Spreading Our Wings

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Thank you for your interest in the Kitchen Angels capital campaign. The pages that follow are an abbreviated version of the Spreading Our Wings packet. I would be delighted to send you a full packet if you are interested in learning more.

Since 1992, Kitchen Angels has been providing life-saving meals to an ever-growing population of Santa Feans living with chronic or terminal illness. With your support and an expanded facility, we’re confident we can continue our record of never turning away a qualified client because of a lack of funding or facilities that are too small.

Please join our cause and support our efforts to expand our facility and continue providing vital nutrition to an important part of our community.

Thank you.

Tony McCarty
Kitchen Angels, Inc.
Nearly one in three chronically ill people don’t know where their next meal is coming from. Usually these people are poor and most are too fragile to step out of their homes.

We believe no one in our community who is homebound because of a chronic, surgery-related or terminal medical condition should ever go without appropriate nutrition. Making sure they have enough to eat is simply the right thing to do.

That’s why, since 1992, Kitchen Angels has been delivering free, freshly prepared meals five days a week to homebound chronically ill individuals. Each meal contains a soup or salad, an entrée, dessert or fruit, and whole-grain bread. Once each week, we provide whole fresh fruit for snacks, protein supplements by request, and frozen entrées for weekend meals. Meals are formulated to meet individual dietary needs and follow one of six dietary tracks. Soups and salads are wheat and gluten free.

In our 23 years, we have prepared and delivered over 918,566 meals to more than 4,604 home-bound people. Each year, our client enrollment grows, averaging 18.25% annually. And 98% of these folks live below Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Feeding people and allowing them to remain in their own homes also makes good economic sense. Nearly 13
percent of all nursing home residents are in care only because their food needs can't be met at home. In addition, primary care physicians are finding, more and more, that hunger is directly linked to worsening health for all Americans. In short, social needs are as important to address as medical needs.

With only four full-time employees, Kitchen Angels relies on 367 active volunteers. This keeps our costs low so that 81 cents of every dollar we receive goes directly to clients.

Demand for our services grows every year. With the expansion of the state’s Medicaid Program, we anticipate an even greater demand since more people will enter the ranks of the insured. As more doctors see more newly insured low income people, they will see just how many people simply cannot afford to buy food and afford health care. They know they can turn to Kitchen Angels.

Our goal is to raise $1.2 million which includes $350,000 to renovate our kitchen and delivery areas, $495,000 to purchase the remaining 50% of Angel Depot, which is vacant due to the recent relocation of The Food Depot, and $300,000 to strengthen our endowment and make certain we can accommodate client growth with no waiting list for services.

Good fortune can be pretty fickle. Any one of us can find ourselves home-bound and unable to care for ourselves because of an accident or illness. A gift to the Spreading Our Wings Campaign will help Kitchen Angels continue to meet growing demand now and in the future.
As so often happens with an idea whose time has come, Kitchen Angels was conceived in a flash of divine synchronicity. In early 1992, two groups of Santa Feans, each unknown to the other, were simultaneously moved to create a food service charity that would deliver free, hot meals to home-bound neighbors who faced life-threatening circumstances.

Tony D’Agostino had been interested in such an idea since moving from Los Angeles where he had worked with Marianne Williamson in starting Project Angel Food. After months of tossing around his dream with friends in Santa Fe, Tony felt the time was right to get the “angel kitchen” project rolling. He and his friends set a date to meet formally and lay the groundwork.

Meanwhile, unbeknownst to Tony’s circle, Santa Feans Leise Sargent and Anna Huserik were in Los Angeles attending a lecture by Marianne Williamson. Leise and Anna were so moved by Marianne’s presentation that they, too, decided to start a similar program in Santa Fe. Marianne’s office, not knowing of Tony’s plans, gave them Tony’s number, telling the women that he had been involved with Project Angel Food and might be able to help.

An enthusiastic Anna called Tony and found out about his group’s upcoming meeting. On the 2nd of April, 1992, the two groups of visionaries met, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The “Founding Circle” of Kitchen Angels was composed of only a handful of people who contributed a tremendous amount of time and energy to getting the project off the ground. Tony D’Agostino served as the first Kitchen Angels Program Director, as well as the first President of the Board of Directors. It was Tony who designed the now instantly recognizable Kitchen Angels logo. Anna Huserik spearheaded the fundraising, and Leise Sargent planned and organized kitchen and cooking logistics. Mary Amelia Whited-Howell, Margot Ladwig, Joann Robinson, Carolyn Bleakley and Ernesto Torres helped to put the charity into high gear. As a result of all their efforts, Kitchen Angels’ first meals were delivered on June 1, 1992. Within six months, the program had served more than 2,000 meals to 80 different clients, and if the founders had had any doubt that the project was “meant to be,” they could doubt it no longer. Enormous thanks are also due to Bread for the Journey and Wayne Mueller for their invaluable technical assistance.

Kitchen Angels operated out of the kitchen in the Westminster Presbyterian Church until January of 1996. Soon after, Tony McCarty became Program Director, and it was apparent that a larger space would be needed to serve the charity’s expanding client base. Board member Gregory Green enlisted the considerable talents of Representative
Max Coll, and the two were soon joined by Colonel Joe Black from the National Guard. After finding a suitable location for the expanded facility in the old New Mexico National Guard Armory on Cerrillos Road, Gregory successfully negotiated a 15-year lease with the Guard and the State of New Mexico.

As fate would have it, in early 1998, the National Guard transferred ownership of the Cerrillos Road location to the State of New Mexico. Acting as negotiating agent for both agencies, Gregory met with the State’s General Services Department to learn of their plans for future use of both the Kitchen Angels facility and the nearby building that housed Northern New Mexico’s only food bank, The Food Depot. Realizing that Kitchen Angels and The Food Depot would need other quarters, Gregory once again enlisted the help of Representative Coll. Together they developed a funding strategy for the new 14,000 square-foot facility that would house, not only Kitchen Angels and The Food Depot, but also the weekly grocery program Food for Santa Fe.

After a year of negotiations, an appropriate site was found on Siler Road for a permanent home for the three agencies, which together feed more than 90,000 Northern New Mexicans annually. And on Wednesday, February 9th, 2000, the City Council voted to give final approval of a professional services agreement and land lease, making the three-agency complex possible. On February 15, 2001, the agencies moved into the Coll-Green Angel Depot, which is co-owned by Kitchen Angels and The Food Depot, to begin work on their common goal of ending hunger in Northern New Mexico. It was the culmination of a long-standing dream inspired by Katharine Kagel, local restaurateur and the founder of The Food Brigade.

Kitchen Angels has come a long way since June of 1992, when a small band of visionaries gathered at Westminster Presbyterian. After twenty-two years and 350,000 hours of volunteer service, over 918,000 meals have flowed from the “angel kitchen” first envisioned by Tony D’Agostino, Anna Huserik, and Leise Sargent. Thanks are due to Representative Max Coll, Gregory S. Green, Mayor Larry Delgado, the Santa Fe City Councillors, and the Boards of Directors of Kitchen Angels and The Food Depot for their tremendous efforts and forward thinking.

Yet none of this could have been possible without the countless hours of work contributed by a galaxy of unpaid volunteers. It is they, more than any others, who have made Kitchen Angels the monumental success that it has become.
Preparing thousands of meals for the home-bound and sending the meals out using hundreds of volunteers each month takes a toll on the Kitchen Angels facility. Add to that an 18% growth rate for the past seven years, and the need for renovation and expansion of the kitchen, volunteer areas, loading dock and storage/pantry areas is clear. The future holds even more potential for growth, as managed care organizations begin to incorporate nutrition services for those they insure. In addition to the renovation and expansion, purchasing the remaining 50% of the Angel Depot will give Kitchen Angels the space it needs for future programming.
Since 2008, Kitchen Angels has grown an average of 18% per year and currently serves approximately 138 clients daily, 40 percent of whom have special dietary needs and are therefore unable to take advantage of other meal programs. Because of the growing demand for our services by those who are chronically or terminally ill or home-bound, Kitchen Angels must undertake a capital campaign to further its mission in Santa Fe and the State of New Mexico and to meet the inevitable growth and future needs of the organization.

At the March 2014 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the Spreading Our Wings Campaign for $1,260,000, which will be used as follows:

- $350,000 Expansion and renovation of the kitchen and volunteer areas
- $495,000 Purchase other half (50%) of the Angel Depot (based on appraisal)
- $300,000 Increase Kitchen Angels’ Endowment
- $115,000 10% to the Annual Fund

$1,260,000 Total Estimated Campaign

Ways to Give

Outright Gifts
Kitchen Angels accepts gifts in the form of cash, checks, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate and personal property. Please contact Tony McCarty, Executive Director, at 505-471-7780 for stock transfer instructions.

Pledges
Pledges to the Spreading Our Wings Campaign can be made through December 31, 2015. You can set up whatever payment schedule works best for you. Let us know if you need reminders.

Matching Gifts
If your company offers a Matching Gift program, where they match your gift dollar for dollar or some other way, please include their form with your donation.

Yes! I’d love to support the Kitchen Angels Spreading Our Wings Campaign with a gift of $___________

Enclosed is $___________ payable by

[ ] Check [ ] VISA [ ] Mastercard

I pledge to pay any remaining balance by December 31, 2015 as follows (check one)

[ ] Monthly [ ] Semi-Annually
[ ] Quarterly [ ] Annually

[ ] Please send me reminders

[ ] Please automatically deduct my pledge payments from my credit card

Name(s) as you would like them to appear in our donor acknowledgments:

[ ] Please contact me/us to discuss my/our designated gift options.

[ ] I/We prefer this gift remain anonymous.

[ ] Please contact me with stock transfer instructions.

Thank you for investing in the health and well being of our community!