

St. Therese Parish Thanksgiving Meal

How They Do It:

Fundraising begins in March – we receive donations from people all year, and from churches in town. We have been able to fund a dinner that costs \$6,000-\$7,000 for the past three years, without asking for funds from the parish budget. It gets more and more expensive every year, we also feed more people every year.

Planning and Promotion - We begin planning in September. We send out press releases to the local newspapers, I also drive to churches and businesses all over town delivering flyers. Getting people to help is the easy part, we create an event on signupgenius.com and make it live the day announcements go in our bulletin and the newspaper, this way everyone gets a fair shot at getting involved. We only need about 65 people for the whole day. The first year we didn't know this and had over 300 people show up to help. It was crazy! We also encourage teens to come out and volunteer. Some of the volunteers come to just sit and have lunch with those attending, that way no one sits alone, and people get to make new friends. People from all over town, all ages, all demographics attend and it's really a beautiful thing.

Coordination with local efforts - We coordinate with the local Soup Kitchen, (they make our gravy from scratch) which feeds all those who wouldn't get a meal that day as they are closed for the holiday. We also send all leftovers to the homeless shelter in Statesville. We have volunteers who come on Friday morning just to drive all the food there! We fed 1,600 people last year! We offer take out and have people take meals to homebound and the police stations, fire stations, hospitals, etc. The event has become so much for us as a parish and for our community. It will continue to grow and is becoming a staple in the life of Mooresville.

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