



## **Many Meals of Camarillo**

*Meals provided by people who care*

In February and March 2009 a small group of us reached out to assist the “**Many Meals of Santa Paula**” program (MMSP). We began by providing main meal dishes for the Wednesday potlucks at Inglesia Dio 7 Church in Santa Paula, California. However, it wasn’t long before our experience of the heartfelt sharing and receiving taking place in this community made us want to provide such a program to those struggling in our own community of Camarillo and the surrounding area. The recent economic downturn has affected people at all levels of income, and in all areas, so we know a definite need is present in our community. Thus we established, **Many Meals of Camarillo (MMC)**, a non-profit, non-denominational organization.

We met with Kay Wilson-Bolton, who spearheaded the MMSP, on April 4, 2009. She was very generous in sharing information and guiding us through the organization of MMC. We also met with Diana Ortuno, project manager of the Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, whose program in Thousand Oaks serves a meal every night of the year through the co-operation of several churches in their area.

Our initial goal is to serve a balanced, generous, and nutritious meal to match any of the best home-cooked meals in town once a week for those in need in our community. Those would include the unemployed, the homeless, those earning a less than *a* living wage or who can’t make their income stretch to the end of the month, and even the lonely who just wish to share a meal in community with others. Providing this one meal can save money to go towards paying a utility bill, gas to drive to work, etc. It will also provide an opportunity for people to obtain information about other community resources.

Rev. Jim Stehly, Pastor of Saint Mary Magdalen Church, has graciously shown his support by allowing us a regular home each Monday evening (the Church Hall at the at the corner of Crestview and Las Posas in Camarillo) where we, and others across the community, will serve the weekly dinners beginning July 6, 2009.

There are many opportunities to volunteer in this outreach program, such as cooking a dish, serving, set-up, clean-up, greeters and of course monetary donations as well as donations of fruit (from your own trees), vegetables, clothing, hygiene items, etc. We will have a coordinator for planning the meals and obtaining supplies. Set up will begin at 3:30 p.m. Delivery of food will be at 4:00 pm and will be served from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. A weekly menu will be sent out to those who wish to volunteer along with needs for that week. There will be a six week menu rotation with prepared recipes for consistency, simplicity and ease of preparation.

Our goal is to have **MMC** become a true community affair with local churches and other organizations rotating the weekly meal while still being supervised and trained by the original organizers. We plan to do this for as long as there are hungry people in our town. *Please pass this letter on to your friends* and let us know if you would like volunteer, provide a monetary donation or would like more information.

If you would like to become an MMC volunteer, please complete form on the following page and mail to the address listed. If you are receiving this letter via email, you may register electronically by clicking “forward” add the address [manymealsvolunteers@verizon.net](mailto:manymealsvolunteers@verizon.net) and complete the form and send it.

You can be removed from email distributions any time by clicking “reply” and entering “Remove Me” in the subject line.

Thank you,  
**Many Meals of Camarillo**

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**Please let us know how you would like to support us:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will prepare and provide main dishes

\_\_\_\_\_ I will donate desserts and/or any other items to complete the menu provided for the week

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist dining room setup, food serving and cleanup

\_\_\_\_\_ Provide paper products and utensils

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to help in any capacity as needed

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Tree (Important for those without email)

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation for \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_\_ I will send a monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

**Many Meals of Camarillo**

Mail checks and your volunteer response to:

79 Daily Dr. #238

Camarillo, CA 93010

Please provide:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_