

2017 ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Nominee: Open Heart Kitchen

Nominator: Zoey Bost



In the Nominator's words:

I have had the pleasure of volunteering with Open Heart Kitchen at the Dublin Senior Center, Valor Crossing, and the bag lunch assembly shift. The residents of Dublin are greatly enriched by these three programs. Food insecurity is a problem everywhere, and the City of Dublin is no exception. There are people in our community struggling and in need of food. Open Heart Kitchen meets the

needs of these individuals through three programs: the senior lunch program, bag lunch program, and the hot meal program.

The senior lunch program operates out of the Dublin Senior Center. Seniors are served a sit-down nutritious meal at this location. Open Heart Kitchen serves 500-600 meals to seniors at this location each month. There are times when seniors in our community must choose between medicine and food because they cannot afford both. Open Heart Kitchen provides food to these seniors so that they do not have to choose.

The hot meal site at Valor Crossing opened in September. Anyone in need of a hot meal can come and eat at this location, including every Saturday. You can eat on-site or take meals to go. This site serves 120 meals a week to people in the community. Open Heart Kitchen provides people in the community a warm, safe place to come and eat a nutritious hot meal.

There are six Dublin schools that receive bag lunches from Open Heart Kitchen. Each bag lunch contains milk, juice, fruits, a turkey stick, hummus, sunflower seeds, whole grain Goldfish crackers, a blueberry muffin, and carrots. There are 420 bag lunches delivered to these schools each Friday, and the lunches are distributed to students that normally receive a free or reduced meal at school. This ensures that students have something to eat over the weekend.

Open Heart Kitchen is putting an end to hunger in our community. I am proud to be a volunteer with this organization and think they deserve recognition for helping those in need.