

Breaking Bread

A Newsletter of Parish Kitchen, a ministry of Catholic Charities

Fall 2017



Celebrating Over 40 Years of Serving Those in Need!

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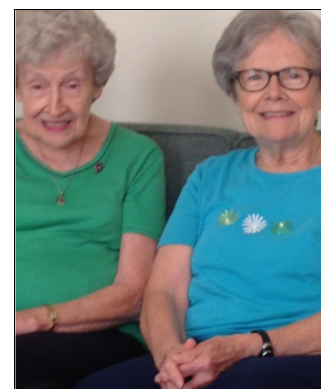
Marna Zalla

Volunteer Spotlight: Andrea and Carole Lonneman

Written by: Daniel Burr

Andrea and Carole Lonneman have volunteered at the Parish Kitchen since it opened in June 1974. These sisters were among the Mother of God parishioners, led by Fr. William Mertes, who saw the hungry in their midst and decided to establish the Parish Kitchen. Carole and Andrea live near the Parish Kitchen. They began as evening cooks on the second Friday (and any fifth Friday) of the month and they have continued in that capacity for 43 years. The sisters were members of the Mother of God choir, and they recruited some of the other initial cooking teams from their fellow choir members.

From the beginning, the members of the Lonneman Friday team have been family members. Their parents, brother and sister-in-law, niece and nephew-in-law have all participated. Today a 9-year-old great nephew is the youngest member of the team. After preparing food at the Kitchen, the family members all go out to dinner together.



Their father, Andy Lonneman, is a legend for his work on behalf of the disadvantaged. He was the director of St. Vincent DePaul, when it was located on Pike Street near the Parish Kitchen. After his retirement, he volunteered as a Monday server at the Kitchen. Andy got the idea for the awning to protect guests waiting in the courtyard from the weather from his wife Mildred. After his death in 1988, donations were made in his honor to fund what became known as "Andy's Awning."

Asked why they have been faithful volunteers for so many years, Carole and Andrea mention the example of their grandmother, who fed the hungry who came to her door, and their father's work at St. Vincent DePaul. "Fr. Mertes made us think," says Andrea, "he got people involved in the neighborhood around Mother of God and inspired us to do what is best for everyone." Evening cooks do not often interact with the Parish Kitchen guests. Andrea, who taught at the St. Paul Parish School, also remembers having the human impact of her volunteer work affirmed when she heard retired Parish Kitchen Director Molly Navin tell stories about the guests to the students at their Thanksgiving Mass.

By making the Parish Kitchen part of their lives for so many years, Andrea and Carole Lonneman have forged their own place in its history.

Dignity

Affection

Attention

Hospitality

Respect

Special Thanks!

Catholic Charities and Parish Kitchen would like to give a special thanks to the ladies at Madonna Manor in Villa Hills for the time and dedication they have given to our Mercy Mat Ministry. Mercy Mats are sleeping mats made from recycled plastic bags that are distributed to the homeless. Each mat provides not only a cushioned, pest-resistant sleeping alternative to the ground or concrete, it is also a protective barrier against surfaces that are wet and cold. The mats are nonabsorbent, easily cleaned, light-weight and roll-up for portability.

For the past year Lucille Adams, Jeanette Kruer, Sally Mando, and Marian Pauly have spent countless hours cutting their signature purple bags into strips and then handing them over to Marlene Meyers who crochets the bags into the Mercy Mats. She adds a few rows of purple to each mat so that the recipient takes a piece of Madonna Manor with them wherever they go. The ladies say "it's something anyone could do while sitting and watching TV" and it's a great way to get people involved. "They see you and join in" said Jeanette Kruer. Marian Pauly added that it's "a great way to help the needy". Thank you ladies for your time and compassion!

If you are looking for a way to get a group involved with Parish Kitchen, the Mercy Mat Ministry would be perfect! We are also looking for volunteers who like to crochet. Any part of this ministry can be done in a group setting or in your own home while watching TV. Contact Kristina Jolly at kjolly@covingtoncharities or 859-581-8974



From Left to Right: Sally Mando, Lucille Adams, Marian Pauly, and Jeanette Kruer

Favorite Recipe: "Ham Broccoli and Rice"

2 cups cooked ham diced
3 cups broccoli florets steamed
1 medium onion chopped
3 cups cooked rice
2 cans cream of mushroom soup
1/2 cup of milk
2 cups cheddar cheese shredded
Durkee Onions .



Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cook chopped onion in oil over a medium-low heat until soft. In a large bowl mix the milk, soup, and cheddar cheese together until combined. Gently stir in the cooked rice, ham, broccoli, and onions. Dump broccoli mixture into a large casserole dish. Spread the Durkee onions over the top of the casserole and bake uncovered for 30 minutes.

Everyday Thanksgiving

By Maria Meyer

Every day is thanksgiving at Parish Kitchen because every day we have reasons to be grateful: for our guests, volunteers, donors and donations. Every day guests make a point to personally thank us for their lunch. William Arthur Ward writes "Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

We are blessed with volunteers. Every day, volunteers give of their time and talent: cooking, baking homemade desserts, serving meals, doing dishes, wiping down tables, rolling forks, doing maintenance work, passing out hygiene items, cleaning, picking up and delivering donations.

We are blessed with donations. Almost every day, we receive a check in the mail- sometimes multiple checks. We are so grateful that a large majority of our budget is made possible by private donations. We receive donations in the form of money, bread, biscuits, donuts, homemade desserts, hygiene items, and leftovers.

Thank you for making Parish Kitchen a reality for our guests. Because of your generosity, we are grateful.



Calling All Angels!

Your Brothers and Sisters are in Need of Sleeping Bags and Blankets



The beauty of the autumn is quickly giving way to winter's long chill. Again this year, the Parish Kitchen is in need of sleeping bags and blankets for our guests. Seize this opportunity! Help out by donating new sleeping bags and blankets to be given as Christmas gifts to our hundreds of guests. Many of our brothers and sisters spend these long winter nights in unheated spaces or even sleep outdoors. This winter, your simple gifts of sleeping bags and blankets will not only warm their hearts and souls, but may even save their lives. Thanks for your warm support for those in need!

We're collecting

NEW twin-size **blankets** and **NEW** sleeping bags
to be given during the cold winter months to our guests.

**The Parish Kitchen will gladly receive your donations
anytime between now and November 30th.**



Please deliver to:

Parish Kitchen, 143 Pike Street, Covington, KY 41012 (859)581-7745
Or Catholic Charities, 3629 Church Street, Latonia, KY 41015

We also have a need for the following:

- ♦ *Hats, gloves or scarfs*
- ♦ *Socks, deodorant, and disposable razors*

Respect

Hospitality

Attention

Affection

Dignity



*P.O. Box 1234
Covington, KY 41012*

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Covington, KY
Permit No. 21

Address Service Requested

Partner with Us in Ministry

Weekend Manager(s) Position Available

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Covington is still accepting applications for qualified candidates to help manage and serve at Parish Kitchen on the weekends, as part of a two person team. Depending on your availability, you could be scheduled as little as once a month, or up to 4 or 5 times per month on Saturdays and/or Sundays. The job description and salary are posted on our website (www.parishkitchen.org or www.covingtoncharities.org) as well as the Diocese of Covington's website (www.covdio.org). Please help spread the word!