We moved around – a lot – when I was growing up. No matter where we lived, my parents always made sure that there was room to plant a garden. Now, my folks could make just about anything grow. But my father was particularly good at growing vegetables. He called it “sowing seeds of hope” because, even with all the tending, fertilizing, watering and weeding, it wasn’t until harvest time that you would see the full fruits of your labors.

Except for this one time when we were living in Colorado. My Dad loved to look out the kitchen window, coffee cup in hand, surveying his rows of planted goodness. Everything seemed to be growing well. Except for the carrots. He just couldn’t understand why they weren’t growing any larger than about an inch and a half in length. Until that one morning, when he watched my older brother, who was 8 years old at the time, making a beeline for the carrots.

He proceeded to pull out a carrot, check out their size and color, stick it back into the ground, and move on to the next one. Up one row and down the other, pulling up each and every carrot! When he stopped laughing, my Dad went out to the garden and explained to my brother that by pulling them out too soon, the carrots would never get any bigger. It was only when they were allowed to be fully cared for that they would reach their full potential.

Here at Loaves and Fishes, every day we are sowing the seeds of hope – literally and figuratively! Every plant tended by volunteers in Fr. Larry’s garden, the hot meals we prepare, serve and deliver, and every bag lunch and box of groceries we distribute is a seed sown in our community for those who find themselves in need of a healthy, nutritious meal. A seed that says to our most vulnerable neighbors that on this day, they won’t have to go to sleep hungry, and they will have something to feed their children. A seed that says you do not need to be defined by the circumstances you find yourself in today…that tomorrow can be a better day.
Through our blessed volunteers, our awesome partner organizations, and our faithful donors who support our efforts to feed the hungry and homeless, we scatter seeds of hope across Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, and, because of your caring and compassion, we are able to tend to families, children, veterans, seniors, students and the disabled. Who knows? Perhaps, as my Dad would say, if we fully care for one another, we will all reach our full potential.

Gisela B. Bushey, CEO, Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen has experienced a **325%** increase in the number of hot meals served since 2014!

**PARTNER TESTIMONIAL**

**Life's Garden**

Thanks for the lunches you make for our apartment complex. We really appreciate the food you prepare for us.

-Emma H.

“I enjoy volunteering to serve food.”

-Volunteer

“Loaves & Fishes helps our residents by having an opportunity for them to come to the dining room to enjoy a meal with their friends and to socialize with each other. A few residents said that this lunch is their main meal for the day. It is also a great way to involve residents who are physically able to volunteer help serve the lunch to the other residents. The resident volunteers really enjoy serving the lunch and are dedicated in coming to their scheduled day to help out... it gives them a sense of purpose in being able to help out their peers.”

-Kim Truong, Social Services Coordinator
MICRON SELECTS LOAVES & FISHES AS THEIR CHARITY OF CHOICE FOR 2019!

We are so honored to have been selected by Micron as their Charity of Choice for 2019. Selected by Micron employees, this recognition comes with a generous $10,000 grant, support for our employee volunteer activities, meal services, and brown bag/hygiene kit build programs.

Philanthropy and employee volunteerism is a well-established part of Micron’s corporate culture. Participating in activities that address the priorities and concerns of the communities where Micron employees live and work is at the heart of Micron’s community support programs – “supporting goodness all over the world.”

“As a Micron team member, I’ve had the opportunity to engage with organizations like Loaves and Fishes. I love helping them to help others by providing warm and nutritious meals. They are professional and compassionate and my time spent supporting their work has been extremely rewarding and meaningful.”

-Debbie Law

DID YOU KNOW

How you can support the mission of Loaves & Fishes

❤ Volunteer- at a meal serving site, on your company’s campus, or at one of our Grocery Bag distribution events.

❤ Make a one time or recurring gift to support our work.

❤ Take advantage of your company’s employee/corporate matching program.

❤ Make a donation to honor or remember a loved one.

https://www.loavesfishes.org/other-ways-to-donate
“Thank you so much for having us as one of your hot meal distribution sites. I love every time when I get a chance to say hi to the people we serve. I know some by name! We chatted up in small groups and followed-up on our day to day struggles. Somehow, I feel the Lord has invited me in a most compelling way to reach out to others in this very personal and unique community effort.”

-Quynh Van Mac, Board Member

Mia Overbo is an eighth grade student at St Andrew’s School in Saratoga. Last year, when she was volunteering with her class in the Loaves & Fishes organic garden, we mentioned to the students that we were looking for someone to do a mural of the garden. Mia said that she would be happy to do that for us. She delivered the mural and we were thrilled to have it mounted in the garden where it is on display for all to enjoy. Thank you so much, Mia! You have a bright future ahead of you as an artist!

-Larry Vollman, Father Larry’s Garden
Our **Director's Circle** is a newly formed special group of donors who give $1,000 or more annually and receive special acknowledgment and opportunities to come together to learn how Loaves & Fishes is putting their generous donations to work. Benefits include an invitation to the annual Director's Circle reception, personal volunteer experiences, and recognition in our newsletter and website. Please contact gisela@loavesfishes.org to join or learn more about membership.

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Providers Circle - $10,000 - $24,999

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Questions? Contact Mauricio at mauricio@loavesfishes.org or call 510-909-2209

Free parking is available at the Target on Coleman Avenue opposite Rotary Club Playgrounds