Community Kitchen Renovation
To Be Finished by January

New Space, New Name: One City Café

It’s been said that the kitchen is the most important room in your home. It’s the room where the family gathers together the most. It’s the room from where we receive our daily nourishment. If you also eat in the kitchen, it is where most family conversations take place. It’s the room that, over any other room in the house, unifies the family. It’s no wonder that the kitchen is the most remodeled room in a home.

The kitchen that we use to serve a hot meal to about 250 people each weekday night has not been remodeled for over 25 years. It’s time. We are not remodeling the kitchen and adjacent dining room simply because it hasn’t been done in a while, rather we are remodeling for some good reasons.

Some time ago, we interviewed many of those who come for this evening meal and learned that a disproportionate number suffer from diabetes, hypertension and heart problems. So, we want to be more conscious about serving a healthy meal. The current kitchen can only warm up food; the new kitchen can prepare food. With a larger kitchen plus more donations of produce, we are confident that we will not only feed those who are hungry, but feed them well.

We are also expanding the size of the dining room to accommodate more people in a more comfortable setting. This meal is needed: our guests travel from across the metro area by bus, foot, or bike because we are the only kitchen in the area open to the public for dinner every weeknight.

When the new kitchen opens in early January, we will be poised to do our part to feed those in need, provide access to nutritious food, and create a space that welcomes and respects each individual who dines with us.

We can’t wait for you to dine with us as well. In this new space, we invite people of all economic backgrounds to join us for a meal. Troost has historically been an economic and racial dividing line in Kansas City. By inviting all people to dine here regardless of income or zip code, we hope to take a small step toward making Troost a unifying line, rather than a dividing line. We will call the new eating space the One City Café.
When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Lemonade

But What If Life Gives You Sweet Potatoes?

Periodically, fresh produce is donated to our food pantry. It’s a real treat for those who come to our pantry, not to mention healthier.

One woman who received a bag of sweet potatoes wanted to show her gratitude in more than words. So, when she arrived home, she baked some sweet potato pies and brought them back for our volunteers.

They were grateful for the pies, which they said were quite good. More importantly, the volunteers knew that this woman didn’t have much; they were touched by her small, but heartfelt expression of gratitude.

It calls to mind the story from the Gospel of the poor widow who donated her last two coins. Jesus said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for out of her poverty she gave all that she had.” (Luke 21: 3-4)

244 Have Found Work through our Employment Program

We help people find work. Since most job openings are posted online, we have a computer resource room that job seekers can use, as most of them do not have their own computer.

If they don’t know how to use a computer, we teach them. We also assist in putting together their resume and, if needed, get them clothes for their job interview.

Many of our job-seekers are not picky about what kind of work that get; they just want to work.

What struck me about the man in this photo is his posture. He looks proud. Even though some might label his cleaning job as “menial,” for him, it’s his job and he is proud of it.

“You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy.” Psalm 128:2