



# SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



### MEET SHERRY

Sherry and Kevin fell on difficult times. Kevin was ill and unable to work plus Sherry was caring for a sick family member. They lost their home and found themselves on the streets, that's where they heard about Loaves and Fishes and its meal program. Sherry and Kevin began visiting the

Antioch dining room nearly every day for the next ten years while they worked to get back on their feet.

Sherry enjoyed the hot meals and appreciated the food pantry filled with fresh produce items she could take with her to eat later. Sherry remembers looking forward to the Thanksgiving dinners each year.

"Being homeless is hard but Loaves made it easier because I developed lasting friendships with Tina and the rest of the Loaves and Fishes staff," said Sherry. Sherry got back on her feet a step at a time. First, she was able to get a cell phone and then she purchased a car. She began working for DoorDash and in time, she and Kevin moved into a home in Antioch. They are now celebrating their one year anniversary of having a home.

Although Sherry no longer frequents Loaves and Fishes on a daily basis, she stops by when she can to say hello and thank the staff for all they did for her. "I am so grateful to Loaves and Fishes for helping me get through that difficult time in my life," Sherry said.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

A huge THANK YOU to Lafayette Community Foundation for naming Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa a 2022 Excellence Grants awardee! Our work continues because of LCF's mission to connect generous donors with local nonprofits that enhance the civic, cultural, educational, and general wellbeing of Lafayette and surrounding communities.

## EXPANSION PLAN UPDATE

Last year, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa committed to an expansion of our services in new geographic areas with the greatest unmet need in Contra Costa County. One key tactic to carry out this expansion includes the establishment of a mobile delivery program to deliver hot meals to individuals in need who do not have access to kitchens or other hot meal services.

After several delays, we are very excited that the vehicle's expected delivery date is in August, and we plan to start our services with our pilot partners right away.

We look forward to being able to do more for our community with the Loaves and Fishes' services. Go to <https://youtu.be/4pDhouZp47c> for more information on our new initiative.

If you would like to support our expansion plan, please use the enclosed donation envelope and designate "Expansion Plan" on your check memo.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

### The Big La Bocce is Back!

Benefiting both Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa and St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County



### September 10, 2022

Includes a light breakfast, lunch, beverages, a silent auction and a raffle.

Current local health and safety guidelines will be followed.

Event Details and Registration:

<https://loavesfishescc.ejoinme.org/2022Bocce>

## SAVE THE DATES

### ROCK OUT HUNGER

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Blackhawk Country Club



### DRIVE OUT HUNGER

Monday, May 22, 2023

Blackhawk Country Club  
(NEW LOCATION)



## NEW STAFF MEMBERS



### Joe, Assistant Dining Room Manager, Martinez

Joe retired in 2017 and he took two years off to travel and spend time with family. He enjoys the outdoors and cycling. Per Joe, "I look forward to each day serving the community of Martinez. Sometimes Carissa or Theresa will prepare a meal that will remind me of what my Mom would cook for our family. Everyone that receives a hot meal at our location has a story to tell and I enjoy listening to each and every one of them."



### Cassandra Dell'Aquila, Dining Room Manager, Martinez

Cassandra earned a Culinary Arts diploma from the Institute of Technology Culinary Program. After attending culinary training, Cassandra pursued her passion for preparing delicious food and satisfying Bay Area customers for the past 15 years.

She enjoys hiking, volunteering and going on dog walks with Raven, her sweet aussiedoodle puppy. Per Cassandra, "I am grateful for this opportunity to join in promoting nourished and healthy lives."

## CULINARY ARTS TRAINING PROGRAM

### Congratulations to the Culinary Graduates of June 2022

With a delicious buffet-style spread, our graduating class of culinary students completed their last task of the Loaves and Fishes Culinary Arts Program - to create a menu and prepare all the food for their own graduation. Graduates, their families and friends and Loaves and Fishes staff and board members gathered to congratulate the graduates and enjoy the festivities.

Throughout their 12-week journey, the students learned basic culinary skills to help them jump start their career in the food industry.

We are so proud of our culinary graduates and we can't wait to see what the future holds for them. Congratulations!

Loaves and Fishes offers a 12-week free culinary program for individuals wanting to learn how to work in the culinary industry. Our program will teach you basic culinary skills needed to qualify as a candidate for a starting position within the Culinary Industry.

### Upcoming Sessions:

July 5 – September 22, 2022

September 27 – December 8, 2022

Apply Today! Class size is limited

Go to: <https://loavesfishescc.org/culinary-arts-program/about-the-program>



## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa has a long-standing partnership with Opportunity Junction to ensure everyone who works hard deserves the opportunity to succeed.

Opportunity Junction helps motivate Contra Costa County job seekers to develop the skills and confidence to launch careers that lead to financial security. Two of their core employment programs help prepare individuals for careers in administrative or healthcare careers.

Loaves and Fishes provides hot lunches to Opportunity Junction's Administrative Careers Training classes and their Certified Nursing Assistant Cohorts during the week. The food provided by Loaves and Fishes is critical to fueling the trainees and interns who are dedicating their full time efforts to launching a new career. When the students do not have to worry about their next meal, it allows them to focus on learning.

*I think the lunch program is an awesome addition to this program.*

*It really helps with our time and money issues when trying to get through the day. Thanks again for providing lunch for us. – Bernadette*

*I really appreciate the lunch that is provided to us from Loaves and Fishes. It's one less thing that I have to worry about while I am learning in school. The food is very good and I love how they always include a salad and fruit to make it healthy. – Summer*

## E.D. LETTER **Sheila Aceves**



Happy Summer and New Year! July 1 marks the new fiscal year for us and it's a great time to reflect on the past as well as look forward to the year ahead with new goals.

Our daily meal counts have continued to climb. Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa dining rooms now serve almost three times as many meals per day as we did before the pandemic as families and seniors continue to struggle to make ends meet every month. We are so grateful for the support that we have received from our local community in these difficult times, when so many of our neighbors need us more than ever.

As I look at the year ahead, I believe the Loaves and Fishes' meal program will continue to be in high demand. The community level of Covid-19 in Contra Costa County continues to be high and there has been a substantial price increase in three critical areas - shelter, food and gasoline due to inflation.

To address the increased need in the community, Loaves and Fishes will expand its services by utilizing a new mobile unit to reach more people in need living in Contra Costa County who cannot travel to our dining rooms. The mobile unit will give Loaves and Fishes the flexibility to serve more hot meals to people experiencing food insecurity, doubling its current service to more than 3,000-3,500 meals/day.

As we anxiously await the delivery of our customized food truck this summer, we have been preparing the organization to take on this additional initiative. We look forward to doing more for our community with expanded Loaves and Fishes' services.

We are preparing for our next event: The Big La Bocce 2022 Bocce Ball Tournament which will be held on September 10th in Martinez. It is a fun event which will include a light breakfast, lunch, beverages, a silent auction and a raffle. I hope you can join us.

Loaves and Fishes needs your donations this summer to keep all our good work going. As you support us, you can be assured your donation will go towards a program with a strong team behind it and you are serving to make our community a better place. Loaves and Fishes "Nourishes Lives" every day!

Wishing you a happy and healthy summer.

Warm Regards,

*Sheila Aceves*

## WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBER



We would like to welcome our newest board member, Jay Howard, to the Loaves and Fishes' Board of Directors.

For the past 9 years, Jay has been

superintendent for G Swanson Construction. He is also a board member for the Nor Cal Carpenters Union and on the Carpenters Local Union 152 Executive Committee. He also serves as a delegate to the Regional Council for carpenters union, as well as delegate to the 46 counties board.

Jay is very active in his community serving as a board member for the Martinez Historical Society and the director of the "Carpenters Who Care" program. Also, Jay recently announced that he is running for Martinez City Council, District # 1.

Jay lives in Martinez with his lovely wife, Traci. He has two children, Sierra and Justin. Jay is an avid hiker and enjoys extreme skiing.

Per Jay, "I love giving back to the community that has given so much to me. As a former client of Loaves and Fishes, I couldn't be more proud to be serving on the Board of Directors."

## THANK YOU TO FORMER BOARD MEMBERS

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa would like to send out heartfelt thanks to two board members who recently retired from the Loaves and Fishes **Board of Directors: Stephen Hitchcock and Jon Dunckel.** Loaves and Fishes is extremely grateful for their service, dedication and contributions to help it succeed in our mission to feed those in need in our community.

**Stephen** joined the board in 2014 and has helped the organization really grow during his tenure. **Jon** joined the board more recently in 2020, and has been a great help with our golf tournament and marketing efforts.

Thank you for all that you have done over the years in devoting your time to Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa. You both will be missed.



# Loaves and Fishes

OF CONTRA COSTA

*Nourishing Lives*

835 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA 94553  
Tax ID# 68-0018077

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!  
**DONATE**

Write a check or donate online at  
[www.loavesfishescc.org](http://www.loavesfishescc.org)

We also accept food donations

Generously Printed By: 

## LOAVES AND FISHES OPERATED DINING ROOMS/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

### ANTIOCH

American Legion Hall  
403 W. 6th Street

### MARTINEZ

Dining Room/  
Admin Offices  
835 Ferry Street

### PITTSBURG

Central Kitchen  
510 Garcia Ave, Unit H

### PITTSBURG

St. Vincent de Paul  
1415 Simpson Court

### OAKLEY

Red Man-Pocahontas Hall  
1403 Main Street

### WALNUT CREEK

Trinity Center  
1888 Trinity Ave.



## DONATION DRIVE

We hope you find a way to contribute to Loaves and Fishes that is meaningful to you:

Thinking outside the can: Donate portable, hand-operated can openers that can be used by our clients to open donated can goods.

Just like food, hygiene items are also essential: Donate body wipes, toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, socks or female hygiene products. If possible, make sure that the hygiene items you're donating are unscented and alcohol-free so that everyone can use them.

Donate financially towards operational expenses: Cash gifts are always appreciated and are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

## VOLUNTEER UPDATE

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sign Up by emailing Karen Olson, Operations/ Volunteer Manager, at [karen@loavesfishescc.org](mailto:karen@loavesfishescc.org)

- **DINING ROOM VOLUNTEERS** at one of our five dining room locations in Antioch, Martinez, Oakley, Pittsburg and Walnut Creek.
- **CENTRAL KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS** to assist our Head Chef in our Central Kitchen in Pittsburg.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

In a day and age where time is a precious commodity, we would like to acknowledge a team of volunteers who have dedicated 15 years of their time and energy to Loaves and Fishes and our mission. This team of volunteers is from the Future Explorers organization where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have equal opportunities, are included, and are empowered to make their own decisions.

This team previously volunteered at the now-closed Bay Point dining room and now every Thursday in the Antioch dining room. They are very proud of their work and we are very grateful for all that they do.

Thank you to Robin, Lisa, Tracy and Pat (instructor not pictured)!



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