



Loaves and Fishes

OF CONTRA COSTA

Nourishing Lives

SPRING 2023

# NEWSLETTER



## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



### MEET SHERMAN

After Sherman found Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa in Oakley, he not only found a reliable source of good nutritious meals, he also found many friends and a real sense of community. Debbie, who is the dining room manager of Oakley, is one of his favorites. He really likes the work she and the rest of the staff and volunteers do for the people facing food insecurity in Oakley. They are wonderful, caring and greet him with a smile. All of the services and love have been a lifeline to Sherman. While he likes many of the items made in the kitchen, it can't go without saying, the pies are his favorite! He loves the hot soups which are made from scratch plus the Chicken Noodle and the Chicken Corn Chowder are house favorites. Sherman has been coming to Oakley

for 10 years now, as it is a place where he can get a hot and nutritious meal.

### MEET JEFF

Jeff is a fairly new client to our Oakley location, coming to us in September of 2022. After falling on hard times, Jeff was struggling to find food when, luckily, a friend had mentioned to him that he should try out the Loaves and Fishes Dining Room. Jeff has become a frequent client and he is very appreciative of the services he receives from Loaves and Fishes. Per Jeff, having a place like Loaves and Fishes to go to has, "kept him from starving." He also finds the connection and interactions with the staff members to be very helpful and comforting. The staff and volunteers at Loaves and Fishes have always been very welcoming and supportive of him. Jeff has a good sense of optimism and seems to navigate challenging times with a quote he is fond of, "Good, better, best – 'Till the good is better and better is best."

We want to thank Sherman and Jeff for sharing their stories with us and being a part of what makes Loaves and Fishes such a special place for us all. Loaves and Fishes uses input from our clients to help us better understand the needs of the community.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Loaves and Fishes thanks the Board of Directors and readers at East Bay Times and Bay Area News Groups' Share the Spirit Program. Because of the generous support and funding through the Share the Spirit Program, Loaves and Fishes is able to provide hot meals and groceries to people facing food insecurity in Contra Costa County. As part of this wonderful program, Loaves and Fishes has been providing grocery gift cards to its guests during the holiday season for the last 8 years now.

Thank you so much for your support to help us make sure no one goes hungry.

## EXPANSION PLAN

Our Mobile Unit arrived at the end of 2022 and we have now launched our Food Truck Pilot Program. In January, 2023, we started our meal service at Delta Landing serving nearly 200 meals per day in this facility, which helps formerly homeless people transition to supportive housing. In March 2023, our mobile meal service started at West Pittsburg Community Church, via Bay Point Community All N One, which is a collective that gathers services for those in need, such as free clothing and groceries, showers, and medical care. On Tuesdays we serve nearly 200 meals. Once our Food Truck Program pilot is completed, we will add 2-6 more partners for mobile truck service by the end of 2023 to serve hot meals to more locations than ever before.

# CULINARY ARTS TRAINING PROGRAM



There is a new chef in town! Lavell Renfro, assisted by Cassandra Dell'Aquila, has revamped our curriculum after the Culinary Arts

Training Program was shut down by the pandemic. During the program, our students learn knife skills, how to make basic stocks and sauces, sanitation, and essential techniques for preparing a range of savory and sweet dishes. Students tour restaurants and cater events. They graduate with a national ServSafe certificate, and catering experience. Students receive placement assistance for further culinary training or employment. We will continue to refine our culinary curriculum and explore ways to expand the training program.



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

## UPCOMING SESSIONS:

April 11 – June 29, 2023

July 11 – Sept 28, 2023

October 3 – December 21, 2023

**Apply Today! Class size is limited**

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

## WELCOME TO UR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



**LYNETTE MISCIONE** - Lynette has joined us as a member of the Loaves and Fishes' development team as a Development Coordinator. Lynette has been working in and out of the food industry for many years. She started working in restaurants in the LA area and moved to the Bay Area in 2004 when she joined Market Hall Foods as part of the catering team. From there, she went into working with farmers as a market manager for PCFMA, where she now sits as a Community Board Member. She briefly moved back to LA in 2017 to work for the City of Santa Monica. There she managed their world-famous farmers markets and worked side by side with Hunger Action LA. During her down-time she loves snowboarding, going to concerts and cooking!



**KRISTIN AUGUSTIN** - Kristin has joined as one of the team members with Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa, who is driving and serving on our new Karen Introcaso Mobile Delivery Unit!

Kristin started out in the corporate world, but wanted to seek out a better balance with work and family - so she found her passion in the culinary field and enrolled and graduated from the Loaves and Fishes' Culinary Arts Training program. She's now able to enjoy her newfound love of culinary arts while spending time with her family, as well as helping her community with delicious and nourishing meals. Kristin's goal is to own her own food truck, and bring something unique to our Contra Costa Community.



**ANDREA MANZANO** - Andrea works on our new Karen Introcaso Mobile Delivery Unit. She grew up in the Bay Area and is a recent graduate of the Loaves and Fishes' Culinary Arts Training program. After graduating from high school, Andrea worked in Oakland in an admin role for The John Stewart Company working with the homeless population. Inspired by her father, she became interested in cooking and heard about the Loaves and Fishes' Culinary Arts Training Program through the Trinity Center. Working on the mobile unit, "makes her heart smile". She enjoys seeing the joy on peoples' faces as they receive a hot meal.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



We would like to welcome our newest board member Logan Campbell. Logan Campbell is an active volunteer and advocate in the recovery community. Since 2019, he has served as the representative for Contra Costa County District 5 on the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board, currently serving as Vice Chair. In addition, he serves on the board of directors for Support4Recovery Inc., as Vice President. From 2016 to 2022, he is the CEO of the Alumni

Association at Discovery House, a residential treatment facility in Martinez, CA. He has been in recovery since 2009. He owns and operates a local landscape company. He loves to travel and is an avid scuba diver and a certified divemaster.

## THANK YOU TO FORMER BOARD MEMBERS

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa would like to send out heartfelt thanks to four board members who recently retired from the Loaves and Fishes Board of Directors: Rhea Bennett, Geoffrey Disch, Catherine Madrid and Michelle Monaco.

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.

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

## INTRODUCING THE LUNCH CLUB



Your monthly gifts as a member of The Lunch Club will go a long way to make a lasting commitment to end food insecurity in

our community!

**Makes a Difference!** You'll be providing continued support to your community, providing much needed resources year round.

**Fits Your Budget!** Whatever your monthly gift, it accumulates to enable Loaves and Fishes to continue serving meals to the

hungry of Contra Costa County.

### **Plan for the Future!**

Sustained donations enable us to budget for the monthly purchase of fresh produce, proteins, and other necessary food items.

### **Brings You Behind the Scenes!**

Your commitment brings you closer to our work through exclusive early access to LFCC events, programs and projects and updates.

**Check out our new program on our website:** <https://loavesfishescc.org/lunch-club/>

## APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH



### **We LOVE our volunteers!**

This Volunteer Appreciation Month, and always, our hearts are full of gratitude to the volunteers who help Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa fulfill its mission to provide community based food programs and partner services

that focus on basic needs.

To all our volunteers, we send our profound thanks to you, and we hope that you feel our

deep appreciation each time you volunteer at Loaves and Fishes.

If you would like to get involved by volunteering, please visit our website at <https://loavesfishescc.org/volunteer/>



### **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ISAIAH OWENS**

Isaiah has been volunteering for Loaves and Fishes at our Pittsburg dining room. He works in the kitchen preparing the meals and serving meals to clients. He came to us with the desire to help his local community. One day, he decided to Google "ways to volunteer."

When Loaves and Fishes popped up, he quickly remembered he was already connected to us. As it turns out, when his father was a young boy, he used to be a guest and utilize our services. When that all came together, he couldn't wait to give back and contribute to a mission that helped his family. Isaiah has been working with us now for the past 4 months.

Isaiah's favorite thing about volunteering is seeing the look on the guests faces when they receive extra items like a loaf of bread, milk or a jar of peanut butter. It makes him feel wonderful to be able to give back.

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



2022 was a significant year for our organization, and 2023 is off to an exciting start!

Our meal program continues to be in high

demand as inflation soars and fuel, shelter and food prices continue to climb. In the days before Covid-19, we were serving about 650 meals per day in our dining rooms located in Martinez, Pittsburg, Walnut Creek, Oakley and Antioch. Currently, LFCC's dining rooms serve almost three times as many meals per day as we did before the pandemic. Last year we served 281,352 hot, nutritious meals and 259 tons of fresh produce and non-perishables distributed through the food pantries.

In January 2023, we launched our Mobile Delivery Pilot Program and started our meal service at Delta Landing serving almost 100 people per day in this facility, which helps formerly homeless people transition to supportive housing. In March 2023, our mobile meal service started at West Pittsburg Community Church, via Bay Point Community All In One, which is a collective that gathers services for those in need, such as free clothing and groceries, showers, and medical care.

I am proud of the accomplishments of this organization and excited about the work we have ahead. Looking forward, we plan to reopen our dining rooms to allow for a hybrid service model accommodating both takeaway and indoor dining; we will continue to refine our culinary curriculum and explore ways to expand the training program. Once our Mobile Delivery Pilot Program is completed, we will add 2-6 more partners for mobile truck service by the end of 2023 to serve hot and nutritious meals to more locations than ever before.

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 spring!

Warm Regards,

*Sheila Aceves*





# 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.

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Now that the mobile unit has arrived, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa has launched a 6-month pilot project of delivering meals to two partner agencies:

### DELTA LANDING IN PITTSBURG

Delta Landing is a state-of-the-art 200-unit interim housing facility with basic healthcare, housing navigation, and case management provided on-site to help residents recover from homelessness and find permanent housing.

### WEST PITTSBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH

In conjunction with Bay Point Community All N One, a non-profit helping people who cannot meet their most basic needs. Together they help the most vulnerable in our community with showers, clothing, medical care and food.

## SAVE THE DATES



### DRIVE OUT HUNGER CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT May 22, 2023

Blackhawk Country Club  
(NEW LOCATION)  
599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville

### THE BIG LA BOCCE Saturday, September 30, 2023 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Martinez Bocce Federation  
Joe DiMaggio Way, Martinez



[info@loavesfishescc.org](mailto:info@loavesfishescc.org)

