

THE LORD'S DINER

of Pittsburgh



When The Lord's Diner of Pittsburgh transitioned to mobile service in 2022, the LAG Team (Love All Guests) was born. More than just a name, this team embodies the heart of our mission: to create community wherever we serve. The Lord's Diner has always been about more than hot meals; it's about cultivating joy, dignity, and connection—even in the simplest of ways.

This summer, connection took a new shape—through movement. What began as a creative use for donated exercise mats has grown into *Pilates in the Park*, a highlight for many of our guests. These gentle sessions offer more than physical activity—they provide a rare moment of peace, reflection, and self-care in the midst of a busy day. For some, it's the only time all week to breathe deeply, quiet the mind, and simply be.

Another memorable moment this summer was our *Sorbet Social*, a LAG Team event that brought together guests of all ages for frozen treats and warm conversations. Beneath the shade of a tree, people gathered to laugh, share stories, and relish in the simple joy of being seen and heard. These seemingly small interactions serve as powerful reminders that community is often built in life's most ordinary moments.

We may never fully understand the burdens our guests carry, but we can offer something profoundly meaningful: our presence. Whether it is through a scoop of sorbet or a listening ear, we affirm each person's dignity by showing up with compassion and care. We meet our guests not only in their needs, but in their humanity.

These moments, whether under a shady tree or on an exercise mat, are living echoes of Bishop Gerber's vision for The Lord's Diner: a place of welcome, nourishment, and love. His dream wasn't only to feed the hungry, but to build a community rooted in respect and shared life.

As summer fades to fall, we are reminded that the mission of The Lord's Diner is just as much about presence as it is about provision. Through every frozen treat, thoughtful stretch, and heartfelt exchange, we remain committed to walking alongside our guests, one moment, one act of kindness, one life at a time.

Nice to Meet you!

Our guests are the heart of The Lord's Diner. Their stories reflect the strength of community, the power of kindness, and the hope that grows when people come together. They remind us that The Lord's Diner is about more than serving meals.

MEET HOWARD!

Since The Lord's Diner first opened its doors, Howard has been a familiar face. A devoted husband, he has taken on the role of full-time caregiver for his wife, managing everything from cooking and cleaning to ensuring she is never alone. For Howard, stopping by The Lord's Diner food truck offers more than a meal—it brings relief from the demands of daily meal prep and gives him time to focus on caring for her.

Howard often lingers to share a kind word with our staff and volunteers, reminding us that community is built not only through food, but also through friendship. This past summer, he began bringing his wife to *Pilates in the Park*, where she could enjoy the fresh air and connect with The Lord's Diner family. For Howard and his wife, these meals and moments provide companionship, joy, and a sense of belonging—showing how a shared table can nourish the heart as much as the body.



MEET RUBY!

Ruby has been part of The Lord's Diner family since the very beginning. Each evening, she not only picks up a meal for herself, but also gathers meals for neighbors who can't make it to the truck on their own. Her kindness extends far beyond our doors—throughout her life, Ruby has welcomed people into her home, offered a listening ear, and connected others with resources to make their lives a little easier. Those who know her say that she has a gift for making everyone feel seen, valued, and cared for.

When she isn't caring for her community, Ruby tends to her small farm and looks after a group of stray cats who might otherwise go without shelter. Her compassion stretches from people to animals, showing that her spirit of generosity knows no limits.

To us, Ruby represents the very heart of service—someone who lives each day looking for little ways to lift others up. Guests like Ruby remind us that The Lord's Diner is built upon a community of care, generosity, and love, made stronger by the everyday acts of kindness that ripple outward.



Share in our Mission!

Since 2017, The Lord's Diner of Pittsburg has served over 700,000 meals! While that number is impressive, it represents far more than just food on plates. It means 700,000 times someone didn't have to go to bed hungry. 700,000 moments where we reached out not only with food, but also into someone's heart—with love, hope, and compassion. 700,000 opportunities where families could redirect limited resources toward other basic needs, helping them make it through the month.

This monumental effort has only been possible because of the generosity and support of hundreds of people. Every single "yes" to help, every "yes" to support, is a visible sign of love to each of our guests. It tells them they are not alone—that others care enough to share their resources so that no one has to go without.

Your financial support does more than provide meals. It gives hope. It reminds us that the spirit of community and compassion that inspired The Lord's Diner is still alive and well. It ensures we can continue serving anyone facing food insecurity—365 days a year, now and into the future.

For the past eight years, the generosity of donors throughout Southeast Kansas has been vital to our work in Pittsburg. This year, your support is more critical than ever. Recent federal funding cuts meant we received no USDA commodity food shipments in May or June. While shipments resumed in July, the future remains uncertain.

Since commodities account for about 25% of the food in each prepared meal, any gift you can give will help offset these losses and bring stability in the year ahead. We, once again, humbly ask for you to share in our mission!

The Lord's Diner of Pittsburg received a very generous \$50,000 matching gift. Every dollar that you donate will double your impact and allow The Diner to continue serving the most vulnerable in the Pittsburg community.

Make donating quick and easy by visiting www.thelordsdiner.org or by scanning the QR code:



Prefer paper? No problem! Checks can be made out to *The Lord's Diner* and returned using the enclosed envelope.

A phone call sounds easier? Our annual Phone-a-thon will take place on November 19th. Staff and volunteers are looking forward to calling you!

