About Christ Kitchen
a place of hope for women in poverty

How you help

Your gifts sustain HOPE for this ministry and the women we serve. Women who find Jesus and change the direction of their lives.

Did you know more than 19 percent of Spokane’s population lives below poverty? This is higher than the national average of 13 percent. Within that demographic, the largest is female, ages 25-34.

Statistics like this require hope.
And hope is found at Christ Kitchen.

For the past twenty years Christ Kitchen has been a successful job training and discipleship program for women living in poverty in Spokane. Through the production and sale of gourmet food products, full-service catering, and a food truck, women learn to work, become employable, and support themselves and their families without reliance on government programs or destructive relationships.

Within the nurturing, loving environment of Christ Kitchen, women learn work skills, life skills, and relational needs are met. We provide a community of hope—a community in which to grow, learn, give and be supported. The opportunity to earn money may bring women to the Kitchen, but it is the spiritual and emotional care that sustains them.

HOPE is the firm foundation this ministry is built on. Hope in Christ Jesus. Women come through our doors facing employment and life challenges after incarceration, trafficking, abuse, addiction, and a myriad of other challenges. God leads, guides, protects, and provides every step of the way. He is the only HOPE for these women, and we see the transformative healing in their lives as they learn to become employable, self-sufficient and Christ reliant.

Thank you for coming alongside us at Christ Kitchen. Your gifts sustain HOPE for this ministry and the women we serve. Women who find Jesus and change the direction of their lives. Women who now support themselves and the children that rely on them for survival. You are impacting the Kingdom, making Spokane stronger, and giving hope to those who were once hopeless. We couldn’t do what we do without YOU.

Women come through our doors facing employment and life challenges after incarceration, trafficking, abuse, addiction, and a myriad of other challenges.
Kim Kelly

CEO / Executive Program Director

Friend, please prayerfully consider making a life-changing, Kingdom impacting, gift to Christ Kitchen.

Kim Kelly
CEO / Executive Program Director

Mission

Resurrection, a central tenet of Christianity, is used in the New Testament to mean ‘a rising up’ or ‘causing to stand’. The ministry of Christ Kitchen is founded upon the principles of Christ’s life and seeks to aid homeless, abused, poor, disenfranchised women in their rising up out of poverty, ultimately to stand on their own feet with the security of Christ.

Our mission is to reveal Christ and live out the Gospel with women who have worked at Christ Kitchen. Paraphrasing John the Baptist’s words in John 1:31, our task is to get people ready to recognize Jesus. We accomplish this through Bible study, individual mentoring, discipleship, support, and fellowship. These elements provide an opportunity for women, who otherwise rarely enter a church, to hear the Word and discuss its application to their lives. Subsequent discipleship in our work setting and within developing personal relationships, helps the women develop, renew, heal, and maintain spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health. The work setting at Christ Kitchen is deliberately designed to allow maximum interaction among the workers. We believe emotional health and interpersonal skills improve through carefully supervised group efforts at various work stations. Social interactions, relationship skills, and individual discipleship are emphasized. Mental health improves by learning work and self-sufficiency skills, developing confidence and understanding, and through increased self-esteem. Through Christian fellowship and Biblical teachings, spiritual growth is promoted. In addition to the warm meal served at noon, physical health improves through having a functional routine, healthy living and eating skills, exercise, prayer, and group support.
Colby Fetters

Production Supervisor / Volunteer Coordinator

Job #42:2 “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”

God’s sovereignty has been a major focus throughout this year. With all of the unknown variables and bizarre circumstances we have experienced, Christ Kitchen has miraculously stood through the storm, as God has continued to protect His ministry.

Many changes have occurred since March, as we have had to adapt and reconfigure certain practices due to the national and statewide quarantine restrictions put in place. Our normal ways of doing things have forever changed in several ways. One of which is, other than a short-lived, two-week trial period, we have not been allowed to host volunteers at Christ Kitchen. As Volunteer Coordinator, this has been a heartbreaking, difficult set back, as we have missed our faithful volunteers terribly. If you happen to be one of our amazing volunteers, know we have faithfully prayed for you every week, we love you, and can’t wait to fellowship and work alongside you again!

From a production standpoint, I am excited to share that we have been able to stay ahead of the game; so much so, we have been able to launch several new products this year! The new products we have launched include: Spin-Filled Snickerdoodles, Jeremiah’s Hearty Potato Chowders, Bountiful Beef Barley Soup, and Virtuous Venetian Communal and Currant Bisotti. Additionally, be on the lookout for our newest product to hit the shelves soon: Treasured Tuscan White Bean & Quinoa Soup. Our women on staff have worked extremely hard, both in the kitchen and on the floor, to finish our products for retail sales.

Your financial and spiritual supports have been instrumental in providing a way for us to maintain our staff and work hours. The women on staff, including me, are absolutely more than grateful to have been able to keep working during the pandemic. God has blessed us immensely during the quarantine so that not only were we able to keep our jobs, but He increased our production, all the while implementing fresh, new recipes to our already incredible line of gourmet products! The Lord’s plans will not be thwarted!

How can you help?
$52.00 employs a woman for 1 day.
$210.00 employs a woman for 1 month.
$2550.00 employs a woman for 1 year.

Colby
We could not do what we do without the many faithful saints that have walked beside this ministry, selflessly investing their time, talent and treasure for the past 22 years. We humbly thank you.

Invest in a Life

Employ a Woman for one year
$2,550

Employ a Woman for 6 months
$1,275

Employ a Woman for one month
$210

Employ a Woman for one day
$52

Jobs for Life Graduation Course and Internship
$1,500

Thank you for your continued support.
As of today, this ministry has:

- Graduated a total of 89 women through our job training and discipleship program, 6 of which have been in 2020.
- Rejoiced in over 775 volunteer hours, prior to Covid. :( We so miss our volunteers!
- Shouted praise for the need to increase our production counts each year due to a cleared product warehouse in December.
- Conducted 5 Zoom Taste and See, Lunch and Learns in 2020.
- Catered 10 food truck events this summer and fall.
- Produced 120,000 food packages in 2020.
- Hired 3 new women since Covid.

Testimony

Christ Kitchen - a wonderful place where Christ is the "main course"! I do enjoy being at the Kitchen where we can share in the lives of so many women. Everyone has a story, and most share their stories, and most share hugs.

This year has been hard because we are not able to be at the Kitchen because of Covid. I really miss all the ladies (and Daniel), and pray we can all be together again soon.

Christ Kitchen is so incredibly special, and I believe allows me to have a purpose in life.

God bless us all!

Joanne
Christ Kitchen Employee

- Continue to have our Jobs for Life Trainings for Graduation. We graduated 6 ladies out into full time employment.
- Received grants from Murdock Trust and Bank of America.
- Placed our products in 19 wholesale locations throughout Spokane, North Idaho and the Tri-Cities.
- Provided more than 48,000 job training hours.

- Launched our 8th job training matrix on 9/29/20, National Coffee Day. Our Barista Training program! We now have a wonderful coffee house called Daily Bread Brews, right inside the Kitchen.
I am a Miracle...

I was raised in a home where neglect was a huge component. I was always on my own. My mom and dad split up before I was 2 and from that time on, we were always on the move. Constantly living in new apartments in new neighborhoods with new men, this was a constant in my life. I remember always being gravely afraid and not wanting to go back with my mom when I was with my dad.

One of the earliest memories I have as a child, was that of being terrified to go home because of the way my mother’s “newest” boyfriend, was treating us. We would sit at Frankie-Doodles Diner with hot chocolate for hours upon hours. At the apartment we lived in at that time, there was a man who would stand outside my bedroom window, expose, and fondle himself and ask me to ask the same. I remember my mom and her boyfriend fighting violently and very loudly. I lived in a constant state of terror.

I would hide in the back of my closet... waiting for John to come for me, as he always did. To this day, I have enormous mental gaps, things I do not remember and have blocked out about the molestation that happened to me repeatedly. We were lived, I would wake up in the middle of the night to the sound of mice squeaking and scratching inside the walls. It smelled horrid and I was always so deeply afraid. My mom would nod off in the chair and I could not wake her. I would be so full of terror that I would curl up and sleep on the floor at her feet. She would wake up screaming mad at me because she would trip on my small body. This was how it was for me. My entire life was always mad at me. Always yelling at me. I stayed with my dad a lot after my sister was born, my mom never really wanted me, as a matter of fact, she would say that to me often. She kept me for the child support.

While staying with my dad, I befriended the daughter of our neighbor. She was 15 and I was 6. We would dance and be silly and after some time, she also began fondling me on a regular basis and told me not to tell anyone or else. I never did. Over the next years, while living with my mother, the molestation continued from others, my grandfather, and at times... men that I did not even know who they were. I would close my eyes tight until it was over. If I try to remember faces or situations, it will only bring physical illness and horrific anxiety when I think about these memories. So many times, I was told not to tell ANYONE, and I did not. I thought no one would believe me anyway.

When I was sixteen, I got drunk and had sex with a friend, it did not feel like the first time. No pain, no discomfort... nothing but a deep void. When I was 19, I tried to end my life. I was so empty. Everything inside me screamed run, but I did not. He soon became extremely aggressive, very mentally, physically, and spiritually abusive. He threatened to kill me, my son, and my whole family if I ever left him. He would tell me he would never love me, that no one would ever love me, all I was capable of was ruining lives. I believed him. He became especially sadistic and abusive. He was extremely violent, hitting me often and that carried into sex. He would use unthinkable objects, even power tools on me that would cause such excruciating pain, that I would pass out. He would choke me. Beat me. Hurt me. I literally wanted to die with every fiber of my being. This lasted for over a year, until I was able to escape. Not long after escaping, I got involved with Meth, to numb the pain and the lies in my head. I became even more promiscuous than ever. I believed sex was all men wanted. My core lies were that I was worthless and that I destroy everything I touch. During this season of my life, I became pregnant with my daughter in 2015 & I used until I was 8 months along. February 15th, 2017, I abandoned her, just like I did my son. I was so afraid that I would destroy them and that I would not ever get clean. In my absence, my sweet daughter was abused, physically and sexually. She was in such a horrific state that CPS took her. I spent the next few months trying to die.

In my darkest hour, I cried out to God from the deepest part of my shattered soul and God intervened. Through a series of miracles, He led me to the Christ Kitchen recovery program, which then led me to Christ Kitchen for an internship. I have never in my life felt so loved and supported. The women there are so caring, they are truth tellers, completely accepting and they value the unconditional love of Christ. I felt the love and support I desperately needed in my childhood. After my first week, I re-committed my life to Jesus, my way making, chain breaking Savior. And I worked HARD toward change. I know the truth of who I am... I am saved, I am chosen, I am a survivor, a warrior. I am redeemed, wholly loved, and cherished and I have a purpose! I now have full custody of my beautiful daughter, and visitation with my son. I am a mentor and leader for SAVANON, a ministry for sexually abused women. I have a lovely home, a nice car and I have graduated from Christ Kitchen into full-time employment with benefits and retirement!! I would have never thought this would be possible for me. I have done so well in my current position, that I am now in management training. I thank God for leading me to Christ Kitchen, where my entire life changed. I am grateful for all of you who believe in this program and support women like me by investing into it. You are making a Kingdom difference and are now a part of my eternal story! Thank you! I am living, breathing, walking miracle! Kristin Evans

Testimony

Christ Kitchen is a place of hope, no matter where you are in life, you are accepted just as you are. It’s a place of unconditional love where I have seen countless lives transformed and hurting hearts healed. Women who didn’t have a purpose or feel they belonged anywhere have found purpose, meaning and real friendship. Where there was hopelessness I now see joy!

In His Love,

Dawn

Christ Kitchen Employee
Mission Impact Council –
Fundraising Committee

We are looking for passionate individuals between 20-80 to serve on this critical council.

The Mission Impact Council is ...

- Fundraising leadership role within Christ Kitchen that partners directly with the Development Manager and CEO to advance the mission of Christ Kitchen.
- This leadership role is invested into this mission with their time, talent, and treasure, maximizing the overall impact.
- Focused on increasing opportunity and equity for women living in poverty or on the brink of it, and the children that rely on them for survival.
- To create a greater future for this community where everyone thrives.
- A collaborative community that recognizes the power of working together in the fight against poverty and homelessness.
- A way for you to actively engage with and support the local community and make a mighty impact.

The Mission Impact Council understands that in order to drive innovation around creating and increasing opportunities that cultivate socially responsible, culturally competent women leaders that will create a greater Spokane the Council must invest in communities, initiatives, and organizations that are aiming to bring about the utmost potential of our community in the fight against poverty, creating an avenue for change and growth. ‘WE NEED YOU!’

Contact Kim 509-325-4343

Current Governing Board of Directors for Christ Kitchen

Kim Kelly – CEO
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509-993-0884

Luanne Conley, (Secretary)
Grocery Yoke’s Fresh Market – Corporate Office Operations
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Dianah Brubaker Ellis: (Chair/Exec Committee)
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Richard Lewis – Attorney
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Fred Fleming – Vice Chair (Exec Committee)
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Sean Grubb: (Sargent at Arms)
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Jan Martinez – Christ Kitchen Founder (Honorary Emeritus)
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Kirstin Carlisle: (Exec Committee)
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Sharon Roberts: (Exec Committee)
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Kyle Jordan: (Interim Treasurer)
CPA – Kitchner & Jordan CPA PS

Thanks for your service

Appeal Letter

I’ve been praying earnestly for Christ Kitchen over these past months! What will the women do without work? What will we do without customers, product sales, fundraisers? What has happened to donations? Will they cover the missing revenue? I’ve had so much quarantined time to worry!

But then I remembered God always has a plan for caring for the least of these. Here is one of them: “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap it to the very edge of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien.” Leviticus 19:10. See His plan is for us! God has given us land and harvests and vineyards. “So... leave the outer edge,” he says, “for those who don’t have a field.” He’s given us the entire field and we get to keep every- thing in the middle. Just leave the edges for others. And make sure you leave them the good stuff, not the leftovers, squashed grapes. They will work, gleaning and picking to make ends meet. This is God’s system of care. We all make it through the hard times. We all flourish.

So, my friends, I am committed to not worrying, praying earnestly and faithfully taking part in God’s plan for the women at Christ Kitchen. Please, please join me.

What will you leave in your field?

Love in Christ,

Jan Martinez, Christ Kitchen Founder

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