goretti
2890 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95111

- Wednesday November 18th
- Wednesday December 16th
- Volunteers needed 8am-1pm

To volunteer please contact: volunteer@loavesfishes.org or visit our website at http://loavesfishes.org

Thanh’s Story

How did you find out about Loaves & Fishes’ services?

“I came from Vietnam and have been living in San Jose for only two years. A few months ago, I was walking by Eastside Neighborhood Center with my kids. It was really hot outside and we were thirsty. I needed to get water and thought that Eastside Neighborhood Center would have water to provide for us. I met a Chinese-Vietnamese man outside the building who gave me bread and water that he got from Loaves & Fishes. He told me about the services that Loaves & Fishes offered and what times I should come.”

How has Loaves & Fishes helped you?

“I come here for people to help me get food for my three children and I. I don’t know how to drive so I walk everywhere. It is tiring, but I walk almost an hour to pick up my daughter to and from her school and there is no time to cook afterwards by the time we get home. We are only a family of four, but we also live with other people in the same house and it is not convenient for me to cook. I am only able to cook a little at a time when it is possible.

Loaves & Fishes helps me by making it easier for me as a mother to my three young kids and providing them food when I cannot sometimes. My kids like going here and they actually eat the food. It makes me happy to see that they are eating even when they don’t want to eat the food that I make at home.”

What differences or improvements have you seen in your life?

“I feel that I am happier because my life is getting easier little by little. I like coming here because people are happy here and it makes me happy because I feel that my family and I are accepted with open arms. This is a place where people have shown love and kindness to me and listened and understood me to where I don’t feel as lonely.

I am so grateful for Hyru’s (Volunteer Manager) generous work and dedication to help make this place come true to help others. It gives me hope for the future and to see my kids grow up knowing that there are good people and services like Loaves & Fishes out there. I want to thank everyone involved from the bottom of my heart.”

Credit: Christina Nguyen, Volunteer at Loaves & Fishes.
Dear Loaves & Fishes Family,

As we enter the time of year to be thankful we at Loaves & Fishes want to thank all of you for helping us revitalize and renew our level of service to the community. In this past year Loaves & Fishes:

- Increased the number of meals we serve by 93%
- Decreased the cost of a meal served by 37%
- Reached 20% more children

This may sound impressive but there is a lot more to be done. The booming local economy has its consequences. In our region apartment rents average more than $2,300 per month. It takes an annual income of more than $82,000 for a family to pay their bills and put food on the table.

The majority of the people we serve earn less than $20,000 per year. Therefore, many of them have no other choice but to work multiple jobs or share homes with multiple families. Few have time or resources to even prepare food let alone purchase ingredients. High cost of living, underemployment and unemployment are driving the need.

We need your help, please:

1) Donate financially to help us serve free nutritious meals
2) Become an automatic monthly donor
3) Volunteer your time at a meal service or our grocery bag program
4) Donate a vehicle or corporate stock
5) Consider bequeathing Loaves & Fishes through planned or legacy gifts.

More information can be found on www.LoavesFishes.org. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

AnnMarie Zimmermann
Executive Director
Yet the families served by Loaves & Fishes earn as little as $20,000 a year.

In Partnership

Winston Churchill once said, “If we are together nothing is impossible”. Loaves & Fishes is now collaborating with 18 other agencies including InnVision, Rebekah Children’s Services, and Cristo Rey. Last fiscal year Second Harvest Food Bank provided Loaves & Fishes trucks, refrigerators, ovens, food and more. This in turn helped us deliver no cost, hot nutritious meals to our partner agencies. We are stronger together.

Our partners say:

“A BIG THANK YOU” to Loaves & Fishes for providing the delicious food for the families we serve! Parents tell us often how grateful they are for the meals. Keep up the great work that you all do and thank you from the bottom of our hearts”.

“It’s not just the food but the warm smiles they get from the lovely ladies serving that means the most”

“The food is good and it feels so good to get a warm free meal after a long day. We are very grateful”

“I didn’t realize why our kids were misbehaving; now I realize they were just hungry”

“I just wanted to let you know that the dinner was great last night. Many of our families have never had meatloaf before. Ha ha! They loved it and they got to experience something new so that’s a win-win.”

Source: Economic Policy Institute - Epi.org
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LoavesFishes.org