

St. Anthony's PADUA DINING ROOM

• *A non-profit tax exempt charity* •

3500 Middlefield Road • Menlo Park • California • 94025

Summer 1998

650-365-9664

OUR HISTORY

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room in Menlo Park began serving meals to the low-income elderly in September 1974. Originally these meals were served on Sundays, but soon more and more people heard of us, and they too were in need of a hot, nutritious meal. Thus, we grew into a daily operation. (Sundays now excepted)

We now serve 500 free, hot meals a day, six days a week, year round. Each month we prepare over 14,000 meals! Our patrons are children, families, adults with limited income, the elderly and newcomers to the area. We serve anyone in need of a meal regardless of race, color, sex, age, handicaps, religion or national origin.

In 1993 we opened our free Clothing Distribution Center, and we now provide 1000 needy clients per month with shoes, wearing apparel, blankets, sleeping bags, and, most important, baby and infant wear.

Our mini-health program also began in 1993, and we make available the services of a public health Nurse four days per week during our lunch hour.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room is non-profit volunteer organization which is run by a cost conscious volunteer Board of Directors. For the past 24 years we have been here to help the less fortunate in our community. This has been made possible because of individual donors and foundation and business support. We rely solely upon these types of contributions and **receive no government help at any level.**

SOMEBODY OUGHT TO CARE SOMEBODY DOES



People Helping People

Our Volunteers, over 140 strong, are professionals, retirees, high school students and others who are involved in the community.

In preparation for the daily meal they spend countless hours a year chopping vegetables, slicing bread, tossing salads, stacking cans of food and sorting through produce.

As the doors open for our patrons each day, volunteers serve the food, carry trays and help seat people.

All this is done in a friendly atmosphere that is created by the people who want to be here and who want to help others.

Our volunteers make the difference

A LADY FOR ALL SEASONS



Hardworking, innovative, enthusiastic, with a knack for getting things done AND with a heart big enough for ten people: these characteristics describe Patti Cancilla, the dedicated manager of St. Anthony's Free Clothing Distributing Center.

Known throughout the community primarily as a volunteer-run soup kitchen, St. Anthony's also provides various other services. Included are a mini health program, daily van pick up for stay at homes, Christmas presents for needy kids and the previously mentioned Clothing Distribution Center. Under the watchful eye of Patti Cancilla and with the assistance of twenty volunteers, the Center Provides free clothing for some thousand customers (including children) monthly.

Housed in forty foot trailer, which is located adjacent to the Dining Room, the Clothing Center is tastefully

decorated and stocked with attractive clothes so it resembles a charming mall boutique. It is surely the nicest "store" that the majority of our clients have ever patronized.

The rules allow unlimited quantities of free clothing once a month for women and twenty items per month for men. Approximately 2,500 items per week are selected off the clothing racks, along with many other items taken from the bins.

The center is open Wednesday for women and Thursday for men, but clothing is always available on an emergency basis. The balance of the work week is taken up by the very time consuming tasks of clothes sorting and stocking the store.

Our sources for clothing – which are mostly donated – are from our many individual supporters in the community as well as civic minded Companies such as the Gap, Hewlett Packard and Raychem. Cañada College also supplies clothes on a regular basis as do others such as the Clothing Bank. Special help is received from the Coldwell Banker offices who collect some 1000 parkas and coats for us every winter.

Clothes donations from individuals in the community – especially donations of infant and children's wear – continue to be very welcome, and your donations can be brought to 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Monday through Saturday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.



DON'T FORGET THE COUNTRY ALMANAC DOUBLES YOUR DONATION

Just around Thanksgiving time the local weekly newspaper the Country Almanac conducts their Holiday Fund drive. This drive matches donated funds sent by readers to the Almanac to benefit certain charities and thus adds 100% to your help for St. Anthony's.

If it is your custom to make donations at holiday time, watch for the announcement in the Country Almanac that the Holiday Fund Drive has started and thus, in effect, double your help to St. Anthony's.

SPECIAL THANKS DEPARTMENT

There are so many individuals and organizations that have helped us over the years that it is difficult to ever single out any specific person or group. However, it is hard not to give special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Pete Uccelli of Pete's Harbor, Ms. Judy Ploshay and the San Mateo Realtors Association, and the Menlo Park Presbyterians.

The holiday occasions of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter bring automatic help from the Uccelli's of Pete's Harbor. Phone calls come through on those holiday times, telling us that two hundred donated turkeys are ready to be picked up. Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Pete Uccelli.

For years the Redwood City and San Carlos divisions of the San Mateo Realtors Association have collected donations from their members to aid St. Anthony's at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. While our appreciation is extended to each and every one of those contributors, there is always one person who makes it all happen. In this case, it is Ms. Judy Ploshay of Coldwell Banker Company. Judy has informed us that the Association has adopted St. Anthony's and we thank Judy for this fortunate relationship.

Quite possibly, some of our Newsletter readers have visited us at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter and have been impressed by the beautiful table decorations. Flowers, crepe paper table covers, candies and favor adorn all the tables.

This is all the result of a dedicated group of members of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church and our special thanks to all of these good friends of the Dining Room.

A NEW TRUCK FOR ST. ANTHONY'S

How long does a truck last? We can't generalize, but 150,000 miles has pretty well done in the large supply carrying truck at St. Anthony's.

With constant breakdowns and ever more expensive repairs, it definitely was time to go shopping. Thirty-five Thousand Dollars later and with the order placed, early July 1998 will see the arrival of our new twenty-foot vehicle.

This is a truck that is busy all day long making unlimited trips throughout the Bay Area to pick up food and supplies. Calls are received at the office throughout the day that free food is available in San Mateo, or Berkeley or Half Moon Bay, etc. Our office radio phone then goes into action, contacts the truck, and off we go to load up the truck from wherever the call originates.

Because of our ability and willingness to respond to these free food offers, St. Anthony's food bill at the end of the year is very small, and the truck more than pays for itself in a relatively short time.

EMERGENCY GENERATOR NOW IN SERVICE

After many delays, our new emergency electrical generator is completely installed, works perfectly, and is now ready for winter weather.

We all remember the terrible storms of a few seasons back and the power outages that caused us all so much distress. St. Anthony's was virtually shut down for a week and at holiday time when we are most needed by our clients. Concerned by the lack of ability to provide warm meals (we did provide some sandwiches) and worried, because of no lights, with possible injury to clients and volunteers, we embarked on construction of a backup power system.

Beset by numerous regulatory delays and the usual construction surprises, we struggled for over a year to finally achieve completion.

While we don't look forward to devastating winter storms and more power outages, if they come, at least we can say that St. Anthony's will be open for business.

While we are still paying for this expensive necessity, we want to thank all of the generous contributors who have given us financial help for this project.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Max Torres 365-9664
 Operation Manager

Sam Acuff 365-9664
 Administrator

Chuck Cancilla 366-4692
 Board President

Douglas Tuck 873-7000
 Communications, Grants Ext. 345

Patti Cancilla 364-2557
 Clothing Distribution Center

OUR SERVICES

Meal/Food: Lunch Served daily
 11:00 - 1:00 (except Sunday)
 Take home food available during
 the lunch hour. Emergency food
 available at the Church rectory
 weekdays.

Free clothing: Every Wednesday and Thursday
 and on emergency basis.

Medical: Mini health program Tuesday
 through Friday during the lunch
 hour.

Transportation: For the homebound Monday
 through Friday 10am.-2pm

Christmas for the kids:
 Some 10,000 presents for needy
 children are distributed prior to
 Christmas.

Please fill out this slip and return it to
 St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room.

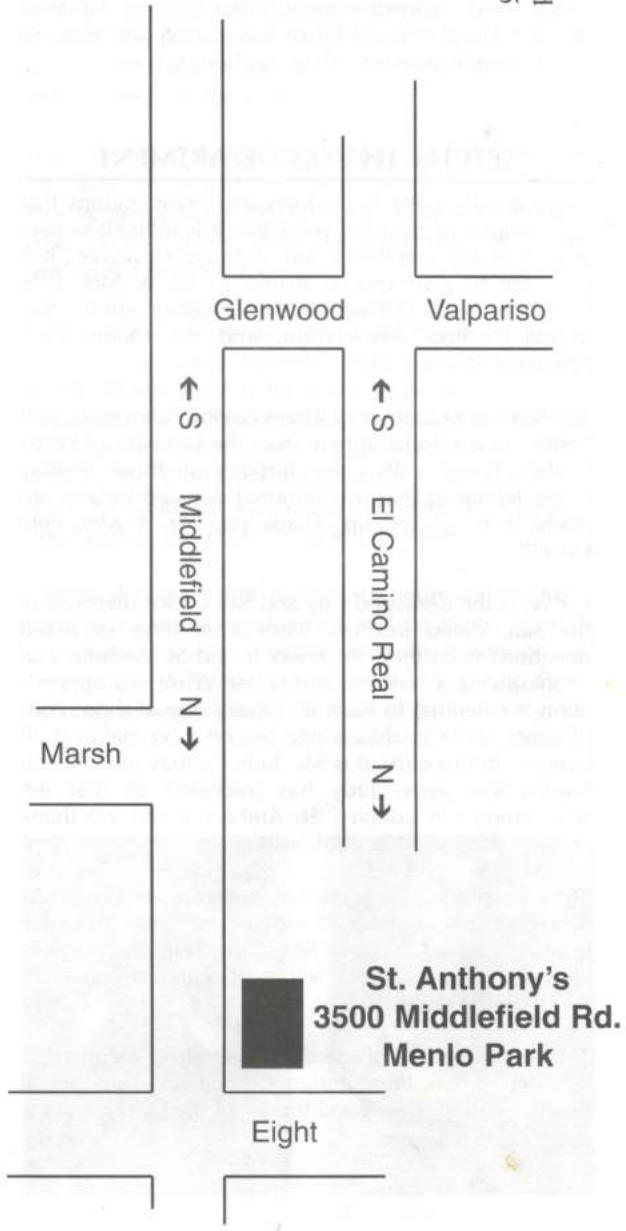
3500 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025
COUNT ON ME to help St. Anthony's
 Padua Dining Room continue it's vital mission.

My tax deductible donation enclosed.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____

St. Anthony's
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