



GAITHERSBURG COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN, INC.

“The Lord’s Table”

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The Lord’s Table 2025 – 2026 Hot Meal Program Season Recap

Hot Meal Program (HMP)

The Lord’s Table (TLT) completed its 41st year of the Hot Meal Program (HMP) to the Montgomery County community.

The Hot Meal Program provides a three-course hot meal, Monday thru Friday, from October through April in a restaurant-style setting. Guests enjoy a sit-down dinner served by friendly servers in a welcoming environment. Many of our guests rarely, if ever, have the opportunity to dine in a restaurant, enjoy a nutritious meal, and share fellowship with others.

The Lord’s Table is staffed almost entirely by volunteers, including volunteer officers and Board of Directors. Among our 300+ volunteers, only the Kitchen Managers, a Kitchen Engineer and Security personnel are paid. Besides paying for these essential positions the large majority of your donations are used for: kitchen and dining hall rental costs, food purchases, and kitchen supplies.

2025 – 2026 HMP Season by the Numbers:

- Served three course hot meals on approximately 150 days
- Served approximately 7,600 guests
- Served approximately 11,000 dinners (Yes—we happily serve seconds!)
- Utilized > 250 volunteers who contributed approximately 9,800 hours of service

Brown Bag Program (BBP)

At the conclusion of our seasonal HMP (Oct – Apr) our guest numbers drop as seasonal summer jobs become available to our guests and we transition to our summer BBP to assist those still struggling to obtain sufficient food over the summer.

The BBP provides a bagged lunch, Monday thru Friday, May through September to anyone in need - no questions asked, just as with our HMP.

During May and September the lunches are prepared and distributed by The Lord's Table volunteers at Epworth United Methodist Church (EUMC). During June, July, and August the lunches are prepared and served by Grace Methodist Church assisted by TLT volunteers.

Grace Methodist was the founder of the brown bag (lunch) program and eventually coordinated with The Lord's Table to ensure an unbroken, year-round source of food for our guests.

Student Volunteers

The Lord's Table is an approved Montgomery County Public School Student Service Learning (SSL) organization.

Middle and High School volunteers are welcome to help with meal service and clean up while earning SSL hours and hopefully developing a lifelong commitment to community service. There is a student volunteer sign-up button on TLT website.

We were blessed to have volunteers from multiple public and private schools this past year.

Social Services

Three to four days each week, during the meal service, The Lord's Table provides access to a social services counselor to assist dinner guests with referrals to the county, state, and non-profit programs offering employment assistance, housing resources, clothing, language instruction, legal services, medical care and other support.

Staffing and Security

During the 2025-2026 Hot Meals Program season we were blessed to have the services of Gabby Madrid as our Lead Kitchen Manager. Gabby did a fantastic job but she is relocating and we will unfortunately be losing her services.

We are grateful that it appears the Lord has already provided a capable replacement for the 2026-2027 season. We look forward to introducing our new Lead Kitchen Manager when meal service resumes in October.

The security services provided by Abilex Security again helped ensure the safety of our volunteers and guests throughout the season. We sincerely appreciate their professionalism and highly recommend them for your own security service needs.

Food Resources

Our food resources have more-or-less held up this past year.

Our food comes from a variety of sources, e.g., donations from local grocery stores, donations from individuals & other non-profit food charities, grants from Manna & other government food resource programs, and items we purchase directly with your donations.

Our dedicated team of volunteer food recovery drivers collects donations from our food partners weekly throughout the season. We also cooperate in food sharing with St. Martin's Food Pantry based on each organization's changing food needs.

Food Distribution Program (FDP)

The Lord's Table also participates with EUMC in its Food Distribution program.

Through this program food provided through a Manna grant and a federal government food program are packaged and distributed every two weeks to approximately 140 families in need. These families are identified, qualified, and referred by local community social service partners.

Finances/Fundraising

Our finances over the 2025-2026 season remained stable allowing us to maintain a balanced operating budget. However, increases in facility rental costs and food prices mean we must increase our fundraising efforts for the 2026-2027 season.

Our FY 2026 donation goal is **\$73,000**, which should cover all our anticipated expenses.

Donations and grants provide the financial support necessary to cover:

- Facility rental
- Kitchen Manager and Kitchen Engineer salaries
- Security services
- Equipment maintenance
- Food purchases
- Kitchen supplies

Our Board members, management team, meal preparation teams, and serving/clean-up staff all work on a volunteer basis.

Donations can be made via our website (www.lordstablesoupkitchen.org) or mailed to Gaithersburg Community Soup Kitchen, LLC, P.O. Box 881 Washington Grove Post Office, Washington Grove, Maryland 20880.

We sincerely thank every donor - and especially our faithful repeat donors. We simply could not accomplish this ministry without your generous support.

Volunteer Leadership Opportunities

We are always in search of new volunteer members to serve on our various committees and Board of Directors.

We are especially interested in recruiting individuals with experience or interest in:

- Fundraising
- Marketing and communications
- Operations

Our committees include:

- Business Planning
- Communications
- Fundraising and Donations
- Guest Services and Community Outreach
- Kitchen Operations and Food Sources
- Nominating

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member and serving on a committee or in another volunteer capacity, we would love to hear from you.

Post Script – Special Request

We would greatly appreciate having your email address so we can keep you informed about The Lord's Table activities in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Please send an email to: LordsTableSoupKitchen@gmail.com or visit www.LordsTableSoupKitchen.org and complete and send the 'Contact Us' form.

God bless us everyone!