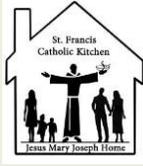


**“St. Francis is One Mission,  
Two Programs...graciously providing  
food, clothing, shelter, and new  
opportunities to those in need,  
with dignity and love since 1982.”**



**To support the soup kitchen program,  
please mail your donation check to:**

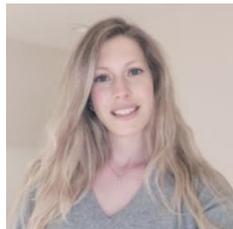
**St. Francis Catholic Kitchen  
205 Mora Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

**Checks designated for the transitional shelter  
program may be mailed directly to:**

**Jesus Mary Joseph Home  
132 Lennox ST  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

**Or, send a gift using PayPal on the website:  
[stfrancissoupkitchen.org](http://stfrancissoupkitchen.org)**

**“LOVE ONE ANOTHER!”**



**Board member Bernadette Erlach.**

“Born and raised in Santa Cruz County, I grew up as a parishioner of Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church in Capitola. My parents involved me in their devotion to Jesus’ Corporal Works of Mercy by feeding and clothing the homeless and visiting the sick.

In the past several years, I have served the local community as a peace officer and I have become well acquainted with the services that JMJ and SFCK provide as well as the populations they serve. I have witnessed firsthand how SFCK, under Richard Crowe’s direction, provides a safe environment and offers consistent services to hundreds of people who often feel displaced and vulnerable. I am so proud and blessed to serve God’s people in my new capacity as a member of the board of directors!” -- **Bernadette Erlach**

## **St. Francis Catholic Kitchen April 2022 Newsletter**



**A Jesus Mary Joseph Home Success Story,  
shared by a former JMJ resident.**

“Due to a financial burden, my husband, children, and I found ourselves homeless in 2006. We lost our apartment and vehicles. Our heads were spinning with questions--what is happening to our family? How did we end up in this situation?

Before long, my three children and I were accepted and welcomed into the Jesus Mary Joseph Home transitional shelter program. (My husband was able to rent a room by himself.)

JMJ’s generosity went above and beyond. As a resident, I didn’t have to worry about paying full rent, having food on our table, or clothing for myself and my children. JMJ provided us with a safe place to live temporarily and helped us to pause and regroup. Pat Gorman, JMJ director, helped us make a plan to prevent this from happening again. What I didn’t lose was FAITH and HOPE. I came to recognize that God had a plan for us, and I strongly believed that, although this ordeal had happened, it too would pass.

Fast forward to the present, my family got back on its feet. Today, I am the proud owner and CEO of a successful home care agency in Santa Cruz County. We all say, ‘Thank you, Jesus Mary Joseph Home, for your kindness and patience.’”

**--Susana Diaz, CEO  
Pacific Angels Home Care**



**Jesus Mary Joseph Home  
Transitional Shelter Program**

**Pat Gorman, JMJ Director  
Office phone & hours: (831)459-8046,  
Monday–Friday, 9 am – 5 pm  
[pgorman@stfrancissoupkitchen.org](mailto:pgorman@stfrancissoupkitchen.org)**

**St. Francis Catholic Kitchen is a non-profit  
501c3 charitable organization founded in 1982  
by the late Father Peter Carota.**

## **From the soup kitchen...**

What a challenging two years it has been for all of us since the lockdown in mid-March 2020. It was then, on St. Patrick's Day, that the soup kitchen began its response to the pandemic situation. Working quickly but as safely as possible for the sake of guests and staff alike, we shifted from indoor dining to a to-go meal service at curbside. Essential financial support by donors enabled us to keep on providing the basics--take-away meals, masks, ponchos, undergarments, toiletries, and socks--for anyone in need.

Looking back, I think of the call that St. Patrick responded to. After escaping to freedom, St. Patrick went back to serve in Ireland, the very place he had been liberated from. I can only imagine not only the fears but also the courage he must have had to answer 'yes' to the call. While facing the pandemic, I also think of our dedicated volunteers who have shown similar courage in continuing to meet the needs of the poorest of the poor in our community, day-in and day-out.

To stay healthy, everyone needs good food. As light appears at the end of a very dark tunnel, I am grateful that we were able to serve so many people. When health guidelines permit--may it be soon—we will shift back to indoor dining and our volunteer staff will continue to answer that same call to service that St. Patrick heard at Easter.

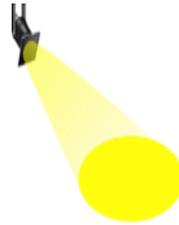
**---Kitchen Director Richard Crowe**

**From October 2021 to February 2022, St. Francis provided 7275 nutritious meals, 1360 masks, 2642 socks, 497 underwear, 702 toiletry kits, and 200 ponchos.**



**Kitchen Director Richard Crowe  
Office phone: (831) 459-6712  
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am - 2pm  
[rcrowe@stfrancissoupkitchen.org](mailto:rcrowe@stfrancissoupkitchen.org)**

**Your monetary gift provides  
basics for the homeless and hungry,  
and is tax-deductible.**



**Sean Gardner with his cat, Bubba, who recently returned to one of God's rooms, Cat Heaven.**



An avid reader who likes cats, Sean Gardner does his work quietly and for little recognition. As the soup kitchen caretaker for 13 years, he is pretty much a jack of all trades, doing many things to help around the kitchen. He also helps Board President Wayne Shaffer with special events at Shaffer Park. Sean reminds us of the kind of "glue" that holds organizations together, often going unnoticed in the background. Thank you for being there, Sean, especially when one of those "inevitable kitchen disasters" occurs!



**L to R: Lucas, Fish & Angie Phipps baking pies.**

### **"In Memoriam"**

**On January 13, 2022, Andrew "Fish" Phipps returned to God. We cannot talk about his volunteer work at St. Francis without recognizing that it was a family affair. His son, Lucas, was a Wednesday volunteer throughout the pandemic. His wife, Angie, is a long-term volunteer performing data entry for the SFCK/JMJ programs.**

**Fish had a soft spot for the disenfranchised. Before his sudden passing, he had just returned to volunteering at the soup kitchen. One legacy that he leaves behind is having taught Lucas to always show respect for the homeless. On walks with Lucas, he showed how to greet each homeless person they met on the street.**

**Well done, Fish. Thank you for serving the hungry. May you rest in peace and pray for us and for the homeless whom you held close in your heart.**