



**Nourishing
Community**
www.agapetable.ca



**Please support Agape Table
during this Easter Season**

**Donate online at www.agapetable.ca or use the
form inside this newsletter. Thank you!**

Message from the Executive Director



*Jim Steep
Executive Director*

March 18th marked 2 years since we switched our food service from inside seating to bag lunches at the door. We are proud to have been able to continue to nourish the community even as the expenses rose and our number of guests increased. This, of course, was due to the generous support of you, our donors; without you there would be no Agape Table, as we are 100% donor funded.

The stats for 2021 show we served over 125,000 meals, which is an increase of 40% over 2019 pre-pandemic. We were blessed to have volunteers donate over 25,000 hours of their time. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization, without them there would be, again no Agape Table. To replace volunteers with staff would require 15 full-time employees.

I would also like to acknowledge our staff, whose dedication to feeding those in need every day, is inspiring to see. Some of our staff were previously guests at Agape Table and have a true understanding of Agape, "Unconditional Love".

Please remember our fund raising Golf Tournament Thursday August 18th. There are many ways to support the Agape Table event; as a player, by sponsoring a hole or donating a prize.

**Thank you for your continued
support of Agape Table.**

Sincerely,

Jim Steep

Executive Director Agape Table

Agape Table Honours Karen's Retirement After 40 Years of Service

40 years ago, I was with my children at Agape's front door looking to volunteer. Volunteering was important to me because I wanted to give a small part of myself to a worthy cause; a cause that gave people a hand-up so those people knew they were important to others outside of their own supportive group. I found that unconditional love at Agape Table; respect and support of others who are often struggling is the key ingredient in Agape's recipe for giving that hand-up. Yes, Agape feeds the body but more importantly it feeds the soul.

Agape has always given more to me than I to it, I always talk about the love of my life - Al. Al volunteered at Agape at the same time I did and we gradually came to know one another well. That friendship developed into a love affair - we just celebrated 32 years together as life partners.

I started cleaning and clearing tables when I first arrived as a volunteer. As the years went along, I performed a wide variety of duties and spent many years in the kitchen. When the

head cook left Agape a number of years ago, I was offered a paid position and jumped at it. Al, too, was now a paid staff member and we felt like we won the lottery.

At Agape, I learned every human being has a story to tell. Guests, volunteers and staff have filled my life with joy. Just recently I have entered a new stage of my life - retirement. As with any new adventure, I will need to learn some things about it.

In closing, I want to thank all who were involved in my retirement party, and what a party! Good food, refreshments and dessert followed by the kindest words any person could ever hear. After using up two boxes of Kleenex, I was able to utter a few words of gratitude.

Now I am back where I started 40 years ago, volunteering twice a week. For some reason I just cannot stay away.

Love to all,

Karen ("Mom")

A Volunteers Perspective

Why do I support Agape Table? There is a desperate need to support the less fortunate these days. When I first started volunteering, we were serving around 300 meals per day, recently we saw this grow to over 500-600 daily. The core function is still feeding the hungry, but they also collect clothing donations, and all someone has to do is ask. I believe that clients appreciate the fact that they're not seen as numbers to be served, and I have heard them express gratitude by asking if they can volunteer too.

Management has a real heart for those in need and for those who choose to serve. Everyone, clients, volunteers, and employees, are treated as family. This is one of the reasons that there are so many long term volunteers and employees. That attitude resonates in the operation, as everyone recognizes the others are there to help and there is little animosity, in fact, they treat each other as friends and family.

Agape needs to be a role model for the rest of us.

Jan

Message from the Board

At each Agape Table board meeting, before addressing the matters on our agenda, we take a few minutes to discuss our answers to a more personal question that is presented to the Board.

At the last meeting, the question to be discussed was “What are you looking forward to about spring?”

I spoke up first because I was so excited about the question. I love spring! I love what it represents, especially after the frigid winter we have had, and I have been counting down the days until the change in the season. For me, spring represents optimism, a new sense of hope, joy and warmth. The cold temperatures that make it extremely difficult to be outside finally subside, the ice and snow melt revealing our blue and green world which has been hidden away, the days get longer and the nights get shorter.

Right now, the attitudes of the Agape Table Board seem to be aligning with what spring represents to me.

We are optimistic that we will continue to be able to meet the needs of the folks we serve. We are hopeful about the direction in which Agape Table is heading and we are of course thankful that Agape Table continues to receive the incredible support it does from the community.

Our primary goal at Agape Table is to ensure that those who require a meal receive one. As we provide nourishment to our guests, we also strive to bring even just a small amount of joy and warmth to their days. We would not be able to achieve this mission without the support from our community.

We thank the incredible staff and volunteers at Agape Table who show up to work each and every day with a sense of optimism and hope. You are the engine that keeps this incredible machine running.

We also thank all those who donate to Agape Table. It is your continued generosity that supports this operation and fills the Board and our guests with a sense of optimism and hope as we look toward the Spring.

Happy Spring!!

Simon Garfinkle

Board Member at Large



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Message from the General Manager



When you step into Agape Table, it is a very humbling experience.

From the resiliency of our guests surviving the crazy winter we just had, to seeing the dedication of the staff and all of our amazing volunteers working together to make absolute magic.

As of March 18, 2022, we will have been serving our guests at the front door for 2 years.

In 2016 Agape Table was able to serve just over 66000 meals, unfortunately our numbers increased significantly and almost doubled increasing to over 125000 meals in 2021.

Through all the trials and tribulations that we have experienced over the years, with the help and support of YOU, our donors, we have been able to keep up with the increase and not miss a meal.

On behalf of the guests, volunteers, and staff, we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for YOUR continued support. You are truly making a difference in our guest's lives.

Happy Easter from Agape Table

Dave Fenik



AGAPE TABLE
Save The Date
August 18, 2022
Agape Table's 4th Annual
Golf Tournament
Register at Agapegolf.ca

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