



DIGNITY ❄️ **RESPECT** ❄️ **AFFECTION** ❄️ **ATTENTION** ❄️ **HOSPITALITY**



Celebrating Over 49 Years of Serving Those in Need!

Winter 2023

The Gift of Volunteers

Chris Goddard
Catholic Charities,
Executive Director

Parish Kitchen Staff

James Wendeln
Manager

Amy Bauer
Assistant Manager

Mindy Garcia
Parish Kitchen Associate

Weekend Staff

Lisa Horney
Chris Meyers
Erica Sellman
Clare Vetter
Jim Young

Catholic Charities Advisory Board

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Lisa Knochelmann
Dinah Marron
Dan Meier
Sr. Fran Moore
Msgr. Gerry Reinersman
Clare Ruehl
Mary Paula Schuh
Fr. Joey Shelton
Jim Volz

The holiday season reminds us to be thankful for the many gifts we have, and for me, the gift of our volunteers is a special one. I would like to express my appreciation to each and every one of our volunteers and contributors for a job well done. Your gift of assistance is very much appreciated. Each time we have called upon someone for assistance, the call is met with enthusiasm and much positivity. No matter what the task may be: cooking, food preparation, serving, donating, gardening/landscaping, picking up items for us, etc.; we always find volunteers willing to complete the request for us. The Parish Kitchen could not operate effectively and at 100% without our volunteers. Parish Kitchen has existed and grown tremendously throughout all these years because of the wonderful volunteers and donors who believe in us and support us to no end.

Next June, Parish Kitchen will be celebrating its 50th Year Anniversary. It is amazing to look back at how the mission has grown since the doors first opened in the basement of Mother of God Church. A committee of dedicated people are now meeting regularly to plan some special meals and events during that week in June 2024. Even though it is an anniversary celebration, it is also a tribute to our many volunteers and contributors past and present. One of the events is an open house party at Parish Kitchen so volunteers, contributors, and previous employees, can come by and see where we are now. This will take place after our regular serving hours. The date is June 17th, 2024, and specific times will be published as soon as they are confirmed.

Since I have started working here, each day becomes more and more of a passion of mine to keep this mission going forward and growing. I truly believe that the paths I took in my family life and career were leading me here all along. I just did not know it at the time. I never would have thought years ago that I could handle this type of mission. However, there was a plan...and I finally saw it in front of me. On behalf of all of us here at Parish Kitchen, thank you all for the support and contributions you have given. As always, please feel free to stop by for a visit or call me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for 50 years.

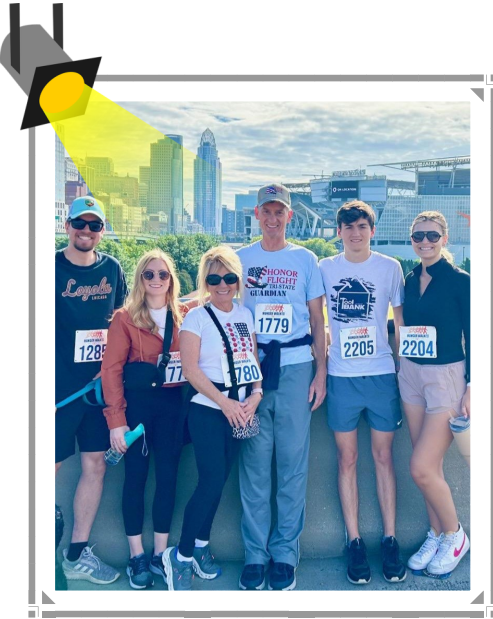
James Wendeln - Kitchen Manager

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Covington, KY 41011
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www.parishkitchen.org
<http://www.facebook.com/ParishKitchen>
www.covingtoncharities.org

Volunteer Spotlight - Susan Schlacter



Susan and her family at the Walk for Hunger

Susan Schlacter, our spotlight volunteer, started volunteering at Parish Kitchen in 2009. She felt a call to volunteer in the community after participating in her own parish's social justice ministry.

Susan first began by sorting and bagging up Panera Bread donations on Mondays. She then decided to be a sub when a server was needed. She now volunteers once a week as a server on Wednesdays. Susan said, "the more I started to volunteer at Parish Kitchen, and get to know the other volunteers and guests we serve, the more I wanted to continue."

In another endeavor to support Parish Kitchen, Susan walked with her family in the "Walk for Hunger" event sponsored by the Free Store Foodbank, on Memorial Day. The family's participation helped raise money for Parish Kitchen. We are so thankful for Susan's continued support in so many ways of Parish Kitchen.

Bike Ministry Transports, Transforms Recipients

By Carol Branch

Pickett's Corner bike ministry is transporting and transforming the lives of those participating in this Catholic Charities initiative begun last spring. Just ask Percy Kirk, who received a bike in November.

"My new bike is the perfect vehicle and has been such a lifesaver for me," explained Percy, 50, a native of Richmond, Kentucky, who moved to the Tri-State area about a year and a half ago. "I use it for therapeutic purposes. I had ACL knee reconstruction surgery recently, and this bike has worked wonders on helping me rehabilitate my knee and it really helps make travel easier for me."



Percy Kirk enjoys his "new" bike

Percy is a regular guest at Parish Kitchen. He estimates he rides between 5 to 10 miles each day, traveling throughout downtown Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky from the shelter to the grocery, to Lord's Gym to work out, to Parish Kitchen, and to other places. "This bike has made such a difference to me," he said.

"If you happen to see someone riding on Madison Avenue near Parish Kitchen," added Percy, "the bike is likely to be from Pickett's Corner. This program has been an incredible resource for so many."

According to Jim Volz, Pickett's Corner volunteer coordinator and Catholic Charities advisory board member, the program has distributed well over 200 bikes since its inception. Twenty bikes were given out at the program's final distribution of the year, on November 29, 2023. All bikes include a lock, and any needed repairs are provided by knowledgeable volunteers at routinely scheduled "bike clinics" at Parish Kitchen. Due to cold weather the ministry has closed shop until February. But there is a waiting list to receive bikes, so financial and bike donations are always welcomed.

Contact pickettscorner23@gmail.com or www.covingtoncharities.org

Youth in Action



St. Henry Seniors preparing and serving lunches

Saint Henry District High School seniors spent the second day of their senior retreat learning about poverty and homelessness in the Covington community. Students had the opportunity to see the face of Christ by serving packed lunches to people waiting outside Parish Kitchen. One student reflected on their experience saying they noticed the joy and sincere gratitude in each person they encountered.

Successful PB&J Drive Feeds Those in Need

Thank you to the staff from Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA, Cincinnati office who recently held a PB&J drive for jars of peanut butter and jelly. Once the drive was over, volunteers from their office assembled 600 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and donated them to the Parish Kitchen. Way to go team!



Weltman, Weinberg & Reis collect & prepare sandwiches

Parish Kitchen Annual Appeal

Hopefully by now you have received the Parish Kitchen Annual Appeal card. This appeal is the main source of funding for the Parish Kitchen day-to-day operations. With the cost of food at an all-time high, and an ever-increasing number of guests entering our doors, your donation truly matters.

Wish List and Thank You

Thank you so much to all who donated sleeping bags during our annual sleeping bag drive—we are so grateful to have these to give during this winter season!

Parish Kitchen also needs gloves and deodorant for our guests. An Amazon Wish list is available to order needed items and have them shipped directly to Parish Kitchen.

Visit <https://shorturl.at/gCHKL> to see the list.



If you would like to purchase and drop off the items directly, please drop off at the Parish Kitchen between 8 and 11 a.m. at 1561 Madison Ave, Covington, KY 41011. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Respect

Hospitality

Attention

Affection

Dignity



1561 Madison Ave.
Covington, KY 41011
(859) 581-7745

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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SAVE THE DATE

Parish Kitchen will be celebrating it's



June 17, 2024

**Open House Reception will be
From 5:00-7:00 pm at Parish Kitchen**