



THE FRANCISCAN KITCHEN

748 South Preston Street
Louisville, KY 40203

Dedicated to providing for the nourishment of God's family.

**September
2025
Issue**

Civic Recognition for Our 45th Anniversary



Louisville Metro Mayor Craig Greenberg continued a tradition of acknowledging the Kitchen's service to the community by proclaiming July as Franciscan Kitchen month as part of our 45th anniversary celebration. In a visit with Deputy Mayor Nicole George as well as our neighbor and good friend Dawne Gee, the mayor joined his predecessors in issuing an official proclamation and engaged in conversations with our volunteers and guests. It was clear that he was eager to learn more about how we serve the Smoketown community and how we help address one of the top priorities of his administration, homelessness in the city.

As a special treat for our guests, Dawne was quick to jump in and help with our service that day and the mayor's staff pledged to do the same in the near future.



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2025 STATISTICS

83,153 meals
served (through
8/15/25)

Volunteer Profile - Mike & Michelle Tucci



Watching Mike Tucci getting various entrées ready would lead you to think he was trained and worked successfully in the restaurant business. He wasn't. "I love cooking," he says. "I wanted to eat the things my mother had prepared when I was younger, so when I left the nest, I figured out that I needed to learn how to make the things I was fond of." To say that his cooking skills have evolved is a belief Patrick Woods, his fellow Monday volunteer, endorses, calling him the Michaelangelo of the Kitchen, "because he comes up with masterpieces." According to Michelle, his wife of 40 years, he is the lead cook in Tucci home.

Mike and Michelle met during one of Mike's trout fishing trips in Pennsylvania around Easter in 1983, which Michelle finds symbolic as several important family events have taken place around that feast. Not surprisingly, the deep faith they share informs their volunteer efforts. After marrying, they headed to West Lafayette, where Mike received his Master's degree from Purdue. That led to a 35-year career at GE, which took the family to Alabama, Louisville, Bloomington and eventually back to Louisville again. In addition to being Mom to their three children, Michelle trained as a physical therapist and continues to use those skills as a part-time fitness instructor at the YMCA. Using her intuitive skills, she helps ensure that things are ready to go for the volunteers who serve on the food line each Monday.

The couple began volunteering on Mondays at the Kitchen three plus years ago (Mike also cooks on Thursdays) and naturally, there's a good story to explain how they got started. Mike and Michelle had been discussing options for volunteering as they eased into retirement and while they attended St. Augustine Church in Jeffersonville, where their son, Matt, was the pastor, they met Chuck Mattingly. Then one Sunday, in their regular parish of St. Aloysius, regular Kitchen volunteer and supporter Jim Ofcacek gave a pulpit talk and testimonial about the Kitchen. They looked at each other and agreed that they had found just the place to use their talents to good purpose. We could not have asked for a better team to help get each week's work started.



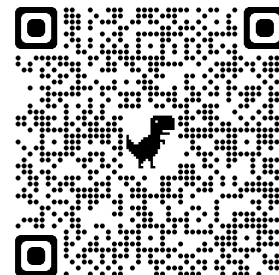
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 Midnight - 11:59 p.m. ET

If you haven't made a gift to the Kitchen yet this year, this is the perfect time to do so! We've received roughly \$10,000 in support from Give for Good Louisville in previous years and can do even better if we can increase the number of donors and gifts to qualify for the prizes and incentives that are available. Hosted by the Community Foundation of Louisville, this event receives generous support from many corporate and philanthropic partners, and has raised more than \$70 million for organizations like ours in five Kentucky counties and three Indiana counties since it started in 2014.

Will you help? Click the QR code above to go to the Give for Good site (GiveForGoodLouisville.org) and search for Franciscan Kitchen to make your secure online gift on that platform. (Only gifts made on Sept. 18 and on that site will qualify for our totals).

On behalf of those we serve, **THANK YOU!**

The Franciscan Kitchen would not exist without volunteers. We are blessed to have many regular volunteers that ensure essential tasks are covered. But each day we have need for additional help. To see what is available on the calendar up to two months in advance, scan the QR code below and make your selection. If you have a large group (8-10), or have questions, call our office at 502-589-0140. Thank you.



Welcome New Board Members



Patrick Woods

“You might think by my accent that I’m from Eastern Kentucky,” Patrick Woods says with a wry smile in an unmistakable Irish brogue. The Dublin native does have a legitimate claim to being from the Eastern part of the state, as he journeyed there in the mid-1980s with a track and field scholarship to ECU in Richmond, where he earned a degree in public relations. He then spent 31 years in a career with the East Kentucky Power Cooperative, the member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative that serves more than a million Kentuckians, taking Patrick to all corners of the state he now calls home. Retiring in 2022, he moved to Louisville and got connected to the Kitchen when his friend, Janice Riggs, was looking for a place to volunteer in the typically dark early morning hours. Ever the gentleman, Patrick offered to drive her to and from and he quickly saw that he could be of help with some of the cooking and meal prep (“I know a thing or two about potato dishes,” he says). He has been a regular on the Monday morning early shift (along with new Board member Tim Burton) since June of 2023. Patrick is eager to bring marketing and public relations expertise that he honed in Ireland and the states to the Board and do whatever is necessary for the mission’s success. “I love being part of the Monday crew family,” he states. “We all enjoy our time together in helping our less fortunate brothers and sisters.”



Tim Burton

Known simply as “the green bean man” to the regular Monday morning prep crew (or to other Board members, as Lilli’s Dad), Tim Burton’s story would need more than a page or two of this newsletter to do it justice. The Somerset, Kentucky native has seen and done a lot. After high school, Tim jokingly says it took him 18 years to graduate from college (with stays at UK, Hanover College, and ultimately ECU). Life, and service in the US Army intervened during that time - he was stationed in Iraq during Desert Storm, took part in the dismantling of the Wall in Germany, and enjoyed West Coast vibes in Monterey, California. While at Hanover (where, like famous Louisvillian J. Graham Brown, he attended but did not graduate from), he met one of the school’s more noteworthy alumni, Woody Harrelson, and played football, which, along with the military service, taught him the importance of teamwork. His degree from ECU in Loss Prevention and Asset Protection proved most useful when Tim owned and managed two Dairy Queens and several convenience stores in Kentucky and Tennessee. He first heard about the Kitchen after moving to Louisville in 2008 so his son, Nick, could attend Trinity. Tim met his wife, Kathleen, after the move and they have been married since 2021. The relationship with the Kitchen intensified when youngest daughter, Lilli, needed hours while in the U of L pre-med program, and they both started volunteering in the COVID aftermath. Tim has been a realtor at Semonin for the past 11 years and hopes his food service experience will be helpful to the Board. He wants to “contribute time, effort, and good will to feed hungry people good food in a safe environment.”

Welcome New Board Members (cont.)

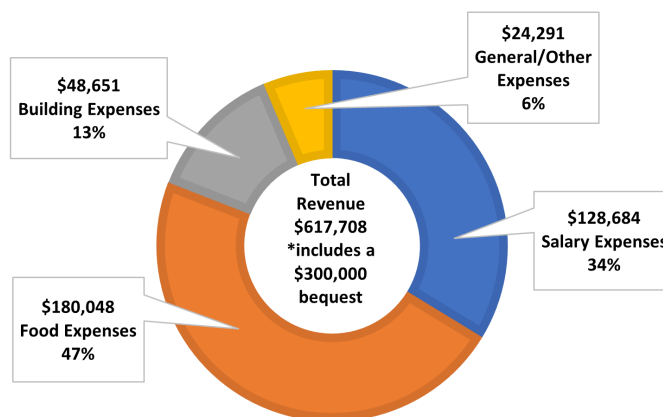


Gary Calabrese

Many people would look at signing up to take the pots-and-pans scrubber duties after 48 years of high-level Federal government contracting experience as a giant step down. Not Gary Calabrese. The New Jersey native has been volunteering at the Franciscan Kitchen for three-plus years and, along with a quiet humility, brings diligence and a strong work ethic to the mundane tasks he performs each Friday at the Kitchen sink.

Gary grew up in Trenton and Cedar Grove, New Jersey, attended high school there, and received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Montclair State University, before beginning his career at Group Health Incorporated in New York City. As he advanced his career in health care government contracting, he moved to Lexington, KY to oversee the merger of Medicare part A and B programs for Blue Cross Blue Shield of KY from 1991 to 1998. Gary and his family made several moves as part of his trajectory, taking them to Mississippi and Maryland, but Gary eventually made it back to Kentucky, finally settling in Louisville in 2020 to be close to his daughters who live here (he could lay claim to being the Rick Pitino of medical insurance contracting). In 2010, he was put in charge of five National Affordable Care Act (ACA) contracts at General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) that helped deliver low- or no-cost health care to those with the greatest need when that program was made into law. Gary retired from full-time work in 2020, and with his wife Anne's help in searching for a volunteer opportunity, let his love of animals and St. Francis lead him to the humble task of the pots-and-pans station at the Franciscan Kitchen. Gary has been involved in raising funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Foundation, and has served as a volunteer at the Home of the Innocents. We're pleased to have his service here at the Kitchen.

WHAT YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDES January - June 2025



Volunteers Bring International Flavor to the Kitchen



Ricardo, Dennis, Roxana, and Alan (L to R)
Dennis, Roxana, Kevin, and Julie for the loyal service you provide each month.

Dennis and Roxana Dicken have been faithful volunteers on the fourth Saturday of the month since 2019, joining at the invitation of their cousins, **Kevin and Julie Dicken**. On July 26th, Dennis and Roxana's nephews from Mexico, Ricardo Arteaga and his brother Alan, joined the fourth Saturday group to help serve at the Kitchen. Ricardo recently turned 21 and Alan celebrated his birthday the day before. During their two-week stay in Kentucky, they enjoyed visiting several familiar places, including the Belle of Louisville, Top Golf, Huber's Orchard and Winery, Captain's Quarters, and YMCA's Camp Piomingo. Thank you, Ricardo and Alan for your help, and thank you to Den-



Port Harcourt, Nigeria, located in the southern Rivers state of the African country, is a very long way to come to 748 S Preston St. Yet, for 15 days this summer, Odinaka "Didi" Onubogu served meals with a smile to our guests for his service project requirements at Jesuit Memorial College in that city, where he will be a sophomore at the school in the fall. So how, you might ask, did this come about?

According to Didi's mom, Dr. Uche Onubogu, an Associate Professor and Pediatric specialist at River State University Teaching Hospital, the family came to Louisville in late July for Didi's older sister's White Coat ceremony at the U of L School of Medicine.

Knowing that Didi's requirements had to be met prior to the start of the school year, she asked a local physician friend where Didi might complete the service project. Auspiciously, the friend's daughter had volunteered at the Kitchen in high school and a check at our SignUpGenius page revealed that the 15-day requirement could be met during the family's stay in the area. Dr. Onubogu has high praise for the Kitchen's mission and how it aligns so well with Jesuit Memorial's service initiative which "aims to foster empathy, develop relevant skills, and encourage students to become agents of positive change."

Thank you, Didi and Dr. Onubogu for making the connection with us and for your service to our guests!

Memorial and Honorary Gifts (received through August 15)

In memory of Mary Ann Arnold

Anonymous

In memory of Jim Burke

Robert and Debra Harris

In memory of Janice Dig Cabaysa

Rachel Radwanski

In memory of John & Rosalene Cole

John Cole

In memory of Ray Crider

Marilyn Crider

In memory of Br. Ambrose Eischens, OFM Conv

Ronald and Mary Thompson

In memory of Carl A. Falk

Alice Falk

In memory of Joe Fallahay

Joseph Doug Pohl

Ann Thompson

In honor of Cory Francis' birthday

Michele A. Francis

In memory of David Goldner

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Egan

In memory of Sean Patrick Gosney

Pat's Steak House

In memory of Ronnie Grantz

Steven Grantz

In memory of Wayne & Donna Hedgespeth

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Jensen III

In memory of Blannie Jane Justice

Donna Stewart

In memory of Dr. John M. Karibo

Norma Karibo

Timothy & Theresa Poynter

In memory of Charles E. Koch

Robert Koch

In memory of Timothy "Tim" Kopp

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Steinhauer

In memory of Joseph Lee & Anna Lil Laemmle

Mr. & Mrs. James Laemmle

In memory of Stephanie McNeill

Deborah Heuser

In memory of Herb Meister

Cathy Meister

In memory of John Metzler

Beverly Metzler

In memory of Paul V. Miozza

Pauline Miozza

In memory of my parents

Antoinette Reeves

In memory of Robert Niehoff

Patrick Niehoff

In memory of Tom Nohalty, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. John Nohalty

In memory of Delores Ott

Patricia and Phillip Davis

Shirley Diehl

In memory of our parents

Mr. & Mrs. James Ofcacek

In memory of Fr. Pius Poff

Mr. & Mrs. John Huber

In honor of Mary Jude Pool

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Davis

In memory of Fred Schulten

Mrs. Socorro Schulten

In memory of Sheila Schnell

George and Diane Boehnlein

Patricia Clark

Mary Lynn & Dan Head

Deborah Heuser

Robyn Hoffmann

Cassidy Hyde

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Lynch

Lawrence & Maria Miller

In memory of Sheila Schnell (cont)

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Schnell Jr

Michael Smith

Donette Tinsley

Lisa Vice

Michael & Anita Zehnder

Sharon Zollman

In memory of Stephen Stewart

William & Mary Alice Stewart

In memory of John R. Stowe

Mrs. Lucy Stowe

In honor of St. Anthony for favors received

Clara Bacallao

In memory of William & Louise Tronzo

Antoinette Reeves

In memory of Mick Vest

Deborah Heuser

In memory of Fr. Mark Weaver

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Carter

In memory of Cheryl Westbay

James Westbay

In memory of Loretta Woolley

Gretchen Alton

Terry Fremdling

Mary Jo Weller

In memory of Patrick J. Woolridge

Robert & Janice Wooldridge

In honor of Don & Lanna Zeillmann's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Tish Brumleve

Laura Kirchner

Rose & John Mangino

Patricia Mueller



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748 South Preston Street
Louisville, KY 40203

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN
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Dedicated to providing for the nourishment of God's family.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

The Franciscan Kitchen Mission

In the tradition of St. Francis, which recognizes we are all brothers and sisters, we are dedicated to providing for the nourishment of God's family.

We will maintain an environment of trust and fellowship to build mutual respect and beneficial relationships with our guests, co-workers, suppliers, and community.

These efforts will strengthen our organization and enable us to provide a much-needed service to our community.

Franciscan Kitchen Staff

Chuck Mattingly	Executive Director	Daniel Nicolas	Maintenance
Tony Perito	Advancement	Tim Dionne	Cook
Kelly Booker	Business Manager	Juan Jarrett	Warehouse

Franciscan Kitchen Board

Lilli Burton	John Hauber	Fr. George Munjanattu
Tim Burton	Leo Hauber	Dr. Glen Murphy
Gary Calabrese	Mary Carol Kelly	Sean Rafferty
Bryan Fallon	Alice Kimble	Gary Roth
Joseph Ford	Annette Mattingly	Patrick Woods