

# Jesus, Others & You

JOY Soup Kitchen  
700 Albemarle Ave  
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<https://joysoupkitchen.org>

## ***Mid-Year Update...from the JOY Soup Kitchen***

I typically send out year-end contribution statements with an “*annual report*” that covers highlights of the prior year. But there is so much going on this year, I decided to do a *seventh inning stretch*. First, thanks to all donors, volunteers, churches, and sponsors for their support during the first half of 2020. Without this support, we would not have been able to provide much needed assistance to the members of our community in west Greenville.

If you want to keep up with the goings-on, please check out our FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/joysoupkitchen> and website <https://joysoupkitchen.org/>. Tom Quigley manages FaceBook, which is a pitch-by-pitch, inning-by-inning, action packed narrative. Miss a couple of days and you’ll be hard pressed to get caught up. This is where you can keep up with all the restaurant BOGO matching food sponsorships that are going on: Basil’s Lumpia I (130 doz), Lumpia II (325 doz) & *Lumpia III on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>*. Mellow Mushroom pizza sponsorship (100); Hwy 55 which netted 600 hamburgers that will be served 100 each on Mondays; and Winterville Pizza Hut, that donated a 150 personal pan pizzas. John Lennox manages the website, which provides a perspective of the major events and you can scroll down the landing page to see what has happened since January. The website also provides more details about our operations and an opportunity for online donations. Be sure to scroll down to check out the donation from MrBeast...*everything you can fit in the circle Mr Beast will pay for*, plus a considerable monetary donation.

In the first couple of months of 2020 we were in our stride, providing midday, evening and weekend meals. *The Covid Pandemic has been a challenge and success. On March 17, 2020 JOY Soup Kitchen developed a COVID-19 Action Plan to assure the safety of staff, volunteers & patrons. At that time, we discontinued community meal service and provided takeout meals that could be picked up during the midday hours from 10:30 – 12:00. Our Action Plan encouraged any kitchen worker who did not feel well to take paid sick leave and stipulated that if anyone working in the kitchen tested positive for COVID-19, we would close the facility and self-quarantine any coworkers. On Friday, April 3, 2020 we became aware that one of the individuals who had volunteered in the kitchen the previous week had tested positive for COVID-19. In accordance with our action plan and healthcare guidelines, we closed the JOY Soup Kitchen for two weeks. The volunteer was hospitalized and has since recovered. The kitchen and dining areas were professionally sanitized and remained closed until Monday, April 20. We initially restricted food preparation to two staff members and two Board members on the Kitchen & Safety Committee, Karen Stephenson, who has decades experience in the food service industry and Tom, who is a retired Fireman and First Responder. Our goals are to continue to serve meals to the vulnerable population in west Greenville, but also to assure the safety of our staff, patrons, and volunteers. We have gradually begun opening food preparation to volunteers from a couple of church*

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groups that are assisting with the takeout meals.

On Sunday, March 29th, we lost our lead kitchen worker, Ms. Vivian J. Bryant to sudden cardiac failure. Miss Vick had worked at JOY Soup Kitchen for over 15 years and although unrelated to COVID-19, her passing has left a hole in our heart that will take much time to heal.

After reopening on April 20, we continue to serve takeout meals at midday, serving an average of 80 – 100 daily meals to the community.

Just before Vick was called to Glory, we installed a new, Commercial Freezer and Refrigerator. Over the next couple of months, we replaced the stove, icemaker and added a warming shelf system. We all know that Vick is proud of what we've accomplished in the past few months.



On August 8<sup>th</sup>, JOY provided 422 backpacks loaded full of school supplies to children in the Community. Along with a takeout meal, beverage and desert, this was a spectacular event. The following week, we have started evening takeout meal service. Although it will definitely be a while before we can support community dining service, we have no intention of slowing down.

Although the Disabled American Veterans closed the office for face-to-face support due to COVID-19, they are now providing online support to help veterans navigate the benefits system. In April we started to provide office space to the *Asociacion de Mexicanos en Carolina del Norte* (AMEXCAN) which is a non-profit that promotes and enhances the knowledge of Mexican culture, traditions, and customs within the Mexican Community.

Please take care, stay safe and ***Thank You SO Much***  
***...John Lennox***

**Hunger Never Sleeps & you can donate online 24/7 at: [www.joysoupkitchen.org](http://www.joysoupkitchen.org)**

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