



Double Portion Soup Kitchen and Pantry
A ministry of St. Thomas Church
226 Washington Street
Menasha, WI 54952
www.doubleportionsoupkitchen.com

Double Portion Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry 2021 Report

As the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic continued throughout 2021, the Double Portion ministry team also continued fulfilling our mission “to know Christ, to make Christ known and to serve others in His name by providing a well-balanced meal to those in need in a caring, supportive Christian atmosphere which shows concern for the whole person”. Although our method of delivering those meals changed early in 2020, we have been able to provide a hot main dish with sides of fruit, vegetables, and desserts, along with a carton of milk to everyone who came through our doors every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm.

We served a total of approximately 11,000 meals this year, with an average of 72 meals served each day, up about 15% from 2020. We have been visiting with and providing for guests we’ve known for many years, as well as meeting a number of new guests who are experiencing hardship for the first time.

We continued to be blessed by groups providing fully prepared meals such as St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Double Portion Home Cooks and Knights of Columbus Post 5514 as well as having around 25 volunteers who serve regularly, anywhere from once a month to several times a week. Although this is a significant reduction in the number of volunteers (from around 95 volunteers in 2019), we have found that take-out meals require fewer volunteers than dine-in so we have been able to manage well with fewer volunteers. Sadly, two of our longtime volunteers and two of our longtime guests passed away during the year, but we do not grieve as those without hope, but instead wait in hopeful expectation of being reunited with them in heaven.

We are so grateful for St. Thomas Church, which provides the facility, utilities, and financial assistance for Double Portion, as well as the generous financial donations from Calvary Bible Church and individuals and organizations throughout the area. Two organizations we are blessed to have a partnership with are Manderfield’s Bakery in Menasha and Panera Bread in Appleton, which provide bagels, breads, doughnuts and desserts on a weekly basis.

The Menasha Public Library “Food for Fines” drive and the Boy Scout Food Drive both resumed this year, bringing us 9 large boxes and 3 pallets, respectively, of food and hygiene items for our pantry. With these donations, along with our Feeding America partnership and pantry donations made throughout the year by individuals in our community, we were able to continue providing up to six food staples and/or hygiene products per guest per visit. Each month we served an average of 57 individuals or families with our pantry, with most receiving items multiple times per month.

Double Portion exists to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need in our community. In addition to providing for practical needs, we are also able to provide an opportunity to share the gospel with others as Christ works through us in order that all would come to know Him. Our prayer is that we would find new ways to connect with, bless, and share the Good News of Jesus with our guests.