

Trinity
CAFE

Food for Thought

MARCH MATCHNESS FOR TRINITY CAFE

Help us purchase a van to transport 100,000 meals a year – Ferman Automotive will double all donations!



Our vision at Trinity Cafe is to ensure that no child, woman or man is without access to a nutritious meal served with dignity if he or she is in need. You can share in our vision by supporting the launch of Trinity Cafe 2. There are many ways to give!

One of our biggest needs is a vehicle to help transport delicious meals to serve our homeless and hungry guests at our second location. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to purchase a vehicle that will transport up to 300 meals each day to serve the North Tampa area.

Our generous donor, Ferman Automotive, has pledged to match all donations up to \$11,500. You can help us reach our goal by donating during “March Matchness” and April. Each gift toward the purchase of the van will be doubled by Ferman Automotive!

There is no better time to give. Your gift and the matching gift from Ferman Automotive will enable us to purchase a van that will transport approximately 100,000 meals per year!

Four Ways to Get Involved with Trinity Cafe 2:

1. Give to support our Trinity Cafe van, and your gift will be matched!
2. Donate items from our wish list for the dining room: www.trinitycafe.org/donate/wish-list-2
3. Sign up to volunteer at Trinity Cafe 2 on Busch Blvd.
4. Engage with us on Facebook and share the Trinity Cafe March Matchness challenge with others.

“We’ve been supportive of Trinity Cafe and their mission of serving with dignity for years. Ferman Automotive is proud to partner to help transport meals to serve twice as many guests with compassion, love and respect. We challenge you to make a gift and help support Trinity Cafe 2!”

– Jim Ferman



“The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

Cafe Location:

2801 N. Nebraska Avenue
Tampa, FL 33602

Office:

100 E. Madison Street
Suite 300
Tampa, FL 33602

Phone: 813.865.4822

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 320146
Tampa, FL 33679

*A Non-Denominational Charity
Trinity Cafe is a 501(c)(3)
Not-For-Profit Organization*

www.TrinityCafe.org

Tales from the table: A guest story



“I sleep wherever I can find a place.” Meet Mario

“My parents say this is best for me, to be on my own. It’s been about four years. I sleep wherever I can find a place. Some days I go to the library and read comics. I like ‘Superman.’ I walk to Trinity Cafe from there. Most days I enjoy the walk.”

Family crisis and discord are the most prevalent reasons youth and young adults become homeless. Young people are at a greater risk of becoming homeless if their parents have mental health issues or engage in substance abuse. Other reasons include child abuse in the home, living in a family that has previously been homeless, or living in foster care and aging out of the system. It is heartbreaking to see young people, like Mario, with tremendous potential and no one to nurture and encourage him to become a responsible self-sufficient adult.

AWARD WINNER & FRIENDS TO PERFORM BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE HOMELESS

GMA Dove Award winner, Leonardo Villanueva, will be performing a concert to benefit Trinity Cafe on **Saturday, April 23 at 7:00pm at First United Methodist Church of Lutz**. Leonardo will be joined by fellow artist friends in an effort to raise funds for Trinity Cafe and awareness of a second location, which will open in March to feed the hungry and homeless in North Tampa.

Villanueva has a special connection with Trinity Cafe: back in the summer of 2009, Leonardo went undercover as a homeless man for 4 days and nights in downtown Tampa as part of a personal research project. He documented his journey on YouTube in a series of video blogs called “Leo the Homeless Man.” Part of the experiment was to figure out survival on his own including where to find a daily meal. Sure enough, word on the street led him to Trinity Cafe, where he would be fed a delicious, warm meal and be shown compassion.

“I remember when this blonde college-age girl volunteer with a big smile placed the plate of food in front of me, I had to lower my head and cover my face with the cap I was wearing so that the other guests around the table wouldn’t see my tears falling in my soup,” recalls Leonardo. “I was so moved by the fact that this perfect stranger was there to supply my immediate need when I was hungry and without the ability to provide for myself, I felt at that moment like she was an angel.”

Leonardo and Trinity Cafe have maintained a special relationship based on the mutual desire to help those who can’t provide for themselves.

But Leonardo and Friends know that it takes volunteers and financial contributions to help accomplish this mission. That’s why they’re putting together this high energy, compelling benefit concert open to the public. The admission is free but they’re hoping people will bring their wallets and a generous heart for the donations collection time. The featured guest artists will be: SWAG Academy Dance Team, gospel vocalist Scott Reynolds, and international concert pianist Cliff Longcoy.

For more information, contact Leonardo Villanueva (813)382-4398 leonewillage@gmail.com or Cindy Davis cdavis@trinitycafe.org



Meet Volunteer Manager – Don Gould

Don joins the Trinity Cafe staff serving as the Volunteer Manager. He will work closely with Cindy Davis to recruit, cultivate, train, organize and create a warm and supportive environment for volunteers while supporting the mission and vision of Trinity Cafe.

Don is kind and affable, leads by example and is passionate about our guests and volunteers! He has been a Sunday co-coordinator for more than two years and is one of our weekly Feeding Tampa Bay shoppers. In his own words, let’s learn a little more about Don!

Describe yourself in 10 words or less.

A kindhearted, gentle man, with an old soul.

What was your first job?

Technically my first job was a paper route, delivering the State Journal in Lansing, MI, when I was 12. My first “real” job out of college was as an application engineer for Thermotron Industries in Holland, MI. I helped design and sell custom built testing equipment to the military, aerospace, automotive and electronic industries.

What do you do for hobbies/entertainment?

My hobbies are all things cars, specifically Hot Rods – we have a couple in our garage. I am also a huge sports fan, especially college football and English Premier League futbol (soccer).

What were you most surprised to learn about Trinity Cafe?

I was surprised (in a good way) at the total number of volunteers – 10,690 – and the number of hours everyone gives on a yearly basis: 27,500 hours. This equates to 14 full-time people for a year.

If you were planning today’s menu, what would it be?

Italian Sausage and lentil soup for the first course, chicken piccata, roasted fingerling potatoes, sautéed zucchini and garlic bread for the entree and a nice cup of coffee for dessert (I’m not a sweets lover).

“I am very excited about joining the Trinity Cafe team. My goal is to continue to nurture, cultivate and support the fantastic culture that is and has been so fundamental in the success of Trinity Cafe. I do want to sprinkle in my personality. I do enjoy a good laugh and like to keep things lighthearted. I strive for order and professionalism but don’t be surprised if it comes with a side of good natured teasing and a wry smile.”

– Don

Cooking Up Exceptional Opportunities for LaVoy Students

Salads and hot pressed flatbread sandwiches taste a little better when you witness seven students working in concert to create these offerings with meticulous determination, concentration and enthusiasm in the cafe they run at LaVoy Exceptional Center. Teacher John LoScalzo patiently leads and encourages self-sufficiency as part of the Hillsborough County School District's Graduates Moving about the Community (GMAC) program. Designed for special diploma graduates between the ages of 18 to 22, the program's students live with autism, physical handicaps, emotional and behavioral disabilities and significant cognitive disabilities. This school-based work program teaches these young adults a variety of life management skills and prepares them for possible employment opportunities.

Three days a week they run the LaVoy Lunch Express Cafe, taking orders, preparing made to order salads and sandwiches, organizing orders based on customer pick-up times and operating the cash register. Each week there is a new sandwich and salad special.

On this day, Krystle Diez was assigned the task of "head chef" overseeing the day's operation. Mr. LoScalzo gives each student an opportunity to become proficient at each task. The one thing all the students do together is display a big smile and

say, "Thank you, come back and see us!" as each customer picks up their order.

When asked what he enjoys most about the café, student Steven Humphrey said, "I like to work hard and make salads that taste good. It's important to do a good job."

Trinity Cafe has partnered with the Hillsborough County School District this year to offer LaVoy students an opportunity to assist in its dining room. The students arrive each Tuesday eager to prepare the dining room for guests. They set tables, roll silverware, fill bread baskets and prepare beverages. They've also participated in cake decorating activities led by retired pastry chef and Trinity Cafe volunteer baker, Doug Wanek. Another helpful project involved students planting herbs for Trinity Cafe's greenhouse.

Teacher John LoScalzo said, "Trinity Cafe provides an accepting, energetic, and positive environment for my students to gain essential daily living and work skills in order to be successful in life. I want to thank the staff for their support and giving us the opportunity to volunteer at such a great place and for making a difference in the community!"

"It is our hope that this partnership allows these students to gain skills, confidence and experience that will assist them as they transition from school to work life," says program director Cindy Davis. She adds, "I had the pleasure of seeing the students in action at LaVoy Lunch Express Cafe. They made me an incredible chopped Italian salad that was not only delicious but also assembled with great passion and care! I am so impressed with what each student is accomplishing in their cafe!"



Volunteer Spotlight - Marie-Claude Colas

Marie-Claude lives in Brussels. Her friend and Trinity Cafe volunteer, Joe Kolcan, shared with her his enthusiasm for the mission. She was intrigued and read everything on the internet she could find about Trinity Cafe. She wanted to serve but Brussels and Tampa are time zones apart. Marie-Claude said, "I was not counting on the providence of God." Her children and friends gave her a trip to the United States for her 50th birthday. She was able to realize her dream when she and Joe served at the café. She was nervous because her English is not very good but that fear dissipated when she was greeted by Saturday coordinator, Lumiere Rostick.

"Lumiere's smile, enthusiasm and joy gave me immediate confidence! Every volunteer had a smile on their lips and were happy to be making a better world. The serene atmosphere contributes to the well-being of the guests being received. It facilitates the process to come, eat and to feel welcome as a person, not as a beggar. This is what touched me. I saw guests happy for their meal, happy to talk with others and happy to be listened to in simplicity and without judgement...it was a time of fraternity. At the end of the morning, Joe and I left the Trinity Cafe, our hearts full of joy! I don't know if one day I will come back to Tampa, but for now, my way to serve Trinity Cafe is to pray and entrust the volunteers and the guests in my heart in front of God."

- Marie-Claude Colas

Charity Bingo Nets \$6,336 for Trinity Cafe

Thursday volunteer Arlene Berkowitz, along with a team of enthusiastic helpers, held a Second Annual Charity Bingo night Wed., Jan. 27 to benefit Trinity Cafe. Funds were raised from the 10 Bingo games, a 50/50 ticket sale and through the purchase of a chance for 12 wonderful themed baskets with a total value of more than \$2,000! Baskets included hotel and bed & breakfast stays, plenty of restaurant choices, jewelry, hair and nail services, sailing trips, automotive services, books, and more! Volunteer Barry Shuman was instrumental in procuring many of the donated items. Kerry Casey artfully arranged all of the beautiful baskets. Lorraine Livingston sold 50/50 tickets with great gusto! The event was rollicking fun, drew a maximum capacity crowd of supporters and raised \$6,336 to purchase food for the cafe!



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2015 Year in Review

We are proud to share some of our major accomplishments this past year. None of this would be possible without your support! We thank you for sharing your time, talents and treasures to help fulfill our mission daily and achieve these milestones.

2015 in review



Trinity Cafe served our **MILLIONTH MEAL**

to John, a retired policeman and military veteran, on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.



"I have a new chance in life and I'm working to get back on my feet again. I really appreciate the food and kindness here at Trinity Cafe."

- John

The Tampa Tribune donated more than **\$228,000** of in-kind advertising space to Trinity Cafe

10 Ten restaurants committed to Feed the Need Tampa Bay, a project Girl Scout Gracie Goltermann is implementing to recruit restaurants to feed the hungry one day a year at Trinity Cafe.

We hired our first executive director to plan for the long-term sustainability of Trinity Cafe.

The Board of Directors developed our first strategic plan with support from the Allegany Franciscan Foundation.

Our vision for the future is to be a leader in hunger relief in our community and ensure that no child, woman or man in need is without access to a nutritious meal served with dignity.



\$250,000 Solicited grant and foundation donations resulted in more than \$250,000, twice the amount that we received in 2014

Bank of America awarded Trinity Cafe the **Neighborhood Builders grant of \$200,000** which will help launch Trinity Cafe 2 in early 2016

Hillsborough County continued our \$65,000 grant & \$100,000 was awarded to assist with Trinity Cafe 2

The Provision Partners increased from 23 to 35 sustainers & recurring annual funding increased from \$88,000 to \$101,000

Trinity Cafe was rewarded with funding of

\$133,000

from the 8th Annual FrankCrum Charity Golf Tournament in February; 6% more than the previous year



Trinity Cafe's reserve fund has been maintained, and the balance is \$394,819



Founding Director Jeff Darrey was awarded a 2015 Lightning Community Hero grant