



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

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We Are San Antonio Foodbank Partners

The [San Antonio Foodbank \(SAFB\)](#) serves over 58,000 people per week. But they don't give any food directly to the hungry. How is that so? The **SAFB** distributes all of its supplies through a network of **Partners**. **MLF** is one of these partners. We have been utilizing the **SAFB** since 2014. **MLF's** ability to stretch our budget would not have been possible without this partnership.

We are able to purchase items from the **SAFB** for 15¢ per pound. So for example, when we get one of those boxes of large chip bags (which most volunteers dislike...) it weighs about 5 lbs. That calculates to 60¢ for nearly 100 servings of chips. That same box of 100 chips costs us \$30 from our food supplier. What an incredible cost difference! Another great example of savings is peanut butter and jelly. We pay only about 10¢ on the dollar compared to wholesale food prices.

In 2017, our full meal cost was about \$1.00. This

compares with our meal cost of \$1.40 in 2016. This per meal savings would not be possible without the opportunity to purchase at the **SAFB**. In 2018, our meal cost has crept up. This is due in part to shortages at the **SAFB** and our need to purchase food from the wholesaler.

We are able to supply **MLF** with items from the **SAFB** due in gratitude to a team of people who assist with this task. Our commissary team is very dedicated to making sure we have our **SAFB** items picked up each week. We have a group of about 8 people who alternate weeks for a Thursday pickup. If you have a truck or large SUV and are able to assist this team, we still need a few more shifts to be covered.

We also appreciate your support when those items from the **SAFB** arrive and need to be individually bagged. Both our budget and our brothers and sisters in need thank you!!

Julie Mellin □



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Three Generations Prep Lunch!

Olivia (pictured above), her mom, Jennifer, and Grandpa Rick, all work to prepare Thursday's lunch meal. I had an opportunity to speak with Olivia. She is an 8 year old, home schooled 3rd grader. She is learning Spanish and says that the app, **Duolingo**, is helping her along. She has been helping out for the past month, and says any one could do it! Her favorite part of helping with Mobile Loaves and Fishes is bagging the sandwiches and making eggs. She likes helping people. I asked her why other people should help, her answer? "You can make sandwiches and see me!" If you are a homeschooling family, please consider joining one of our weekday prep teams. It will make a real difference in your child's life.

Lynne Cruz □



MLF Ministry Needs “Everyday” Items

The **MLF** Clothing Ministry collects clean, serviceable clothing donated mostly by St Francis parishioners and **MLF** volunteers, for distribution to those we serve on our daily meal deliveries. Our greatest needs are for “every day” clothing and shoes that are clean and in good condition. For men: jeans, khakis, shirts, polos and t-shirts; for women and children as for men: clothing and shoes that can be worn around home, work or school are most often needed, including items for all age groups and sizes.

At this cooler time of year, coats and jackets, outdoor sweaters and sweats/hoodies, warm knit hats, gloves, comfortable shoes and socks are needed for men, women and children in all sizes but especially shoes and long pants and tops that are suitable to wear for school such as those items that have been outgrown but are still in excellent condition. We also distribute sample/hotel sized soaps, shampoos, toothpaste and other toiletries and rosaries when available.

Pope Francis has encouraged us to engage the poor, person to person, as sisters and brothers in Christ with whom we share a kind word, a smile and encouragement. Our **MLF** ministry has shared the Holy Father’s vision from the very beginning. With this in mind, we try to deliver clothing that, while used, we might pass along to our own family members.

Because we have limited space for delivery (just one side of our **MLF** delivery vehicle,) and limited storage space in the garage, we cannot keep all the clothing that is donated to us. The organizations to which we most often donate items we can’t use ourselves include: St Matthew’s Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Dress for Success, Career Gear, Cinderella’s Closets at Lackland AFB and Fort Sam Houston, Salvation Army or Goodwill.

The parishioners of St Francis are exceedingly generous and we value all your donations, but sorting through it all is a big job. We need help, and are looking for 4-6 additional helpers to join our ministry. The job of sorting can be done on your own schedule. After you have had orientation, you can work any day, any time and any length of time. It is a great opportunity to serve a ministry as a couple, or as a family, mom or dad helping your student earn their required service hours. There are always bags of clothing to be sorted in the **MLF** garage. For additional information or to find out how you can help, please call or text Gerry Caron at **325-227-7570**.

Gerry Caron □

CYO: Fall Sports Are Back on the Fields

As our parish continues to support families and community building, the **CYO** fall season of sports is up and running. In order to protect our children, we are asking all **MLF** volunteers to refrain from driving in the lane closest to the concession stand. Many children and parents gather at the stand between games and the kids are often distracted and excited. Since we no longer need to retrieve a key from the box on the side of the stand, it should be no problem to drive in the lane closest to the church buildings. Also, when the parking lot is very full with practice or games going on, it is even better to use the entrance to church property from Indian Woods (behind the church). There is a **CYO** board member on duty any time a game or practice is happening on the fields. If you need assistance, please seek them out at the concession stand. Safety is the number one priority for all spectators and players. **Julie Mellin** □

HELP WANTED

Openings – November 1, 2018

Our **MLF** ministry needs help for these crucial roles:

- 1) **Core Team** members for **Core Team Director**, **Site Coordinator**, and **Day Volunteer Coordinator** positions (see [Job Descriptions](#));
- 2) **Meal prep volunteers** for **2nd Tuesday supper** and **1st Friday supper** shifts;
- 3) **Commissary Team** members to order and receive weekly **Labatt Food Service** shipments;
- 4) **Meal Delivery** driver (using **MLF** truck) for Haven for Hope on **2nd Wednesday** lunch.

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

Contact Us

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Email: mfnfnow@sfasat.org



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

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

A Quick Reminder...

- **Team Captains:** consult the [MLF Meal Cancellation Guidelines](#) before cancelling a meal run and notify mfnfnow@sfasat.org
- 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.
- Report any truck maintenance issues to David Aguilar tgeagle2@att.net. □