One of the main features of this season is gift-giving! It’s a joy to give and to receive. Sometimes, however, this holiday gift-giving can seem more of an obligation than freely-given love and appreciation. This can be challenging!

We might ask, “What’s it all about? Why do we give gifts at Christmas?” One way to answer this is to remember that it is the birthday of Jesus that we celebrate. We love to give people gifts on their birthdays, to express how much we appreciate the gift of their lives. Since Christmas is Jesus’ birthday, shouldn’t we do the same for him? What does Jesus want for his birthday?

Now the purpose of the Angel Tree becomes clear. Jesus tells us that whatever we do for others, we do for him, and he especially wants us to care for his humanity as it suffers in all humans who suffer. When we do this, we are truly giving him what he wants for Christmas, and every day of the year. It was for this purpose that he was born into our world, to show us the way to love and peace in our world.

This year we provided gifts for 375 people in Santa Cruz County. They are:
* Very-low income families
* Children in foster care
* Women and Children at the Monarch Women’s shelter
* Families referred to us by the Homeless Person Health Project

Our gifts given to the people on our Angel Tree are gifts given to Jesus for his birthday. A

Over the past 23 years we have provided gifts to over 9,600 people. “We” of course, is all of you who so lovingly adopt these individuals and return such beautifully wrapped packages, obvious expressions of your compassion and unconditional love.

It is our prayer that these gifts will be “sacraments” of God’s love, and that those who receive them will know that God is real, that God is love, and that Jesus Christ is God! Merry Christmas!

Deacon Patrick Conway
pfconway@sbcglobal.net
831-840-3750

We are so blessed that the Knights of Columbus Council #9580 has invited us to participate in this program each year.

This year we had two anonymous donors of $5,000 each with a challenge if we made it they would donate $10,000. This year we were able to raise over $22,000 in total.

This purchased brand new winter coats for over 950 children in our area as well as Orville.

On December 19th the Knights of Columbus will be handing out coats at Sister Rosa’s Christmas party.

*Once again thank you to everyone for your generous donations, time, and support.*
REACHING OUT

Thanksgiving Food Boxes

The story of the First Thanksgiving teaches us the joys of sharing, mercy and how very different peoples can come together to create community.

However shrouded in myth the historical facts may be, the story calls to us and challenges us to create the world of loving solidarity that God created us to live in.

This is the inspiration for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. No matter how rich our Thanksgiving meals may be, we know that we are truly poor if we feast while others go homeless and hungry.

Over the past 23 years, this community has provided Thanksgiving feast boxes for 1,500 families. The boxes include a turkey (or ham), all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner (including a pie), as well as pantry items for the rest of the week (tuna, bread, peanut butter, jam, oil, rice, beans, flour, sugar), about $100 worth of food.

But most of all, the boxes contain the priceless message of love!

Manna Ministries

Every Saturday at noon, in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel cemetery parking lot at Resurrection, volunteers serve a free nutritious, cafeteria-style meal to the neediest in Aptos. Food is prepared in the public health certified kitchen at Shorelife Church.

Started in 2010, this ministry is directed by Reverend Trevor Lee, a Mennonite Brethren pastor for over 35 years. This ministry uses a small delivery truck and a van to transport hot food, salads, supplies, beverages, tables, chairs, and clean used clothing. Toiletries, new socks, wrapped sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs, and homemade cookies are also offered.

Volunteer Opportunities:
At least one Saturday per month, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, volunteers help “Staff the clothing truck”, with clothing distribution and keeping the truck tidy.

Manna Ministries guests & volunteers will share Christmas lunch on Saturday Dec. 21st in Markey Community Center.

Contact Info:
Kathy Manus
kathrynmanus@gmail.com
831-688-0129
Mike Howley
mikehowley1941@yahoo.com
831-688-8273

SPIN: Socks for People in Need

According to a recent Homeless Census, more than 2,200 people are unsheltered in Santa Cruz County every night. Because the homeless are often on their feet for much of the day, the only pair of socks they may own is likely to be dirty, wet or full of holes. New socks are a blessing not only for health and hygiene, but they also provide comfort and a sense of dignity.

SPIN is a 6-year-old nonprofit program which operates throughout the Santa Cruz area. Our mission is very simple: reaching out to help our brothers and sisters in need by providing them with clean NEW socks. Our plan is also very simple: collect socks / collect monetary donations to buy socks, then distribute them to people in need throughout the area.

To date, SPIN has donated 38,700 pairs of NEW socks to those in need, but the need is ongoing.

SPIN operates all year round.

You can help in several ways:
- Donate NEW socks by placing them in the well-marked SOX BOX (in the entryway of our church).
- Make a financial donation. SPIN has a VERY low-cost (high-quality) local source for socks.
- Organize a sock drive to support SPIN with your school, office, neighborhood, friends or family.

We appreciate your support and participation in this important community outreach project.

Contact Information:
Pat Lorenzo
pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com
831-708-2068.
St. Francis Catholic Kitchen

St. Francis Catholic Kitchen is the only facility in the City of Santa Cruz that offers a nutritious, hot lunch for the homeless or hungry every weekday at noon—as well as clean used clothing, toilets & showers—all at no cost to guests.

A kind welcome and a safe space to eat and to clean up is available at 205 Mora Street, Santa Cruz CA near River Street. This program is open to anyone suffering from chronic poverty, substance abuse, mental illness or physical disability.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:
A crew of 18 is needed each day of the week, Monday through Friday, to prepare enough soup, salads, and sides to serve up to 150 guests with patience and kindness. Guests also need help finding items in the clothing room.

To find out when volunteers are needed on the roster, contact:
Director Richard Crowe
rcrowe@stfrancissoupkitchen.org
(831) 459-6712

Contact Information:
Kathy Manus
kathrynmanus@gmail.com
831-688-0129

Jesus Mary Joseph Transitional Shelter Program

Founded in 1989, Jesus Mary Joseph Home (JMJ) is a 24/7 Christian transitional shelter program for women and children experiencing homelessness. Admission is by referral, application, and interview.

Located in a quiet residential area of Westside Santa Cruz, JMJ is noted for its loving & healing program which enables families to return to independent living. JMJ also offers free hospice care for the indigent poor. Many types of service projects are available for a special workday, or half-day, of service by your school, church, or business group.

Individuals wishing to commit to long term service, please call to find out whether there is an opening on the roster for volunteer services, such as baby-sitting or office work.

For resident safety reasons, individual volunteers must first complete an application, interview, and screening process.

Contact Information:
Pat Gorman (Director)
porman@stfrancissoupkitchen.org
(831) 459-8046
Kathy Manus
kathrynmanus@gmail.com
831-688-0129

Resurrection Faith Community Shelter

The Faith Community Shelter is a transitional shelter program, sponsored by the Association of Faith Communities, which operates seven nights per week at 10 different Host Sites (primarily churches) around the Santa Cruz area.

At Resurrection, we currently have 10 rotating food teams composed of volunteer parishioners, including teams from the Knights of Columbus, the parish Youth Group and middle school students from Good Shepherd School. We prepare and share a healthy dinner with our guests every Tuesday; breakfast bags are prepared and left for the next morning. Per night, the total commitment is approximately 5:00 – 7:15 PM; dinner is always served at 6:00 PM. Each food team serves about once every 8-10 weeks.

When the Markey Center is closed for renovation, we will be using the nearby Santa Cruz County Community Foundation building located at 7807 Soquel Drive.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:
Tuesday Dec. 24, 2019 (Christmas Eve) & Tuesday Dec. 31, 2019 (New Year’s Eve).

Contact Information:
Pat Lorenzo
pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com
831-708-2068
### Resurrection Catholic Community Outreach Ministries

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<th>Outreach Ministry/ Organization</th>
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| Angel Tree                                              Deacon Patrick Conway  
pfconway@sbcglobal.net  
831-840-3750                                              | Nursing Home Ministries  
Mass & Communion Services at Aegis and Hearts & Hands  
pfconway@sbcglobal.net  
831-840-3750                                           |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Association of Faith Communities 25 Churches servin... | Pat Lorenzo  
pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com  
831-708-2068                                                     | Parish Assistance Ministry  
Food, referrals, bus passes, financial assistance  
Jan Finney  
jannyg38@yahoo.com  
831-684-2879                                      |                                                                         |
| COPA Faithful Citizenship for our Community             Jeanne Beck  
jeanbeck22@gmail.com  
831-236-1798                                                  | Prime Timers  
Social and educational gatherings for Seniors  
Erma Coty, RN  
elcoty@att.net  
831-688-4300 x17                         |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Dominican Wellness Mobile Clinic On-site mobile clinic  Sr. Michaela Siplak, OP  
michaela.siplak@dignityhealth.org  
831-457-7168                                                | Prison Ministry-Christian Hope  
Weekly Christian meditation program at CA state prisons  
Valerie Roach  
ymd@cruzio.com  
831-234-1625                                         |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Food Pantry Distributing donated food to those in need  Rody Hilbert  
darhilb@hot.net  
831-688-2270                                                  | Ruby's Outreach  
Helping people in need apply for benefits  
Margaret “Ruby” Caylor-Ritea  
ruby@yahoo.com  
831-662-3585                                     |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Gabriel Project Helping Women in Crisis Pregnancies    Crockett Hinga  
thinga@sbcglobal.net  
831-684-0953                                                 | Siena House  
Housing and Support for Pregnant Women  
Marie Harris-info@sienahouse.org  
PHONE: 831.425.2229                      |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Get on the Bus Helping children to visit their parents in Prison  
Karen Victorino  
kmvictorino@sbcglobal.net  
831-688-4300                                       | Senior Resource Ministry  
Assistance for our Senior Members  
Erma Coty, RN  
elcoty@att.net  
831-688-4300 x17                        |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Homebound Communion Ministry Weekly Communion & support for our Homebound Members  
Deacon Patrick Conway  
pfconway@sbcglobal.net  
831-840-3750                                        | “Shower the People” Mobile Shower Ministry  
Mobile shower unit for homeless persons  
Steve Sage  
stephensage@hotmail.com  
(831) 761-5869                           |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Homeless Shelter Ministry Food and shelter for homeless men and women in Markey Community Center  
Pat Lorenzo  
pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com  
831-708-2068                                                 | SPIN-Socks for People in Need  
Providing new socks for people in need  
Pat Lorenzo  
pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com  
831-708-2068                                     |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Hospice of Santa Cruz Support and care for those approaching the end of life  
Shirley Sapena  
ssapena@hospicesantacruz.org  
831-430-3078                                                | St. Francis Catholic Kitchen  
Providing weekly noon lunch, clothing and showers  
Kathy Manus  
kathymanus@gmail.com  
831-688-0129                                 |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Jail Ministry Weekly Communion services for those in County jails  
Bill Littell  
blittelljr@aol.com  
831-688-8599                                                  | Thanksgiving Boxes  
Providing Thanksgiving food boxes to families in need  
Deacon Patrick Conway  
pfconway@sbcglobal.net  
831-840-3750                             |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Jesus Mary Joseph Home Sheltering homeless women, children & the impoverished terminally ill  
Kathy Manus  
kathymanus@gmail.com  
831-688-0129                                                 | Tutoring Ministry  
tutoring children of farm workers  
Hugh Voris  
hugo6184@gmail.com  
831-688-7288                                         |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Knights of Columbus Catholic men serving our parish and community  
John Simon  
johnsimonjr@comcast.net  
831-212-3357                                               | Wings  
Helping homeless and recently housed people with simple tasks  
Peggy Benedum  
peggy.benedum@wingsadvocacy.org                 |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Manna Ministries Free hot lunch every Saturday at noon in cemetery parking lot  
Kathy Manus, 831-688-0129  
kathymanus@gmail.com  
Mike Howley, 831-688-8273  
mikehowley1941@yahoo.com                          | Women’s Guild  
Women of the parish serving parish & community  
Barbara Sissom  
bsissom@sbcglobal.net  
831-708-2888                                     |                                                       |                                                                         |
| Mantles of Caring Knitting items with love for those in need  
Pat O’Brien  
fpobo69@gmail.com  
831-685-8639                                                |                                                       |                                                       |                                                                         |

Updated 12/18/19