

MISSION INSIDER

RESCUE. RESTORE. EMPOWER.



THE
KITCHEN
THAT
FEEDS
THE CITY

VOLUME 2026. EDITION 2.

Help Us Feed The City

Located inside City Center, CC's Kitchen is the central kitchen behind Fresno Mission's daily meal service.

Each day begins at 3:00 AM, as the kitchen team prepares breakfast, lunch, and dinner for individuals and families connected to Fresno Mission programs. Breakfast and lunch primarily support program participants, while nightly dinner service also welcomes the general community.

As the cost of living continues to rise, more people in our community are struggling to afford groceries, housing, and other basic necessities. CC's Kitchen sees that growing need every day, especially in the number of children, youth, families, and seniors coming through the doors for a warm meal and a safe place to gather.

"What stands out to me the most is the amount of children and youth we feed," said Steven Pena, CC's Kitchen chef. "It breaks my heart to see, but being able to feed them a warm meal is a blessing."

Meeting that need takes more than cooking. Behind every meal is a coordinated effort involving a 21-person kitchen team, dedicated volunteers, food donors, community partners, planning, preparation, and the flexibility required to keep meals flowing seven days a week.

Much of the food served at CC's Kitchen is made possible through donations, local partnerships, and community support.

CC'S KITCHEN BY THE NUMBERS

7
Days a Week
Serving Meals

70 to 90
Children Served
Daily

500+
Meals Served
Daily

15,000+
Meals Served
Monthly

4,500+
Families Reached
Monthly



For the person receiving the meal, the impact is simple and deeply personal. A warm plate can bring relief during a difficult week.

A safe table can offer a moment of peace. A kind interaction can remind someone they are seen, valued, and not alone.

At CC's Kitchen, food is the beginning of something bigger: dignity, compassion, consistency, and care.

On the next page, meet Felipe and Marcus — two men whose lives were transformed through Fresno Mission and who now help serve the same community that once helped them.



From Brokenness to Purpose

Every meal served at CC's Kitchen carries a story

For Felipe and Marcus, CC's Kitchen is more than a kitchen. It is a place where their lives began to change.

Both men arrived at Fresno Mission during difficult seasons marked by addiction, broken relationships, trauma, and hopelessness.

Felipe grew up surrounded by violence and instability. Looking for protection and belonging, he became involved in gangs at a young age and spent years living a destructive lifestyle. After losing both his younger brother and his mother within a single month, he realized he could no longer continue living the same way.

Marcus came to Fresno Mission after years of addiction and broken relationships had left him facing prison time and separated from his family. Nearing 50 years old, he knew he needed a completely different direction for his life.

What both men found at Fresno Mission was compassion, structure, accountability, and support. Felipe remembers arriving with nothing but a trash bag filled with clothes.

"Everybody showed me love," Felipe said. "They gave me food, clothes, encouragement — things I had never really experienced before."

Through recovery programs, counseling, chapel, mentorship, and daily support, both men slowly began rebuilding their lives. Fresno Mission became more than a program. It became a place of healing, faith, and restoration. "It helped me understand what I was angry about and why," Marcus shared. "I learned God wasn't against me. He was helping me."

Today, both men are part of the CC's Kitchen team — serving meals to the same community that once helped them.

"Being here doesn't feel like work," Felipe said. "I get to be the hands and feet of Jesus."

Marcus, who spent most of his life working in kitchens and restaurants, says this is the first workplace where he feels surrounded by people who genuinely want a better life.



Felipe and Marcus

"This is the only place I've ever worked where the people around me are sober," he shared.

The transformation in both men's lives reaches far beyond the kitchen. Today, Felipe is married, owns a home, and has built a stable life he once believed was impossible. Marcus has restored relationships with his children and now helps care for his grandchildren after work each evening. "I'm just trying to be a better grandfather than I was a father," he said.

Every day at CC's Kitchen, meals are prepared for children, families, seniors, and individuals facing difficult circumstances. But the impact goes far beyond food. For Felipe and Marcus, every plate served is a reminder that restoration is possible and that people deserve second chances.

When asked about their favorite meals from CC's Kitchen, both men smiled before answering. Felipe's favorite is enchiladas with Spanish rice and refried beans. Marcus says you can never go wrong with burgers. "Every time we make burgers," he laughed, "everybody comes out of the woodwork."

Both men also shared a message they hope supporters of Fresno Mission understand. "Without their support and donations, this wouldn't be possible," Felipe said. "They are a big part of what we do here."

"If people are ever in need, this is the place to come to. We'll do whatever it takes to help." Marcus said.

Stories like Felipe's and Marcus' are possible because people in our community choose to care.

Every meal served, every life restored, and every second chance begins with someone willing to help.

Felipe's favorite from
CC's Kitchen

Cheese Enchiladas with Spanish Rice & Refried Beans

INGREDIENTS

For the Enchiladas:

- 12 corn tortillas
- 2 cups shredded cheddar or Mexican blend cheese
- 1 can red enchilada sauce
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil

For the Spanish Rice:

- 2 cups long grain rice
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 4 cups chicken broth
- Salt and seasoning to taste

For the Refried Beans:

- 2 cans pinto beans
- 2 tbsp oil or butter
- Garlic powder, salt, and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Lightly fry tortillas in oil until soft.
2. Fill tortillas with cheese, roll, and place in baking dish.
3. Pour enchilada sauce over the top and bake at 350°F for 20 minutes.
4. For the rice, sauté onion and garlic, add rice until lightly golden, then add tomato sauce and broth. Simmer until fully cooked.
5. Heat beans in a pan and mash until creamy, seasoning to taste.

At CC's Kitchen, meals like these are served every day with one purpose in mind: helping people feel welcomed, cared for, and supported. **If you make this recipe at home, share a photo on your Instagram Stories and tag us — we'd love to see it!**





A MESSAGE FROM MATT

Every day at CC's Kitchen, we see the growing need in our community up close.

We see parents doing everything they can to provide for their children. We see seniors stretching limited incomes to make ends meet. We see individuals facing homelessness, families

navigating difficult circumstances, and neighbors who simply need a warm meal and a welcoming place to gather.

For many, a warm meal may seem like a small thing. But for someone in crisis, it can be the first reminder that they are not forgotten.

At CC's Kitchen, meals are served seven days a week with dignity, compassion, and care. Around our tables, people receive more than food. They find community, encouragement, and the love of Christ shared through volunteers, staff, and supporters who faithfully make this ministry possible.

This year, Fresno Mission is navigating one of the most significant seasons in our history. After more than 60 years, we have made the prayerful decision to transition from our historic G Street campus and concentrate services around City Center and the Searcy Center. This move allows us to strengthen ministry services, better steward resources, and create room for future growth as we continue serving our community.

At the same time, the need continues to rise. More families are seeking assistance. More individuals are turning to us for support. Every evening, CC's Kitchen welcomes people looking for a meal, a safe place to gather, and a reminder that someone cares.

Like many nonprofit organizations, we are facing increased costs and reduced funding during a challenging economic season. Right now, Fresno Mission is working to raise \$523,000 to help bridge the summer months and continue providing critical services without reducing our impact. While the challenges are real, we remain committed to serving every person who comes through our doors with compassion, dignity, and the love of Christ.

In many ways, CC's Kitchen represents the heart of that commitment. Every meal prepared, every donation received, every volunteer hour served, and every prayer offered helps make this work possible. Because of your support, Fresno Mission can continue meeting people in their moment of need and helping them take the next step toward stability, healing, and restoration.

Today, I am asking you to stay connected to this work. Give if you are able. Volunteer if you have time. Donate food if you can. Share Fresno Mission with someone who may need help. Every act of generosity helps ensure that there is always a place at the table for those who need it most.

Thank you for standing with us and being part of what God is doing through CC's Kitchen. Your support is helping feed our city, care for our neighbors, and remind people that they are seen, valued, and loved.

To learn more or get involved, visit fresnomission.org. The need is growing, but so is the opportunity to respond.

MATT DILDINE
CEO OF THE FRESNO MISSION

MISSION INSIDER

Pray with us...

Please join us in praying for:

- Our community and neighbors facing food insecurity
- Those walking through crisis and searching for help
- Those in crisis who do not yet have the strength to ask for help
- The CC's Kitchen team, volunteers, and every area of Fresno Mission serving daily needs
- Donors, partners, churches, businesses, and individuals helping care for our community



Scan the QR code or use the remit and envelope to give today.



Be part of the story...

Every meal served at CC's Kitchen is made possible by people who choose to care.

As the need in our community continues to grow, there are many ways you can help ensure children, families, seniors, and individuals in crisis continue receiving meals, support, and dignity each day.

Whether you give, volunteer, donate food, partner with us, or pray, your support helps keep this work moving forward.

VOLUNTEER

Whether helping prepare food, serve meals, organize donations, support food distribution, or assist behind the scenes, every volunteer helps create a welcoming place for those in need.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit our website, fresnomission.org/get-involved/volunteer

FOOD DONATIONS

Individuals, businesses, restaurants, grocery stores, farms, and community partners can help by donating food, ingredients, or supplies that support daily meal service at CC's Kitchen.

For food donation questions or larger donation drop-offs, please contact Fresno Mission before delivery so our team can coordinate with you.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Every gift helps provide meals, support kitchen operations, and ensure that those facing food insecurity have a place to receive care with dignity.

Your generosity helps keep CC's Kitchen serving seven days a week.

Thank you for being part of this work.

P.S.

Please help us by making a financial gift, use the enclosed remit and envelope or give online at www.fresnomission.org.