

The Welcome Ministry

Mission

The Welcome Ministry seeks to provide a faithful response to homelessness and to improve the quality of life for homeless people by providing: hospitality; food; and referrals for housing, health care and drug and alcohol treatment.



Principles

1. All people, regardless of their economic condition or residential status, are children of God and equally deserving of respect, friendship, compassion and care;
2. God commands us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Our neighbors include residents, merchants, other religious communities and homeless people in our neighborhood;
3. We are called to seek harmony among all neighbors as well as dignity for all;
4. It is our Christian responsibility to help the poor and those most in need, which include our homeless neighbors;

It is our Christian responsibility to open the doors of our church to all God's people and enthusiastically embrace all seekers, regardless of socioeconomic status.

The Welcome Ministry
1751 Sacramento St
San Francisco CA 94109
Phone: 415-776-5552x310
Fax: 415-776-2809
megan@welcomeministry.org
www.welcomeministry.org

The Welcome Ministry



The Welcome Ministry

www.welcomeministry.org



Feeding the hearts, minds, spirits & souls
of our homeless and hungry friends

How to Host a Community Dinner

The Welcome Ministry serves a hot meal to our homeless neighbors on the second Saturday of each month, alternating between Old First and St. Luke's. We serve nutritious meals to approximately 100 people each month.

Get Involved

Thank you for your interest in leading a community dinner. Community Dinners have been a part of the Welcome Ministry since it began in 1996. Originally the dinners alternated between Old First Presbyterian Church (Van Ness and Sacramento) and St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Van Ness and Clay). Since then the dinners have been hosted by many different church groups, non-profit organizations, business, fraternal organizations, families, and even individuals.

Location

Dinners are hosted within a 4-6 block radius of Old First. Historically they have been held at Old First, St. Luke's and the First Unitarian Universalist Church (Geary and Franklin). Free parking is available for volunteers at the Old First Parking Garage on Sacramento between Van Ness and Polk with validation.

Hosting a Dinner

Dinner hosts are expected to bring between 10-25 volunteers in order to serve the dinner. More volunteers can be used if the dinner responsibilities are divided up into shifts: cooking (before 5:30); serving (4:30-7:00); clean up (6:30-7:30 or 8:00). Dinner hosts are also expected to provide the meal, which at a minimum should consist of a main dish, a side, a dessert, a drink and coffee (unless other arrangements are made).



Serving the Food

The way we host a dinner is unique because we serve people (there is no line for our guests) and volunteers that feel comfortable are invited to eat with our guests. Though this is the way most people are used to eating, it is rarely the way people feed the homeless and hungry. In fact, we only know of 2 other organizations in the country where volunteers eat with those they serve.

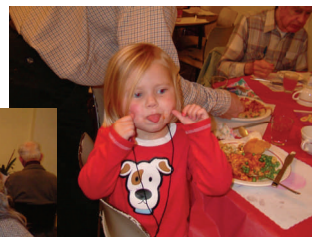
Deciding What Food to Serve

Some organizations make a homemade meal. Some get the food catered. Some get frozen meals and heat them up. Some groups have a pot-luck and ask volunteers to sign-up for bringing or making part of the meal. Arrangements can be made to get some of what you need at the San Francisco Food Bank if we are given enough time.

How Much Food to Prepare

Though there is no way to know how many guests we will have, it is always best to have more food than guests. You should try to have enough food for 120 people.

- Less people generally come towards the beginning of the month (around 80). More people come the closer it gets to the 15th of the month (as many as 140).
- More people come if it is raining outside.
- More people come if the dinner is between October and December 31st.
- Less people come in January, until two weeks before Easter.
- More people come around Easter time.



This dinner, at St. Luke's, was served by the children.



Schedule

- BEGIN - 4:45 Food prepared
- 4:00-4:45 Set-up for the dinner
- 4:45-5:15 Devotional/Learning time and jobs are assigned
- 5:15-5:30 Drinks and food brought out, final preparation finished
- 5:30-7:00 Doors open and guests are served
- 6:30-DONE Clean-up begins as guests leave.

Paper Products and Clean-up

Though it is less eco-friendly, we encourage groups to bring paper or non-CFC Styrofoam products to serve our guests. This saves volunteers an average of three hours in clean-up time. Groups that do not want to use paper products, are welcome to use the china, glasses and coffee cups available at the site of the dinner, but will need to supply three people (preferably who arrive at 6:30) to do the dishes. Doing the dishes after a dinner where china has been used, usually takes until 9:00 and has sometimes taken until 12:30 in the morning.

If your group is interested in hosting or supporting a community dinner or if you have additional questions, please contact us.

The Welcome Ministry

The Welcome Ministry
1751 Sacramento St
San Francisco CA 94109
Phone: 415-776-5552x310
Fax: 415-776-2809
megan@welcomeministry.org
www.welcomeministry.org