



It is 7 a.m. Wednesday morning and the homeless eagerly wait in line for breakfast to get a cup of our delicious bean soup.

"More than being just another 'soup kitchen' passing out meals to the homeless, the staff and volunteers work hard to make all those who come to the Center feel welcome," says Allan J. Graf, who is a member of our Board of Directors and a regular volunteer from the Order of Malta.

We try to create a sense of community among our guests, staff, and volunteers by serving the homeless with dignity, creating a comforting atmosphere, and offering good food. Several of our guests describe their meal experience as being in "Food Heaven." One homeless guest, in particular, says, "I come here every week, sometimes twice a week, 'cause I can't resist the soup."



All of the credit goes to Xochitl Larios (pronounced so-chee), who has been cooking up delicious soups at the Center for the past five years. Most of our guests have come to know her by name as she diligently serves the

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homeless every day with a humble smile.

Throughout her tenure, she's created friendships with many of our guests, including one homeless gentleman, who has been coming to St. Francis Center for 22 years. She originally befriended him when we used to operate out of St. Joseph's Church, and he continued to visit the Center after we moved to our new building in 1993 because he enjoys the food and our friendly staff.

Xochitl is from Jalisco, Mexico and is a mother of three boys. She first started coming to the Center to receive groceries through our Pantry Service for her family over 15 years ago. During this time, she also served as a volunteer for a decade, because like many others she felt compelled to give something back.

Xochitl is just one of our many dedicated staff, building community among those we serve.

Peace and Blessings,

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Check out our secure online donation link at [www.sfcla.org](http://www.sfcla.org)!

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3/16/2011

Staff Spotlight @SFC

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