



Love, Peace, and Manna

The Manna Cafe Ministries newsletter

MARCH 2023



Finding Help, Finding Hope

BY DEBRA SUTTON

When Laiza Marchal arrived at Manna Café, it was only after a journey of more than 5,000 miles from her home in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and a search for a place where she felt she belonged. Laiza is now one of Manna's family coaches working through the Our Chance TN initiative that helps families navigate the benefits cliff as they work toward achieving the American Dream.

College volleyball was her ticket out of Brazil. Laiza played at Laramie Community College in Wyoming and Lamar Community College in Colorado. She moved to Kentucky to be with family and then to Tennessee. After moving to Clarksville, Laiza and her two young sons found themselves in need of assistance. "We were having a hard time, but I didn't tell anyone," she explains.

Laiza's young family became clients of Manna's food distribution program and began receiving monthly food carts. They also heard about hot meals at the Refuge and attended them. In September Laiza and her boys had to leave their home. She didn't know where they would go, but she knew God would take care of them.

It was at a Thursday evening hot meal when Laiza opened up to the facility's assistant, Hunter, about her situation. Moved by her story, Hunter contacted Manna's COO, Ken Shipley. Mike, the Refuge manager, made her feel at home. "The Refuge was a place where I felt peace and love. There is definitely God here," she adds.

Laiza and Ken met on Monday to discuss options for her little family. At the time she was a delivery driver, and Ken offered her an opportunity to apply for an upcoming family coach position to help families bridge the benefit gap as they work to improve their lives. Manna found her another place to stay the same day. She was able to get her boys back in school.

Continued on page 2

"Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them."

—Isa. 58:7, NLT

Continued from page 1

Events moved along in October with a car accident that totaled Laiza's car. There went the delivery job, but thankfully nobody was hurt. The following week, Laiza interviewed for the family coach job and was selected. "I always wanted to work with people and help people," she explains. In November the Our Chance TN program began.

Laiza brings the unique perspective of sitting at both sides of the table. She understands the need for services, and now she can be part of the solution for other local families.

"It's definitely an honor and a blessing to be at Manna. They really care about people, and they want to help people. They have the heart for the community and the people. That's really good." Laiza also shares as she has become a part of the Manna team, she has a sense of belonging, something she hasn't felt before.

"I am learning about life. There are a lot of things to learn, but I'm up for the challenge," she proudly claims.

What's New at Manna



As Manna Café's story grows, our newsletter will now be published every month. Debra Sutton, Manna's Marketing Coordinator, is excited to update you more regularly about our service to the community.

The Manna team is happy to share with you all the amazing things happening here.

A Lot Got Done Last Month

Due to the generosity of our donors, Manna Café provided Montgomery and Stewart County residents with:

- 3,925 hot meals at our Mobile Cafe locations
- 2,455 carts of food
- 1,472 pounds of clothing
- 4,733 pounds of household goods
- 1,303 pounds of clothing (donated to other agencies)
- 8 nights of warming center services
 - shelter from frigid weather for 480 guests
- 101 hot showers for the homeless
- case work benefits for 80 clients
- free clinic services for 30 people

For only \$19 per month you can make a huge difference in the lives of thousands in our community.



Scan the QR code to help Get a Lot Done

MannaCafeMinistries.com/donate





The Serenade String Quartet

Sweet Treats at Manna

On January 28, the guests for the evening meal at the Refuge were treated to a dinner performance of the Serenade String Quartet. What started as a cancellation of a banquet where the talented musicians were scheduled to play turned into an evening to remember for Manna guests. The group had been paid for the banquet, and the organization that hired them asked them to simply donate their talents at a local nonprofit. The Quartet selected Manna Café as the recipient of their generosity. In turn, our guests received a delicious meal and the extra treat of being serenaded with beautiful music.

We're Seeking a Truck Driver



Manna Café is looking for a dependable driver to help with food rescue and distribution, and to assist in the warehouse. Experienced driver preferred.

If you are interested in joining the Manna team send your resume to:
Resume@MannaCafeMinistries.com.

Thanks

Manna Café would like to recognize these organizations for grants that will allow us to continue our mission.





We CAN Do This

Supply chain issues and food shortages have taken a toll on our food pantry here at Manna Café. Will you help us secure canned goods for our clients? Feel free to drop them off between 10-4 on Monday-Friday (605 Providence Blvd.). Better yet, let us stretch your donated dollars by purchasing food at a reduced rate. Simply go to mannacafeministries.com/donate and write "canned food" in the note. On a "bad" day, when prices are high, we're able to double your money by purchasing two cans versus one. But on a good day, we're able to purchase four—with 20 cents left over to put toward fuel!

Make an impact for the future

Legacy Giving

Everyone should have an estate plan to support their future and protect what they love. And by including a bequest to Manna Café Ministries in your plans, you can create a legacy that fights hunger in our community. FreeWill's online estate planning tool makes it easy and cost-free to make your plan and add the necessary language to create your legacy.

FREEWILL 

20 minutes

*Average time it takes
a user to complete their plan.*



**Scan the QR code or visit
FreeWill.com/MannaCafe
to learn more and get started.**



*Feed the hungry, and help
those in trouble. Then your
light will shine out from the
darkness, and the darkness
around you will be bright as
noon.*

—Isaiah 58:10, NLT



*Manna Café is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and a proud member
of United Way of the Greater Clarksville Region
and the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce.*