



# Sisters in Ministry: Serving Those in Need

Throughout the year, Ursuline Sisters help serve the needy at Open Hand Kitchen, which is located in the St. Vincent de Paul Community Center in Louisville. On Thursday, June 11, five Sisters put on aprons and hair nets to “man” the food line. Sisters Katherine Corbett, Julia Davis, Jo Ann Jansing, Rita Dressman, and Dolorita Lutsie were all smiles as men and women lined up for dinner.

“The prayer volunteers are asked to say just before serving the meal brings tears to my eyes,” said Sister Jo Ann Jansing, who was among those serving on June 11. “It talks about respect and compassion and allowing the person you’re helping to forgive you for the need he or she is experiencing.”

Each year, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides emergency, transitional and permanent housing to hundreds of individuals and families who are trying to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. All of the organization’s programs serve the homeless men, women, and children, as well as those simply in need

of a helping hand.

Open Hand Kitchen is open every day of the year to serve lunch and dinner. It takes at least six people to dish the food for those waiting in line. If everyone volunteered just once a year, the

Below is a list of volunteers who routinely help out at Open Hand Kitchen. Many thanks to each and every one who takes time to volunteer for this worthy cause:

- Sr. Katherine Corbett
- Associate Margaret Cundiff
- Sr. Julia Davis
- Sr. Rita Dressman
- Sr. Mary Jo Gramig
- Sr. Jo Ann Hauntz
- Theresa Heyser, USAE employee
- Sr. Lee Kirchner
- Sr. Jo Ann Jansing
- Sr. Lynn Jarrell
- Sr. Isabel Lehmenkuler
- Sr. Dolorita Lutsie
- Sr. Shannon Maguire
- Sr. Rose Ann Muller
- Sr. Sarah Stauble
- Becky Young, friend of Theresa Heyser



**1. Sister Jo Ann Jansing**



**2. Sisters Rita Dressman and Katherine Corbett**



**3. Sisters Dolorita Lutsie and Julia Davis**

Kitchen would need 4,380 volunteers just to serve the food. According to kitchen manager Michael Southers, Open Hand Kitchen serves an average of 400 people daily which translates into 146,000 meals a year.

“We follow St. Vincent de Paul’s teachings,” Michael said. “He believed that people just need some love and respect. A little understanding goes a long way.”

Michael and his wife, Zelda, run the Kitchen. Zelda is the kitchen resource developer. “I’m a man of God; my wife is a woman of God. We feel that we were brought here to do what we do,” he said. “Giving people respect is so important in life not only to help them but because it’s not just their problem, losing your job or your home, it could happen to anybody.”

The Kitchen’s busiest time is in the winter months, but the doors are always open and there are always those who need help. The Ursuline Sisters are among those who continually serve. The Sisters who help out at Open Hand Kitchen are not just the five who showed up on June 11. If you’d like to volunteer or learn more about Open Hand Kitchen, contact Sister Rita Dressman.