



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Mobile Loaves & Fishes News

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Help Us Comply with Metro Health Department Regulations

The **MLF** kitchen at St. Francis of Assisi was recently inspected by the San Antonio Metro Health Department. We are in compliance on nearly every area inspected. However, the inspector did point out the following: **All employees who work with un-packaged food, food equipment or utensils or food-contact surfaces must be Food Handler Certified by September 1, 2016. Certification is valid for two years after completion.**

Although we technically do not have any “employees”, our volunteers are subject to this requirement. One person on each prep team will suffice to help us get into compliance with the requirement. The online course is very informative, and can even help with food safety at home. Several of the **MLF** Core members have used this website for the food handler training: <https://www.360training.com/food-beverage-programs/food-handlers-certificate/texas-food-handler-certificate/texas-ansi-accredited-learn2serve-food-handler-training>

The cost is \$7.00 and although it gives you two hours of credit, it takes much less time than that. Print a copy of the completion certificate, and place it in the black lockbox in the **MLF** kitchen. Please email Julie Mellin @ volunteermf@gmail.com to report your completed training so that we will be able to keep a

record of our trained volunteers. We will compile a Food Handler Certification binder and place it in the **MLF** kitchen closet as proof of the training.

Julie Mellin □

MLF Partners in the News

In January 2020, our ministry hit the trifecta in the **S.A. Express News**. Three articles appeared featuring various **MLF** partners that we serve.



Apartments on Gardendale:

Ali Baba International Market employee Hamdo Dadikhi (pictured above) bags groceries for customers. He is a refugee from Syria who has cousins and uncles in exile in Turkey who would like to come to the U.S. Hamdo is a resident at the **Apartments on Gardendale** where the **MLF** truck serves on two Fridays per month. Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Services will be closely following the issue of Governor Abbott’s refusal to allow refugee resettlement in Texas.

[Interfaith Welcome Coalition:](#)

This story told much of the history of the **IWC** and the work of Sr. Denise LaRock. Although the number of lunches we supply the **IWC** has decreased quite a bit in the past 3 months, we will be ready to support them if the situation changes.

[San Antonio ID Recovery:](#)

We provide 40 lunches per week for the people who are visiting the **HOPE Team ID Recovery**. Anyone who is interested in helping in this area is welcome to contact me at volunteermf@gmail.com.

MLF has focused on serving most of our meals from our mobile truck but there have been many worthy partners that have come along. We supply Haven for Hope, Guadalupe Community Center, Madonna Center, Immaculate Conception pantry and San Martin Senior Center with bagged lunches. Thank you to all the teams that faithfully serve these partners. I am so proud that we are in lock step with these other great efforts to help our community in need.

Julie Mellin □

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NEWS FLASH!! As of December 31, 2019, our ministry has served 685,038 meals.



Bag to the Future

We are fortunate to get a large quantity of surplus cookies and chips from the **San Antonio Food Bank**. However a good portion of the cookies and chips are not in single serving packages. Therefore, we must bag these in single serving portions. The Thursday lunch crew is usually present when the delivery from the Food Bank arrives. Their spare time is productively used in bagging the cookies and chips. Other preparation crews have an abundance of volunteers, so instead of crowding each other, some members work bagging the goods. The youth group often finds time to chip in. Usually three cookies go into the smaller zip lock bags, and the sandwich bags are filled with enough chips to comfortably fit. So if any crews or other volunteers have spare time, help us bag cookies or chips for future preparation teams. Thank you for all you do. **Glenn Darilek** □



YMSL Rings in the New Year Helping MLF

On Saturday, January 4th, we hosted a small but hard-working **YMSL** team as they rang in a new year of service with **MLF**. Two moms and one student representing Johnson High School worked the morning clearing a large amount of clothing donated over the holiday period, assembling condiment packs and assisting the meal prep team with the meals and loading the truck.

Looking back over 2019, 111 **YMSL** volunteers donated a combined total of over 300 service hours just with the Clothing Ministry. We would have never been able to provide clothing, sorted, stored and accessible for **MLF** delivery teams without their faithful service month after month. Thanks **YMSL**. We are so happy to have you with us as we welcome in the New Year 2020.

Gerry Caron □

HELP

WANTED Openings – February 1, 2020

Our **MLF** ministry needs help for these crucial roles: 1) **Core Team** members for the **Core Team Director**, **Site Coordinator**, and **Day Volunteer Coordinator** positions (see [Job Descriptions](#)); and 2) **Meal prep and delivery volunteers** are needed for various meal shifts. For the complete listing, click this [Immediate Team Openings](#) link.

If you can assist with any of these jobs, please contact **Julie Mellin** @ volunteermf@gmail.com.

Contact Us

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Email: mlfnw@sfasat.org



MLF website: www.sfasat.org/MLF/index.htm

MLF News files: www.sfasat.org/MLF/mlfnews.htm

A Quick Reminder...

- **Captains, notify mlfnw@sfasat.org before canceling a meal run.**
- Call the Commissary person (listed on the bulletin board) on duty when you encounter food supply shortages.
- Prepare **only** the amount of meals shown on the **Meals Calendar** posted on the refrigerator
- Wear gloves and a baseball cap / hairnet when prepping meals or bagging cookies.
- **Use a zip lock bag when re-bagging chips or cookies to help maintain their freshness.**
- Do not pack turkey & cheese and peanut butter & jelly sandwiches in the same zip lock bags (peanut food allergies).
- Clean all food containers for recycling. Shake crumbs out of bread bags / cookie trays. Place loose bags into one bag. Rinse peanut butter & jelly containers. If not, put them into trash.
- Sweep the floor and empty trash / recycling (into commercial bins) after each meal prep.
- Fill-out the [MLF Truck Run Log](#) after deliveries **and** use the bottom section to report any unusual events / problems that occur.
- Report truck maintenance issues to David Aguilar @ tgeagle2@att.net .



Our **MLF** ministry mourns the passing of Jose Garza Alonzo. A long-time **MLF** volunteer, he worked on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Monday lunch prep teams. On January 3, 2020, Jose entered his eternal rest. During his life, he was blessed with a loving wife, Irma, three children, several grandchildren, and numerous friends. Please join us in prayers of comfort and support for his wife Irma and the entire Alonzo family.