Celebrating 37 Years Providing Nutritious Meals

Meet the Guests You Serve

Frances Tapia and her daughter Gloria are currently homeless. Their last home was shared by many families and very cramped. They have come to the meal service a few times in the past few months. She has been working as a day laborer to make ends meet in the past year. “The meals here have been helpful until I can get settled and find a regular job. I am going tomorrow for an interview at a restaurant. I am so thankful for the meals from Loaves & Fishes. It’s been really hard for us.”

Sara, worked 17 years in the fast food industry in Central Valley until moving to the Bay Area to escape an abusive relationship. She has a permanent disability and suffered from depression. With the help of a nonprofit, Sara moved into a rental unit as part of Santa Clara County’s Housing 1000 program. She is now married and back on her feet thanks to the roof over her head and Loaves & Fishes. “I really like the food here the best out of all the places I have been. I do not know what I would do without this option. I come here at the end of the month when money is tight. After paying for car insurance, utilities, and phone, there isn’t a lot left.”

Jose worked for many years for a sanitation company until his back was injured at work nine years ago. The accident changed his life and was a very difficult time. His wife and kids left him, he lost his house. Had it not been for his family, he says he would not be here today. Jose lives on a fixed income of $900 a month in which $500 goes to his rent. “That leaves very little for food and other living expenses. I don’t know what I would do if Loaves & Fishes were not here.”

Thank you to our donors, board members, and volunteers. You are truly making a difference in the lives of the many guests we serve together.
Dear Loaves & Fishes Family,

I am delighted and honored to be a part of this wonderful organization and look forward to meeting many of you soon. As I get to know the board, volunteers, and donors, it is clear to me that Loaves & Fishes could not be here without so many of you who care deeply about serving the community and giving back to those who are less fortunate. THANK YOU for making a difference and for making this work possible.

Loaves & Fishes would not have been able to serve over 430,000 hot meals to those in need and to 28 nonprofit partners in 2016 without your support (a 40% increase from 2015). Thank you for your encouragement, time volunteering at our kitchen and meal services, and financial gifts! Your contributions have allowed us to feed the community one meal at a time and has helped many local nonprofit agencies increase their capacity to provide for low income individuals and families.

Thanks to your help, we have made significant progress in the last year by working together with food assistance partner agencies. However, there is still more work to be done in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties with over 220,000 households living below the poverty level who are vulnerable to hunger. While Loaves & Fishes can not solve the problem alone, with your involvement, we can certainly help move the dial in making sure more people in our community can access to a healthy, hot meal.

With all my heart, THANK YOU for for supporting this important effort and for being part of the Loaves & Fishes family. I hope to see many of you at our next event on June 4th - the Feed the Need 10K/5K Run/Walk!

Best,

Jennifer J. Chen

Have you considered a planned gift to Loaves & Fishes?

If you have appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares, you may want to consider gifting them instead of cash gifts due to greater tax benefits. You can receive an income tax deduction and avoid capital gains. With a planned gift, you can:

- Make a larger charitable gift than you thought possible
- Take care of the financial needs of your family first
- Provide inheritances for your heirs at a lower tax cost
- Reduce your income tax and even avoid capital gains taxes
- Diversify your investment portfolio
- Increase income and effective rate of return
- Leave a legacy without giving up assets

We also want to remind you about the options that cost you nothing during your lifetime and gifts that return significant benefits back to you, even beyond a tax deduction. Strategic planned gifts like a tribute gift through your will that leaves a lasting statement about what's most important to you. Or a charitable gift annuity that provides you or a loved one a steady stream of extra retirement income, while at the same time supports our mission far into the future. Consult with your legal and tax advisors regarding your specific situation. If you have already named Loaves & Fishes in your estate plans, please let us know in the enclosed remit slip. Please take a moment now to make your tax-saving, mission-accomplishing gift.

Serving lunch to flood victims

Loaves & Fishes provided 200 lunches to the Red Cross in response to the San Jose flood in February 2017.
Thank you Iron Construction!

We are truly grateful for the continued support from Iron Construction. Over the holidays, the company held their 6th Annual Food Drive and Wine Party raising over $4,000 in cash donations and approximately 1,500 pounds of in-kind food donations for Loaves & Fishes! Iron Construction is also sponsoring our 2nd annual FEED the NEED 5K/10K on June 4, 2017.

Iron Construction recently moved office locations and have a special surprise ahead. Stephanie Pence, Marketing & Business Development Director, says, “We have decided to reserve some of our land for a garden where we will grow fresh veggies and will call it the Loaves and Fishes Garden. Whatever we grow we will donate to L&F to use as needed when cooking meals. We hope this helps even a little bit!” It sure does Stephanie, we are delighted to have Iron Construction’s continued support!

As to why Iron Construction supports Loaves & Fishes, Stephanie remarks, “Loaves and Fishes is near and dear to our hearts as we have had firsthand experience donating employee time to help prepare and serve food at L&F’s meal service in San Jose. Having had the opportunity to get to know the cooking staff, the administrative staff and the families that came in for dinner was truly unforgettable and fulfilling. L&F does amazing work and not only feeds the hungry during the holidays but serves meals 365 days year!”

Looking for a fun group volunteer opportunity with your staff/colleagues?

The Loaves & Fishes Cooking Experience is a chance for groups of all sizes to work together creatively in a friendly environment, all while giving back to the community. As a team, you will work together to create a balanced, delicious meal for our hot meal program that serves low-income families, seniors, and the homeless. Our most flexible volunteer program, the Team Building Cooking Experience is available Monday through Friday. Shifts are typically 2-3 hours, available anytime between 9am and 5pm at our central kitchen in Morgan Hill.

For more details or to sign up please contact volunteer@loavesfishes.org
Please join us in fighting hunger in Silicon Valley

FEED THE NEED 2017

5K/10K Walk/Run

8:00 AM
Sunday, June 4
Guadalupe River Trail
San Jose, CA