

Feeding the Homeless at the Shelter

The city of Laguna Beach has established a shelter for the homeless, but relies on volunteers to provide the evening meal there. Our church provides meals there on the second, third and fifth Tuesdays and the second Friday of each month.

Where

The old Verizon parking lot located on Laguna Canyon Road between the Dog Park and the Marine Mammal Center. From Laguna Beach, get in the right turn lane as you approach the Dog Park and turn right at the end of the Park. Inside the gate, turn left and park as near as you can do the door at the far end of the dark brown building (the Shelter.) If necessary, you can double park between the concrete light pole and the chain link fence as those spaces are reserved for those serving dinner.

When

On your date arrive no later than 6:30pm to be ready to serve promptly at 6:45. The guests will line up and be waiting, but don't start early as those who arrive at 6:45 feel they have missed something. If you are staying to serve and clean up, please be prepared to stay until that is done, around 7:30pm. It's good to have at least 5 people to serve.

What

We try to provide nutritious meals for 72 consisting of:

1. Hot dish or hearty soup (homemade or bought frozen and heated)
2. Salad and/or hot vegetable
3. Bread or rolls
4. Fresh or canned fruit for dessert (sweets are discouraged)

Who

The team leader will contact people who have volunteered for each night and assign food so that there will be enough in each category. In order to make it manageable to cook and carry, for example, 3 people may prepare a hot dish for 24 each, or 2 people may each make a salad to serve 36.

How

Prepare your contribution at home (or at the church if available) and bring it ready to serve (main dish hot; salad ready with dressing on the side; bread buttered or seasoned to serve.) If you're not staying to serve, bring it in disposable containers. Bring your own serving utensils. Everything has to be gone when we leave, so check for pot holders, utensils and towels, etc.

Helpful Information

The Friendship Shelter provides bowls, plates, napkins, and plastic utensils for guests, and plastic gloves for servers. They also provide coffee and water. If you need anything, ask one of the staff people. They also empty the trash if it gets too full. At the present time we cannot use the kitchen appliances, but you can use the sink and sponges for cleanup.

If there is any problem with the guests, the staff will handle it. Serve with a smile, and make eye contact whenever possible. Acknowledge when being “thanked” with “I enjoy being able to do it” or “I’m glad you liked it,” whatever is appropriate.

When everyone has been served once, set aside 4 plates of dinner for latecomers and then offer seconds. Guests are encouraged to reuse the same plate and utensils.

At the end of the evening the team leader will fill out the Volunteer Notebook, so they may ask you how many hours you spent volunteering for this night. This information is useful to the people who apply for grants and to let the city know how much support they receive.

You may offer a blessing among the team members prior to feeding the group, but do not ask the entire group to participate. On an individual basis it may be appropriate to minister to those that are in the shelter, but it is not to be used as an avenue to evangelize.

Fellowship or Bible Study groups may want to take a night to serve. Team leaders will let her team know when they are not needed:

Team Leaders:

2 nd Tuesday: Cindy Campbell	683-7220	cindycamp1@gmail.com
3 rd Tuesday: Alice Jensen	715-2362	alicejensend@gmail.com
4 th Tuesday: Darrylin Girvin	376-7565	rd.girvin@verizon.net
2 nd Friday: Leigh Wilkerson	494-8893	jlw1437@cox.net

Alternative Sleeping Location ~ Friendship Shelter

Friendship Shelter	494-6928	office@friendshipshelter.org
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