

Guidelines for Or Shalom Groups Accompanying Newly Arrived Immigrants with Meals

From the team organizing this effort.

If you have questions or would like to sign up to participate as a group or individuals, please email at sanctuary@orshalomsf.org. Or Shalom member Eleanor Louis will guide you through the process and can be reached at that email address.

Or Shalom is participating in Faith in Action's accompaniment of newly arrived immigrants here in San Francisco by providing meals once a month. The families' housing situation is very unstable. They may be in hotels, shelters, or elsewhere, and their location may change the day before we deliver. You will be kept up-to-date, and the information below guides you through the process. The meals need to be ready-to-eat without heating (although we will let you know if heat is available). Your team will need to provide paper goods (plates, utensils, cups) and may need to provide food for babies and/or toddlers. Refrigeration may not be available.

Your group (committee, circle, etc.) will be given or can choose a specific date to deliver food. You will always have at least a few weeks' notice. Food should be delivered preferably before noon unless told otherwise. Participants should decide together how to divide the effort.

Below are some instructions for your group.

1. Choose a point-person and let Eleanor Lous know who it is by contacting her through sanctuary@orshalomsf.org. As your date gets closer, she will let you know the names of the family/families, how many you'll be feeding, their ages, and where to take the food.
2. Depending on the situation, we may ask your team if you would like to deliver to more than one family in the same location or provide lunch and breakfast as well as dinner or for for Sunday as well as Saturday. This will be your choice.
3. Deliveries will typically be Saturday mornings.
4. Because these families' situations are very fluid, plans may change in the days leading up to your delivery. We will keep you informed as soon as we have information.
5. If possible, select someone to write about your experience in a few sentences for our Sanctuary Or Shalom website page or our newsletter and send to sanctuary@orshalomsf.org. Please also take a few photos of your group's effort and, with the families' permission a photo of the families you deliver to. Because of the sensitive nature of that photo, we ask that you share that photo by email only with members of your group or committee.

Food suggestions:

- A hot meal, like rice and bean soup, chicken stew, pasta with veggies. Pack in an aluminum pan to keep as hot as possible
 - Snack bars
 - Peanut butter and jelly
 - Cheeses or cream cheese
 - Breads
 - Hard boiled eggs (with packs of salt/pepper; can wrap in foil)
 - Toddler pouch foods (you can get them at grocery stores or Target)
 - Salad kits
 - Any pre-made foods that can be eaten cold (don't need heating)
 - Refrigeration may be limited or non-existent
-
- ***Don't forget to include paper plates, bowls, utensils, cups, napkins***

Thank you for your commitment to Or Shalom's sanctuary work. Our accompaniment work ebbs and flows with the need, and we learn as we go. Please write us at sanctuary@orshalomsf.org to let us know about your experience and how you think we could improve. We learn and grow from each other.

More information about the efforts of the newly arrived immigrants to improve life for others:

While these new immigrants are without the material resources to provide food and housing for themselves and their families, they are not without the resources to care for their families and each other. With the support of Faith in Action staff, several of the families (along with interested SFUSD employees from the children's new schools) have formed a new Action Team. This Action Team is going to work with/push for the city to live up to its commitment to be a sanctuary city and find ways to better welcome and house newly arrived immigrant families.

The new team and other newly arriving families are being supported by the broader Faith in Action community, made up of directly impacted Spanish-speakers and more privileged English-speakers. These individuals are often connected to schools and faith communities who resonate with Faith in Action and its commitment to develop leadership and build power across lines of class, race, language, and age in order to improve systems. Or Shalom has a long, deep history of actively participating in Faith in Action. Contact sanctuary@orshalomsf.org if you want more information about this effort or Faith in Action Bay Area.