

San Antonio Catholic Worker House Newsletter — May 5, 2020 The Extraordinary CWH Angels of the Covid-19 Pandemic

After 6 weeks of chaos, we finally got around to updating the "Lunch Bunch" membership files. The last group of new members orientation/registration was on March 10th. Due to the pandemic, the soar in hungry guests, serving outside since the "club house" was closed for the purpose of social distancing...we did not formally enroll any new members. We just discovered that the LAST new member on March 10th was #3,999! We had been waiting to reach 4,000 for over a year and anticipated a big hoopla when we registered the 4,000th member! Because of the many acts of kindness from our donors, volunteers, neighbors, and anonymous strangers, we have decided to dedicate #4,000 as an Honorary Member #4,000 in recognition of the group of all the known and anonymous ANGELS who have been providing food, masks, funding, and many other kinds of support during the COVID-19 crisis. Once when a masked donor whom we did not recognize was asked her name, she said, "We are just ordinary people!" Well thanks to all of the many "ordinary people" doing such EXTRAORDINARY acts of kindness!!! We really appreciate it. You are our ANGELS!!! Do any of you need a receipt? Please text your address (email or postal) to: 210-274-8884.

Stats from Week 7 of Covid-19 Pandemic

Up to this week, our record day was Good Friday or April 10th when we served 338 meals. The rapid rise in meals stimulated our first CWH SOS letter... pleading for help. Numbers had stabilized after that, but on Wednesday April 22, we served a new record of 366 meals. This number includes the meals served by Traveling Loaves and Fishes, as always. We have been partnering since October 2010, but the pandemic has brought us into an even closer partnership. We share supplies and meals every day.

Needs as of Week 7 of Covid-19 Protocol

- 1) Plain napkins or any seasonal ones you wish to get rid of.
- 2) White drawstring 13 gallon kitchen garbage bags... using disposables has really increased our use of bags! So very sorry, dear Mother Earth.
- 3) Fresh fruit (soft... not apples or pears).
- 4) Individual mayo and mustard packets.
- 5) Men's underwear sizes medium and large only.

Small individual sanitizer bottles for distribution to guests. 6) No more "To Go" containers and paper lunch bags. We are good for the month of May. No more masks... at this time. We have provided >400 & all of our current guests have masks.

Thank you to the mask makers! Dee Sanchez (founder of SA-CWH) with her neighbors Diane "DeeDee" McAllister & Judy Hutcherson; Rosalyn Collier who collected donations for supplies

then made hundreds with Marie, Midela, & Jim Collier! They had a family "tamalada" - using new socks and paper towels for filters! And thanks to a new CWH angel, Jennifer Gebhard, director of SA Masks for Heroes, also making masks—thanks to Chef Joan for referring them to CWH. And while we are on the subject of Chef Joan, AGAIN thank you CHOW TRAIN and its team of volunteers; Bill Miller for providing the meat; and The Range for providing its kitchen and some of its chefs—all to prepare thousands of meals each day, not only for CWH, but also for Meals on Wheels.

Prevention and Testing for Covid-19

We are grateful that still none of our guests have tested positive for COVID-19. (Haven for Hope also reports NO positive cases.) To help keep it that way, CWH is still serving meals in the front yard, enforcing safe distancing and masks, and screening guests for symptoms, taking pulse oximeter readings (oxygen saturation levels and heart rates) and temperatures when indicated. We also are providing educational materials regarding COVID and locations of various food and health services in SA. CWH is screening every guest in line. Seven screened "suspicious" for COVID-19 and were immediately referred for testing — fortunately all of them were negative. As noted above, CWH is providing masks, mostly homemade cloth masks. CWH has given out more than 400 so far. They were in high demand when VIA enforced a face mask requirement. A few people are now stopping by only for masks (not meals)!!! We made a plea for masks 2 weeks ago and have received VERY generous donations. All guests have had at least one, about 50 or so have been given more than one. On May 4, we began a mask exchange program. Guests can label their cloth mask and turn it in for disinfecting and laundering and receive a new one. Then in two weeks they may exchange the newer one (in the same fashion) for their first mask.

0 20-APR 21-APR 22-APR 23-APR Unduplicated Persons Served -Total Meals Served (breakfast lunch & dinner)





FYI: KENS5 (Monday April 27) and Rivard Report (Monday May 4) did stories on CWH and Chow Train.