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Franciscan Kitchen Mission Statement
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Answering God’s Call

What am I doing here……

My wife and I used to own and operate a small café for over 2 years, serving breakfast and lunch 6 days a week. The day we sold the café, we stopped at a restaurant, not to eat, but to enjoy a few glasses of wine and to think back on how we managed to work so hard in this industry and remain married…it is indeed a tough industry to be in. I also declared that I would NEVER again cook in a commercial kitchen. I look back on that day and imagine that God enjoyed a good laugh and was thinking….”wait until you see what I have in store for you!”

Six months later, Fr. Joe invited Brother Kerry and Patti Thompson from the Franciscan Shelter House to give a presentation on what they do…which involved prepping and serving 350 - 400 full hot lunches to the poor and homeless 5 days a week. Wanting to help, we stopped on the way home to purchase #10 cans …having no clue how many cans the kitchen goes through each day…but we felt good about it none the less. After a month of donating, I arrived one day with a dozen more cans and a check. I asked Patti if they could use some volunteer help. She gave me her business card and asked that I pray about what I would like to do and call her back. The following day, I called to inquire for more information. I promptly found out where they were located and came to help.

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March 2016

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If you have any questions about the Franciscan Kitchen’s mission, wish to volunteer, donate, or have a talent and would like to volunteer your services, Please call us at (502) 589-0140. We would love to hear from you and would gladly give you a tour of our facility. With the help of many sharing their talents, God’s people can be cared for and served.

Why Do I Volunteer at the Franciscan Soup Kitchen…..

In 2008, I went with my sister to volunteer at the Franciscan Kitchen. At the time, I was a teacher in an elementary school, so I had my summer days available. I was immediately drawn in. Not too much later, my husband, Chuck and our children joined in our volunteer efforts. Our children, now young adults, have helped as often as they could at the kitchen. Many times, they have said that they volunteer because of the stories from the clients, and how genuinely they with what they share. I volunteer because of the blessings I receive each time I help out. More blessings than I deserve! I like to call them my “warm fuzzies.”

Since 2008, my husband and I have hosted a Christmas Open House to benefit the Franciscan Kitchen. We ask our friends to stop in and bring personal items for the “Christmas Day Giveaway.” I am always overwhelmed with the outpouring of love (and items) that so many people share. Since our children are musically inclined, we entertain our guests with songs from theater shows and Christmas. It is a heart-warming evening.

It’s hard to say “Why I volunteer.” There is something spiritual about the Franciscan Kitchen – maybe it is the spirit of St. Francis – “In giving, we receive.”

Answering God’s Call

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Finding An Agent That’s Right For You

We have been given, so we might give!

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### Change of Address

We have decided to eliminate our PO Box within the next year and only use our street address for all of our incoming mail. We have already changed our address on all of our donation envelopes that we send out, but so many still send their donation in regular envelopes and write out the address. For those of you still sending your donations via the PO Box, please change the mailing address to:

**Franciscan Kitchen**

748 S. Preston St.

Louisville, KY 40203

We are so very grateful for the generosity of our donors. We would never be able to provide 400-500 hot nourishing meals daily without your kindness!

### Update 

**Franciscan Kitchen’s communications committee is in the process of expanding our multimedia forms of communication. Branching out will offer all of our volunteers, donors and readers new opportunity to keep informed about our mission through their preferred choice of social media. This is a long term project that will continue to grow and expand based on the needs of the community and our mission. You can keep up with the Franciscan Kitchen by liking us on Facebook or checking out our new website, at www.franciscankitchen.org. The communications committee has been working hard to make our new website user friendly, so that everyone can find a wealth of knowledge about our mission. The website will provide you with information about what we do, hours of operation, our history, staff and board members, photos of our day to day operations, our newsletters, as well as the option to donate online. You can also find ways to contact us for any further information you may wish to know.

To continue our efforts to bring awareness to our mission, our newsletter will be circulated three times a year. In addition, we are offering our readers the opportunity to receive all future newsletters electronically instead of paper copy form. If you prefer this form of communication, please email us at fkh748@aol.com. We will send you an email with the link each time we upload a new newsletter.

Through our updates and upgrades, we hope to be able to share with all what is happening at the Franciscan Kitchen, new programs and opportunities to get involved, as well as our experiences and knowledge in regards to the needs of those less fortunate. In doing so, we hope to encourage others to help us meet those needs by giving back to their brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Grant Writer Needed

The Franciscan Kitchen is looking for a volunteer(s) who has experience in writing grants. There are many companies and gracious foundations that are willing to grant money to nonprofit organizations, such as ourselves, for much needed funding or assets, but an experienced grant writer is needed. If you would like to help out or know someone with this particular talent, please contact us at 502-589-0140. It would be a huge help to our organization to have someone assist us with this endeavor.

### Our Food Policy

Many times restaurants, churches, schools and companies have left over food at the end of the day that they don’t need, can’t use or have in excess. The Franciscan Kitchen always welcomes these leftover donations. We can use almost any food donations, from soup to desserts, as long as they are prepared in a commercial kitchen. We can also accept any unopened boxed and/or canned food items. Please consider donating your leftover items so that we may continue to feed those in need. We can schedule a pick up of your donations from 9 am-12 pm or you can drop them off from 6am to 1 pm. Please contact Chuck Mattingly at (502) 589-0140 to schedule a pick up or to let us know you will be coming to donate. We are grateful to those in our community for the help they provide. It is due to their generosity and that of our financial donors that the Franciscan Kitchen has served those less fortunate in our community for the past 36 years.

### Giving Throughout the Holiday

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help us through the holiday season. Our Thanksgiving Feast and Christmas Day Give Away Programs were both a huge success. We would also like to thank the churches, schools, individuals & organizations who donated items for both occasions. We are blessed beyond measure. God continues to grace us through the generosity of others.

### Serving Up On

For the past two years now, the Franciscan Kitchen has been opening our doors on the last Saturday of the month to serve our guests. This has been a wonderful addition to our schedule. Most often, our clients are in greatest need at the end of the month. Many of our needy are on government assistance and their checks are not issued until the first of the month, as a result, our guests find themselves struggling. With us opening on the last Saturday, we can provide them with an extra meal that they may not have had otherwise.

We have also been blessed with many wonderful groups who come to help cook and serve. From the beginning, Bellarmine Friars and students have been a huge help in making this possible. We have had several families and church groups who have joined us on a regular basis to help serve. It has been a great way for them to receive service hours as well as give back to their community. We would especially like to thank HMS Host for providing us with a food warmer. Everyone’s generosity is truly appreciated!