

Volunteers give thousands of hours every year to help people in need

Volunteer-led Cloverdale Community Kitchen feeds hundreds

Samantha Anderson
Cloverdale Reporter

The Cloverdale Community Kitchen wouldn't be able to feed people in need without its force of volunteers.

Every year, dozens of volunteers give thousands of hours to the Cloverdale Community Kitchen. Volunteers plan meals; purchase food; prepare, serve and cook the meals; and clean up at the end of the evening.

All told, the volunteers serve dinner to about 85 people three times a week.

Longtime volunteers Gloria Fraser and Dave Glasstetter have been with the kitchen since the dinners were serving 4 or 5 people.

Fraser, a retired government employee, is the kitchen's volunteer engagement co-ordinator. She is a powerhouse behind the scenes; she

knows what needs to be done, and how it should be done. She is a natural organizer who provides strong leadership for new volunteers and mentors youth through the restorative justice program.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

According to Cloverdale Community Kitchen director Matthew Campbell, Fraser is, in a word, "amazing, absolutely amazing."

Dave Glasstetter is the kitchen's go-to fix-it guy. A semi-retired engineer, he can often be found doing equipment repair and maintenance, in addition to cooking every

Monday night.

Campbell estimates Glasstetter saves the kitchen thousands of dollars in repair costs a year.

"His heart is in feeding people. When he became semi-retired, he jumped on this. He

said, 'I want to give myself to this,'" said Campbell.

Glasstetter is always there to lend a helping hand for special events as well.

"Whether it's chili to be cooked, or overseeing cookies being baked for a cookie sale, it's amazing how he's always ready to help," said office manager Courtney den van

Boogaard

Both Glasstetter and Fraser came over from the the kitchen's old location to the new Pacific Community Church location about 5 years ago.

"They've been with us since the very beginning," said Campbell. "Both of them together were key in getting this started [after the move]."

Since that move, more and more people have given their time to the kitchen, and other leaders came forward.

One of those leaders is Susan Lim.

One of the many things that Lim does is organize the volunteer schedule—a daunting task. There are three dinners a week, with 15 to 20 volunteers giving two to four hours. And it's also a matter of making sure the right group of volunteers is there each night—volunteers with the right training, who will be able to do the job given

to them.

The scheduling is a "huge, huge piece of it," said Campbell. "To get everybody scheduled is hours of work."

Lim also leads clean-up crews, summer cooking crews, and she is the organizing force behind the kitchen's annual Christmas dinner. (If you've ever struggled to figure out how many pounds of turkey to cook for your dinner, and when it needs to go in the oven, imagine doing that for a dinner of 80 people.)

Lim works as a school counsellor, and "is the kind of person that you're instantly comfortable with," said van den Boogaard. "We love when she's there and there's new volunteers—she makes you feel comfortable and gets you involved."

"She has a huge heart for people in need. That's why she does it," said Campbell.



From left: Dave Glasstetter, Gloria Fraser, Susan Lim.

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Heartfelt **THANKS**

TO OUR CLOVERDALE VOLUNTEERS

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