

Celebrating 13 years of free Sunday night meals: St Vincent De Paul Tigard Conference, Community Café.

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers and donors who have helped the St Vincent De Paul Tigard Conference sponsor the Community Café's free Sunday night meal since January 2009. The first meal was held in the Jack Ryan gym/cafeteria. The program has run continuously since April 2009, missing only one Sunday in February 2021 during the ice storm. An average of 100 meals are served each Sunday free to anyone who needs a meal.

The hot meals are prepared by cooks in the Francis Hall kitchen in the Parish Center. Since March 15, 2020, we have provided the weekly meals as To Go meals complete with drinks and dessert/snacks. On March 13, 2022, we return to dining in and distributing To Go meals for those who wish that option. Since starting in 2009, over 65,000 meals have been served free of charge in a warm and welcoming community by volunteers. We are looking forward to getting back to having social exchange that sitting down to table with others provides.

The St Vincent de Paul Community Cafe mission statement: "To provide nutritious meals and social exchange to neighbors in need in a safe and friendly environment. We host a weekly event to serve prepared meals with compassion, dignity, and respect. We serve in a spirit of social justice and charity, without regard to race, creed, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability or religion."

The St Vincent de Paul Community Café has an advisory board and 9 crews that rotate hosting the meals. The volunteers on each crew are managed by a Crew Captain and assistant. Each crew has 2 to 3 cooks who prepare the meals provided by the food acquisition team. The cost of the food is covered by Tigard's St Vincent de Paul Conference. The food is served to the guests by volunteers following COVID protocol and general food handling safety.

We have volunteers who have been involved with the Community Café since it began and are looking to retire, and so new volunteers are needed at all levels to replace those dedicated long time volunteers. If you enjoy working on a regular basis, we have positions that are weekly, biweekly, monthly or every 9 weeks available. There are opportunities for working with other volunteers, serving guests, or working behind the scenes to provide supplies needed for the preparation of meals for 100. There is additional information about St Vincent

DePaul and the Community Café on the parish website [St. Vincent de Paul | St. Anthony Catholic Church | Tigard \(satigard.org\)](#)

You are welcome to come to the Sunday night meal in the Parish Center, Francis Hall. The meal service is from 5:30pm- 6:30 pm and enjoy a meal prepared by our excellent chefs and see the program in operation. If you have questions or want to volunteer, you can email: communitycafe@satigard.org.

Thank you again to all the hundreds of volunteers and donors to St Vincent DePaul who have provided 13 years of over 65,000 free meals to our Tigard Community.