



HOLIDAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



LETTER from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CARING AND COMPASSION

As the year draws to a close and we embrace the festive spirit, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude and extend warm holiday greetings to each and every one of you. We are humbled by the collective efforts and dedication that have brought us to this point, but we still need your help. We kindly ask for a renewed commitment to our mission from our supporters during this time of giving as donations have significantly declined and LFCC services have increased to meet the heightened demand. We are currently operating under a budget deficit.

This year is particularly special as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. Since our establishment in 1983, Loaves and Fishes has tirelessly dedicated itself to alleviating hunger throughout Contra Costa County. Over the years, we have grown into a dynamic organization with five dining rooms and a mobile unit, all committed to delivering hot and nutritious meals to those in need. To date, we have proudly served 6 million meals to countless individuals. In our most recent fiscal year, we achieved significant milestones by providing 388,996 meals and distributing more than 241 tons of groceries. This is FOUR times as many meals per day as we did before the pandemic.

According to data released by Feeding America, Contra Costa County is grappling with a food insecurity rate of 7.5%, impacting around 87,070 individuals. This means that many of our neighbors are experiencing hunger and are compelled to make difficult choices between buying food and covering essential expenses like housing, healthcare, and utilities.

County-wide, more community members than ever before are relying on us for hot meals and groceries. With high inflation and CalFresh food assistance declining, there is a surge in demand for food.



Join us in celebrating our 40th anniversary in a meaningful way! Your donation will not only help us reach our 40th-anniversary goal but also create a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, joyous, and blessed holiday season. Here's to a new year filled with fresh opportunities, continued growth, and the fulfillment of our shared mission.

With warm regards and best wishes,



JANETTE KENNEDY
Executive Director, Development
and External Relations



JOLENE LAFAYETTE
Executive Director,
Operations

'TIS THE SEASON

Thanks to Chef Carissa and team, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa will be serving up two special holiday meals with all the trimmings – one during our weekend program and one the day before the holiday.

We extend our gratitude to Fremont Bank for their generous Holiday grant support, which, along with 100 turkeys generously donated by Pledge to Humanity, enables us to serve delicious feasts with all the fixings, specially crafted by our hardworking kitchen crew. We expect to serve nearly 3,000 holiday meals. Everyone deserves a delicious, nourishing meal this holiday season!

CALIFORNIA
SENATOR BILL DODD
Senate District 3

SEN. DODD NAMES LOAVES AND FISHES OF CONTRA COSTA AS NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa has been named Nonprofit of the Year for Contra Costa County by Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa. "They've done an incredible job making sure no one goes hungry in Contra Costa County," Sen. Dodd said. "They've been putting food on the table for anyone in need for decades. Their dedication and commitment is impressive and I'm proud to recognize them for their work."

Loaves and Fishes is thrilled to be recognized by Senator Dodd for the tremendous impact it's making on food insecurity in Contra Costa County. Loaves and Fishes wants to take the opportunity to thank its small but mighty staff, all of the volunteers and everyone in the community who supports its mission.

Award ceremony scheduled for November 28, 2023 at 12pm.



IN LOVING MEMORY

With profound sorrow and heavy hearts, we convey the heartbreaking news of the passing of our esteemed colleague and dear friend, Rhea Bennett, on September 20, 2023. Rhea's dedication was truly remarkable, as she served on our Board of Directors for an impressive 15 years.

Even before her board tenure, she generously volunteered along with her children in our dining rooms with the St. John Vianney group. We deeply treasured her unwavering commitment to our organization.

One of the many aspects of Rhea's tenure with Loaves and Fishes that brought her immense joy was her ability to provide genuine support to our clients, volunteers, and staff. Rhea's absence leaves a void that will be felt by each and every one of us. She will be profoundly missed.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



MEET NEIL: EXTENDING A HELPING HAND TO OTHERS

Neil was battling the all-too-common issues of substance abuse and mental health in our county. Struggling to find the support he needed, Neil found himself without a place to call home. In the midst of this dire circum-

stance, Neil learned about a nearby place known as Loaves and Fishes—a place where he could get a hot meal and groceries daily, no questions asked. It was the lifeline Neil needed to embark on a journey towards a healthier, more fulfilling life.

For five years, Neil made his daily pilgrimage to Loaves and Fishes. Then, one day, while he was there, he overheard someone discussing a remarkable opportunity: the free culinary program. Neil had once attempted culinary school but found the large classrooms and lack of individual attention to be insurmountable obstacles. The Loaves and Fishes' 12-week Culinary Arts Training Program, however, offered precisely what he needed, and at no cost to him. Neil graduated from the program and now dedicates his free time to giving back to the community by volunteering at our Martinez dining room.

When asked about his reasons for volunteering, Neil shared, "The staff at Loaves and Fishes played a pivotal role in getting my life back on track. Volunteering is time well spent, and if you're going through tough times, Loaves and Fishes is here to lend a helping hand. I do it because I want to extend my hand to help others, just as it was extended to me."





LFCC DINING ROOMS REOPENED TO INDOOR DINING FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER PANDEMIC

LFCC Dining Rooms have reopened for indoor dining, marking the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19. During the pandemic, LFCC was compelled to close our dining rooms, leaving a significant number of community members without a safe and comfortable indoor space to enjoy a nourishing meal. LFCC adjusted its meal service approach by quickly transitioning to providing meals in “to-go” containers at our dining room entrances and distributing pre-packed bags of groceries from our food pantries.

We are very pleased to announce that we have reopened our dining rooms and we’ve introduced an innovative hybrid service model that accommodates both takeout and indoor dining.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Over the past several years, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa has proudly collaborated with Mt. Diablo Adult Education by delivering meals to students enrolled in the Healthcare Care Pathways program. The meals are delivered to The Loma Vista Cafe, a facility overseen by the Adults with Disabilities Program on the campus. The Cafe is operated by students and instructors from Life Skills and TOPS classes at Loma Vista Adult Center, providing essential training in independent living skills.

At The Cafe, students not only serve LFCC-supplied meals but also undergo formal food service training in preparation for future employment opportunities and personal independence.

UPDATE ON HEATHER, FORMER CLIENT AND CULINARY STUDENT: LOVING HER NEW JOB



Heather and her husband faced job loss at the start of the pandemic, prompting a move to a budget-friendly mobile unit with limited kitchen space. They relied on Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa for daily meals and groceries. Even as pandemic restrictions eased, financial challenges persisted due to high rent and inflation. Loaves and Fishes’ support remained vital for their survival. After a second job loss, Heather joined the Culinary Arts Program at Loaves and Fishes, graduating in March 2023.

UPDATE: Thanks to Loaves and Fishes’ help, Heather secured a position at Kidz Planet Learning Center, where she prepares nutritious meals for children. This also allows her youngest son to attend preschool for free, providing a perfect solution for her family’s needs and allowing them to spend more time together. Heather expressed her gratitude, stating, “Loaves and Fishes is incredibly important to my family, ensuring we have hot meals on our table even on our toughest days.”



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Our deepest appreciation goes out to Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 159, I.B.E.W. Local Union 302, Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 104, Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 342, and Contra Costa Labor Council. Their significant investment and support played a pivotal role in resolving a critical plumbing problem that had impacted our central kitchen facility, which is the heart of our operations.

Thanks to the dedication of Union Labor, Benicia Plumbing and Bricklayers, Tilesetters and Allied Craftworkers Local 3 we have fully restored our operations, allowing us to efficiently and compassionately serve our community once again.

Read Full Story:

<https://buff.ly/3ZVdL6H>

Every contribution, big or small, makes a profound difference. If you're inspired to join us, whether through a donation or volunteering your time, we welcome you with open arms.



OUR MISSION

The Mission of Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa is to provide community-based food programs and partner services that focus on basic needs. We Nourish Lives!

80% PROGRAM SERVICES

20% SUPPORTING SERVICES



388,996

Meals served,
38% increase
over last year



241

Tons of groceries,
7% decrease
over last year



\$2.08

Cost
per meal



2400+

Number of
people served



100

Volunteers
per week

Loaves and Fishes is able to feed its neighbors due to the generosity of the Contra Costa community. With the compassionate support of our volunteers, grant funders, individuals, businesses, services organizations and food partners we are able to provide a free hot nutritious meal and groceries to anyone in need.

INCOME	JUL 2022 - JUN 2023	%
Individuals	\$544,106	24%
Institutions	\$44,562	2%
Corporate/Businesses	\$145,204	6%
Grants	\$398,044	17%
Culinary Program	\$43,727	2%
Donated Food	\$871,121	38%
Other/Special Events	\$249,724	11%
Total Income	\$2,296,488	100%
Gross Profit	\$2,296,488	100%

EXPENSES		
Administration	\$210,707	8%
Fundraising	\$316,739	12%
Program Operations	\$2,137,290	80%
Total	\$2,664,736	100%

835 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA 94553 • loavesfishescc.org • P: 925-293-4792 • F: 925-957-6155 • Tax ID# 68-0018077

This program is partially funded in part by Community Development Block Grant by Contra Costa County, City of Pittsburg, City of Antioch, and the City of Walnut Creek.

THANK YOU DONORS

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Thank you to all our additional donors who we are limited by space constraints from listing here. Your contributions of \$499 or less are very much appreciated. Donations listed above represent cash donations and do not reflect the generous in-kind donations we received from these and many other donors.



Loaves and Fishes

OF CONTRA COSTA

Nourishing Lives

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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Write a check or donate online at
www.loavesfishescc.org

We also accept food donations

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403 W. 6th Street

MARTINEZ

Dining Room/
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835 Ferry Street

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510 Garcia Ave, Unit H

PITTSBURG

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1415 Simpson Court

OAKLEY

Red Man-Pocahontas Hall
1403 Main Street

WALNUT CREEK

Trinity Center
1888 Trinity Ave.



DIABLO VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
PRESENTS CONCORD CALIFORNIA TURKEY TROT 5K

Benefiting Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023

6:30 AM - Check in and Pre-Race Activities

8:00 AM - Race Starts at Newhall Park

located at 1351 Newhall Parkway Concord, CA

To sign up go to

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Concord/ConcordTurkeyTrot5k>

You don't have to be a runner to join the fun! If you have words of encouragement, able to help direct runners, traffic and between the ages of 15-99, we need you!

Sign up to volunteer: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/CA/Concord/ConcordTurkeyTrot5k>

PLEASE JOIN US FOR UPCOMING EVENTS



ROCK OUT HUNGER GALA

Sat., March 23, 2024

Blackhawk Country Club
599 Blackhawk Club Dr,
Danville



Drive Out Hunger

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Blackhawk Country Club

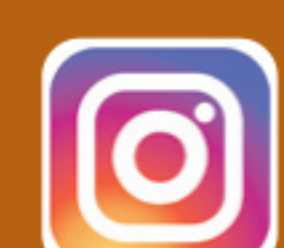
SAVE THE DATE

DRIVE OUT HUNGER

Tues., June 11, 2024

Blackhawk Country Club,
Falls Course

info@loavesfishescc.org



FROM ALL OF US AT LOAVES AND FISHES OF CONTRA COSTA, WE'D LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
MAY THIS SPECIAL SEASON BE FULL OF WARMTH, GOOD WISHES, AND LOTS OF LOVE.