

WHAT WILL A COMMUNITY KITCHEN DO?

St. Mark's understands its mission as public and addressing the actual needs of the wider community.

A community kitchen can dramatically build capacity at St. Mark's and in the Santa Ynez Valley as a **hub for a wide range of programs** addressing both immediate and structural food insecurity needs and for economic development (helping people work to be more financially stable). **Approximately 16% of adults in the SYV region live with food insecurity**, 21% in Santa Barbara County as a whole. A community kitchen at St. Mark's can also help widen circles of connection for our faith community and assist in building vibrant collaborative relationships with neighbors and organizations in our region.

Critical to implementing the County Food Action Plan here, a community kitchen:

...can be a **training venue** in which people can learn to work in a certified commercial kitchen and be prepared for a **higher level of employment** in our growing county hospitality industry, perhaps partnering with Allen Hancock College or Santa Barbara City College.

...can be a **teaching venue** where people **learn how to cook economically and efficiently** and how to better use their food resources (including food assistance).

...can serve as a **recovery kitchen to preserve gleaned foods** (working with Veggie Rescue or others when certain recovered foods spike beyond immediate use – like making tomato sauce when there are too many ripe tomatoes).

...can be a lower or no-cost alternative for individuals needing a commercial kitchen for **micro-economic projects to fill income gaps** (making and selling soup, baked goods, preserved foods and such).

...can be a site for **feeding programs** like a Saturday breakfast for anyone in the community (a significant percentage of SYV children are on free and reduced lunch at school during the week; where do they eat on Saturday?).

...can be a place to **prepare meals to be delivered offsite** – such as the summer Picnic in the Park program that addresses hunger for children who are in the free and reduced lunch program during the school year.

Do you have a special interest in working on the Community Kitchen project? Please contact the **Rector** at 245-4921 or randall@smitv.org, **Wardens Linda Burrows** 688-7423, Lsbethechange@mac.com, or **Barbara Brown** at 448-8854, coolbarbra42@yahoo.com or **Vestry members Kate O'Neill** at 425-422-2035, kateoneill2120@gmail.com, or **Mary Beth Johnson** 895-1712, mbj3@mac.com.

Children on Free and Reduced Lunch in SB County and SYV

Data from 2015

Santa Barbara County	59.6%
Ballard Elementary (School District)	LNE
Buellton Union Elementary (School District)	31.2%
College Elementary (School District)	35.1%
Los Olivos Elementary (School District)	18.9%
Santa Ynez Valley Union High (School District)	23.5%
Solvang Elementary (School District)	57.3%