GIVING THANKS

At Catholic Social Services we believe that actions speak louder than words, and we “give thanks” to YOU, the volunteer. You make it all possible, helping us promote a sense of community and well being for our clients and guests. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, here is how we celebrate this special day throughout our sites and services.

Sr. Rose & Grace House serve their annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Soup Kitchen from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., serving about 80 to 116 people. Shelter guests join in and are allowed to stay in shelter all day if they wish. There is also a second serving at 6:30 in the evening, which with bellies full, has many of the guests turning in early.

St. Clare’s residents prepare a huge dinner and invite anyone who may not have anywhere to go. These are individuals they have come to know through AA or volunteers who may find themselves alone at Thanksgiving.

St. Joseph House prepares a nice big dinner for their guests. Guests are also given more time to spend with their families; and of course, they gather around to watch the football game.

St. Killian’s hosts a Thanksgiving dinner for their guests. This quiet celebration gives the residence a chance to simply enjoy a relaxing day.

Samaritan House will offer a catered dinner for their guests.

Solanus Casey Food Pantry orders turkeys that are distributed to those individuals and families who are clients of Catholic Social Services. Our case managers then add the fixings, delivering a Thanksgiving Feast to those families in our programs.

H.O.U.S.E. is one of the programs that provides their clients with a turkey and all the fixings.

May your celebrations be filled with love and laughter—Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Catholic Social Services.

Thanksgiving Prayer:

“This Thanksgiving, let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord. At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve one another and to walk together in God’s gracious world. With thankful hearts, we praise our God who like a loving parent denies us no good thing.”

From: Songs of Our Hearts, Meditations of Our Souls

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- A Volunteer’s Perspective.............2
- Celebrating a Birthday.................2
- Volunteer Opportunities ..............2
- “Give Back” - Friday Wrap Up.......3
- The Myths of Volunteering...........3
- Photo Highlights .....................4
- Contest Entries* .......................4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Volunteers: Help us update our records: Email rsarai-va@cssdioc.org or call 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111.

- Happy Birthday to all our volunteers who celebrated a birthday in October and will be celebrating in November. In future editions, we would love to honor and recognize YOU!! Email your name and birthday to rsaraiva@cssdioc.org or call 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111.
For Barbara Najjar, giving back and helping those in need was a major part of her upbringing. Her parents believed it was important to do what they could for others even if they themselves did not have enough. Groups and programs she was involved in as a child, such as Girls Scouts, encouraged social justice and giving back to the community. This further emphasized the lessons her parents had thought her, and the impact it could have on others.

As a professional, she had limited time and was not always able to give back to the community. But when her position was downsized, she knew exactly what she wanted to do—she wanted to volunteer. Inspired by what others at her church were doing, she decided it was time to get involved. About 8 years ago, she became a member of the Social Concerns Committee, whose goal was to help families in need. A role Barbara truly enjoyed, which evolved into her current volunteer role at the Solanus Casey Food Pantry. In addition to the Food Pantry, Barbara also was a part of the “Give Back” - Friday program—serving children throughout our Diocese. She also helped sort and pack up the items from our Donation Room as part of the “Give Back” - Fridays. Barbara noted that while helping with the “Give Back” - Fridays, many a times she was almost brought to tears as families shared their stories and showed their appreciation, but kept her tears at bay, because there were others that needed her help.

Barbara said her family mottos have always been “It is better to give, than to receive,” and “There is always room for one more.” She says it feels so much better to be doing that, especially when she is able to be a part of helping a mother feed and clothe her children and families put food on their table.

Of course, this is all well and good, but it truly makes a huge difference to have a supportive spouse, and her husband, Jim, not only is supportive, but helps out when he can. Barbara says that volunteering “feels natural” and she asks herself, “What else can I do? What else can I sacrifice?”

Volunteering is not always easy, and often after a few hours of being on her feet, she wonders if its all worth it. Then she thinks of all those who struggle to make ends meet, who cannot put food on the table for the families, and she forgets her discomfort. For Barbara, the ultimate reward is to hear how grateful people are and to see the children’s faces light up when they receive something new. “You are out there to help, you see it help, and all you do comes back to you, that is why I do it,’ says Barbara, and “why I will continue for as long as I can. For the ability to serve, I am thankful.”

GIVING BACK—A VOLUNTEER’S PERSPECTIVE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES...

Bilingual speakers to translate and interpret for clients.
Food Pantry Volunteers.
Volunteers to sort and organize donations at various sites.
Volunteers to serve our shelter guests and help with laundry.
Food preparers, cooks, servers, greeters, and clean-up crew for the Soup Kitchen.
There are many more opportunities throughout our agency and its sites.
You can also help by organizing a donation drive at your parish, school, or organization. Call us at 508-674-4681 to find out what is needed.

For more information, contact Rose Mary Saraiva, Volunteer Coordinator at 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111 or via email at rsaraiva@essdioc.org

Celebrating a November Birthday: 
Kimberly S—November 18     Charlene M—November 30
THE MYTHS OF VOLUNTEERING

Basil Sadiq, from Volunteer Match debunks the seven common myths about volunteering.

Myth #1: You don’t need any qualifications or skills to volunteer. While you might not require extensive experience, most volunteer opportunities need people who have a particular skill set or affinity.

Myth #2: You know the needs of the community. Learning new things and meeting people from various walks of life can enrich your outlook.

Myth #3: You can only volunteer if you are a student or a fresh graduate. Data from the CNCS shows that in 2015, 19.2 million volunteers were baby boomers, 4.8 million were veterans, 11 million were 65+, and 19.9 million were Generation Xers.

Myth #4: You can’t afford to have the time off work. Volunteering doesn’t have to happen during standard work hours. You can offer your service on weekends or evenings. If you work for a company, check and see if they offer paid volunteer time off (VTO).

Myth #5: You don’t need to work hard because you are just there to help. You’re not helping if you are unreliable or inconsistent in your service.

Myth #6: You will change the world. Doing your part in helping the world become a better place is admirable, but you have to be realistic. You may not immediately see the results of your actions.

So what can you do to debunk these myths? Basil suggests:

- **Research** the organizations you’re interested in and ask how you can contribute.
- **Ask** the volunteer coordinator what skills are needed and how you can fit in.
- **Practice** showing up on time and following through with your commitments.
- **Volunteer** for a few different types of service to find what you enjoy and what skills you have.
- **Celebrate** your successes and remember that even small acts can make a big difference.

With the help of so many volunteers, the community, and the parishes, we were able to serve over 529 children during our “Give Back” - Friday events.

The response from the community has been amazing, and we are most appreciative of your continued support and donations.

For more information about donating, call 508-674-4681.

In this seasons of Giving Thanks we are most grateful for all YOU do!

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” — Mahatma Gandhi
CONTEST ENTRIES**...

Thank you to all those who submitted a name for our Newsletter,

Here are the submissions:

1. Called To Action
2. The Gifter
3. The Catholic Voice
4. Life Standing
5. Volunteerism: Faith & Work
6. Faith in Action
7. Through Kindness & Faith
8. Into The Vineyard
9. The Vineyard Worker

Please email your vote to rsaraiva@cssdioc.org or you may call in your vote at 508-674-4681 Ext. 1111.

The **winner will receive a $100 gift card**. The new name and the winner will be announced in our December newsletter.

If you prefer, you may mail in your vote, include your name, phone number, and the # and name you are voting for. Mail in vote to:

Catholic Social Services
Attention: Rose Mary Saraiva
1600 Bay Street
Fall River, MA 02724

Deadline November 24, 2021. All votes must be received by the deadline.