

The BANQUET

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(605) 335-7066

The Banquet Applauds Its Volunteers

The Banquet serves more than 190,000 meals to people in need each year. All of those meals are served by volunteers. Whether they come with a group, as a couple or by themselves, they are making an impact on another person's life.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of The Banquet ministry. As a staff our main responsibility is to the volunteers so they can invite in their guests, serve them a meal and offer friendship and fellowship to people who need it most.

The Banquet staff and guests are grateful for the thousands of volunteers who come through these doors each year. It is a blessing to see so many people who give their time and money to make life a little easier for families who are working to make ends meet.

Volunteer Opportunities: There's Something For Everyone!

Serve a Meal:	Monday- Friday: Breakfast or Supper; Saturday: Lunch; Banquet West: Tues. & Wed.
Office/Clerical:	Answer phones, sort mail, address envelopes, stuff envelopes, help with mailings
Kitchen:	Pick up food donations, re-package leftovers & bread, inventory
Building & Grounds:	Handy work, small repairs, lawn mowing, tidying the grounds, planting flowers, window washing
Special Projects:	Project: SOS, Christmas project, Easter baskets, ChiliFest, Festival of Men's Voices, block party
Children's Room:	Crafts, games, make popcorn, play Wii with children, start a new program for kids, read
Data Entry:	Certain times of the year we need help entering data into our database
Cleaning & Sorting:	Wiping down tables & chairs, walls, shelving units; sorting hygiene donations, containers
Entertainment:	Provide entertainment for special events and/or perform in the dining room for guests
Off Site Volunteering:	Sew art bags, knit hats & scarves, collect school supplies, fundraise, call volunteers
Decorate:	Decorate for holidays, special events



Banquet Fast Facts:

- The Banquet serves 13 meals each week.
- Volunteer groups prepare, cook, serve and cover the costs of the meals.
- Volunteers served 190,000 meals in 2015 — 25,000 of those meals to children under 12 years old.
- Very few Banquet guests are homeless.
- The majority of Banquet guests work full or part-time jobs.
- Many guests give back to The Banquet through volunteer hours and/or monetary gifts.
- A majority of Banquet guests have cell phones- mostly pay-by-minute phones, or message only phones. Most DO NOT have a home phone or land-line.
- Many guests rely on Sioux Area Metro (city bus) for transportation.
- The Banquet is a non-profit, 501(c)3 that relies solely on private donations. The Banquet does not receive city, county, state, federal or United Way monies to operate any of its programs or projects. All gifts are tax deductible.

Hunger Never Takes A Vacation

Spring and summer months can be challenging at The Banquet. Meals in May, June and July can sometimes be difficult to fill. There are weddings, vacations and yardwork demanding our attention. Please consider getting together with co-workers, a friendship group or your family to serve a meal. No group is too small. Gather some friends and for the cost of a movie you could feed a family a nutritious meal.

Please consider sharing your time and treasures with us this summer. Check for open serving dates on our calendar at www.thebanquetsf.org. Thank you for supporting The Banquet!

Volunteering at the Banquet as a Couple - A Volunteer Perspective

By Jim & Sheila Christiansen

In the process of planning for our retirement, we both knew that we would have to continue in some way a life of service and reaching out to others. Jim's brother was retiring at the same time so we decided to retire in Hurley, South Dakota. After a few weeks we began looking around Sioux Falls for volunteer opportunities. Sheila began volunteering with the Presentation Sisters at Caminando Juntos, a Hispanic ministry. Jim helped out at The Banquet on a couple of occasions and then our niece Shiloh, who is on staff at The Banquet, asked if we could volunteer at The Banquet serving at the front desk one day a week. We both admire the wonderful service provided by The Banquet and even though we were not able to serve meals too often due to the drive from Hurley in the evening, we were delighted to be able to be part of the volunteers at The Banquet.

We especially liked the idea of working together since our talents complement each other. For many years we worked together in different areas of the world. Sheila is very good at the phone and at meeting the guests coming in for their mail or various other services. Jim does okay on the phone and enjoys meeting people to hand out mail. Sheila writes very nicely, Jim says his hand shakes so a chicken could probably scratch out a clearer message than he can. However, Jim is pretty good at looking up data on the computer. So between the two of us we can do the thank you notes to those who have served meals. Jim looks up the corresponding numbers, and addresses as needed and Sheila hand-writes the thank-you cards. Of course we both really appreciate and depend on the full time staff to handle the tough stuff making it pretty much a no stress experience for us!

One of our greatest rewards in the work is the opportunity to meet the various guests that stop by. They bring us many smiles, an occasional story or the latest joke, a friendly greeting and a constant reminder that we are all held together in life by the simple loving grace of God. We can easily see that just a slight difference in one circumstance or another is the only reason why we are on one side of the desk and they on the other. We see together that we are blessed and we pray that if for one circumstance or another we some day find ourselves on the guest side of the desk, there will be a kind face and friendly hand to help us on our way. Thank you God for the good work of The Banquet, thank you Banquet Staff for giving us the opportunity to offer our services and especially thank you Guests and Supporters of the Banquet.

The Banquet is like a Play...The Show Must Go On



Severe weather can delay or cause an out of town serving group to cancel at the last minute. We often rely on Banquet Angels to fulfill that urgent need. Luckily when the February snowstorm hit Sioux Falls a local group from St. Katharine Drexel was already scheduled to serve the meal at Banquet West. While we had enough volunteers, Mother Nature knocked out the power. The challenge didn't stop the volunteers or staff. The meal was served by candlelight and despite the miserable weather nearly 50 guests were served a hot meal that night. Thank you to our very dedicated volunteers.

Gardeners - The Banquet Loves Fresh Produce

If you're planning your vegetable garden, please keep The Banquet in mind. Our guests love fresh produce but most can't afford to purchase fresh produce in the grocery stores.

The Banquet accepts:

Broccoli	Cauliflower
Beans	Beets
Corn	Cucumbers
Carrots	Lettuce
Onions	Potatoes
Tomatoes	Melons
Strawberries	Raspberries
Zucchini & Yellow Squash	Blueberries

The Banquet cannot accept home processed foods such as pickles, jellies and jams.



Addie, Leah, and Mallari assemble Easter baskets for The Banquet Children

THANKS BANQUET VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers prepare The Banquet newsletter for mailing



Volunteers from Celebration Lutheran Church in Brandon prepare a meal



Volunteers from the Girls & Boys Club decorate the Children's Room for Christmas



Jim & Joan Lacey decorate The Banquet for Christmas



Rita Siebert sews and donates hundreds of art bags for Project: SOS



Seventh graders from Harrisburg South Middle School sort and organize school supplies for Project: SOS



Thank You to the Volunteers Who Serve on The Banquet Boards

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Start Planning Now for Project: SOS

School supplies for families with limited resources will be distributed through The Banquet's Project: SOS on Saturday, August 20, 2016 from Whittier Middle School Gymnasium. Businesses, church groups, service clubs, vacation bible school students, families and individuals are needed to collect and distribute school supplies.

How Can I Help?

Hold a school supply drive through your business, church, school or service club. The Banquet provides the boxes, signs and school supply lists. We ask that all items be brand new.

Sponsor One Supply

Sponsor the cost of one school supply item that goes into the backpacks. For example, scissors, erasers, classic color markers, colored pencils, loose leaf paper or 2-pocket folders.

Organize a fundraiser at work through a bake sale, "jeans day" or "penny war." All monetary gifts go toward the cost of school supplies and backpacks.

Volunteer to pick up, sort, pack and distribute supplies.

See The Banquet website for more information on Project: SOS at www.thebanquetsf.org.

Gifts in Honor/Memory of

Thank you to the many people who give gifts to The Banquet in honor or in memory of a friend or relative.
These wonderful gifts help sustain The Banquet ministry. Memorials/Honorariums January 1, 2016 - April 15, 2016.

Given By

Fran Alberty Charlotte Thum
Pearl & Kenneth Anderson Our Children
Linda & James Anderson Oak Cole
Ken & Sandy Anderson Roane Mattison
Alan & Avis Bakker Alvin Hoogendorn
Ron & Wanda Bechler Harm & Lu Kruse
John & Ida Bechler
Chad Bechler My Grandma Lu Kruse
Nels Benson Gladys Benson
Michelle & Tony Boer Loren Long
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Boyce Law Offices Ron Schulte
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Richard & Mary Ann Dill Rod Simon
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Joyce Egge Don Egge
Darell & Audrey Eide Lorraine Engen
Bernard Elgersma Family Viola Elgersma
Steven & Charlotte Espeland Sylvan & Geri Golden
Nancy & Delane Fickbohm Clinton Wetrosky
Cal Fickbohm Sandi Fickbohm
Dorothy Fink Robert Fink
First Security Bank Kim Amundson
First United Methodist Church The guests & visitors
at First United Methodist Church
Joellen & Troy Fitz Account Reconciliation - Sioux Falls
Jona Forbes My bosses, Gary Place & Nancy Long
Mike & Sally Foss Charles & Leila Pagel
Bill & Jean Fuller Rev. Russ Tarver
Nancy Garvin Roger Pell
Greg & JoAnn Gemar Charlotte Thum
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Pat Hansen John Hansen & Julie Schmidt
Madeline Hatlestad Pat Hatlestad
Heeren Family Lucille Heeren
Bernadette Holmes Gary Ellefson
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Barb Iverson Lois & Ardie Iverson
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Pilar Kallemeyn God is Good!
Amy Kasten Dr. Steve & Dr. Sheri Marckstadt
Vincent & Betty Ketcham David Prunty
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In Honor/Memory of

Given By

Robert & JoAnn Klingbile George Nelsen
Tom Brady
Deb Larson
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Charlene Smith
Suzanne Knudson Mary Ann Knutson
Lillian Krehbiel Kraig Krehbiel
Rev. Ellen Lang Thanksgiving for Jesus Christ
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Marion Manor Mobile Home Park Misty Walden
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Leon & Karlene Schoenwald Darleen Krieger & Caryl Rand
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Rolene Smidt Mark Olson
Jay & Karen Snyder The Staudenmier Family
David South Sandra South
Julie Staudenmier Staudenmier Family Christmas
Kay & Mark Steffen All of our ancestors
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Karyn Veenis Herman Veenis
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In Honor/Memory of



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National Day of Service in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Benefits Banquet Women

Brienne Maner from Downtown Sioux Falls, Inc. and Carmen Toft from Prairie Berry East Bank are making life better for Sioux Falls women. The pair organized a feminine hygiene products collection drive.

The event was inspired by a woman who was forced to use her baby's diapers for feminine products because she couldn't afford to purchase pads or tampons. Organizers of the event used Facebook and local media outlets to spread the word about their collection. This was the fourth annual National Day of Service organized by the women. Mark your calendar for Martin Luther King, Jr. day 2017!



Brienne Maner presents Banquet Director, Tamera Jerke-Liesinger with a huge collection of feminine products.

OPERATION
"HELPFUL SMILE"
HyVee
HELPING PEOPLE LIVE BETTER

The Banquet is again blessed to be chosen as a recipient of Hy-Vee's "Operation Helpful Smile" program. For each monetary donation at the Hy-Vee checkout stand Hy-Vee, with the help of their program sponsors, matches customer contributions up to \$1,000.

June 29 – July 5th is The Banquet's week to receive those gifts. Mark your calendars! All monies collected through this program, plus the match, support The Banquet! Thank you in advance for your generosity!