

# Jubilee Kitchen raising funds alongside renovation and expansion

By [Jake Dabkowski](#) – Reporter, Pittsburgh Business Times, Apr 4, 2024

Jubilee Kitchen is actively raising funds for its \$4.5 million renovation and expansion.

Executive Director Mark Latterner said that the soup kitchen has raised \$3.8 million so far as construction on the expansion begins.

“We’re an organization that’s 100% relying on contributions from donors,” Latterner said. “We’re about \$700,000 short at this time and if we exceed our goal, that’s great, because that’s more we can put back into our programming and services.”

[Latterner became executive director in 2020](#) after the passing of Jubilee’s founder, Sister Liguori Rossner. Prior to that he was retired, having served as Citizens Bank’s western Pennsylvania market president.

“When I took over, one of the main projects that I had was to either renovate or relocate our existing building,” Latterner said. “We decided after our analysis that it was better to renovate it.”

Alongside a general upgrade to the kitchen and dining spaces, the renovation and expansion will add a second entrance, an elevator to improve accessibility, additional shower and bathroom space on the first floor, a larger food pantry, a larger clothing room, a laundry facility and additional case management offices.

“If someone wants to work with us to help improve their life, become more stable, become employed, get better employment or get better housing, we try to provide comprehensive solutions,” Latterner said. “Those issues are complex and its not just one thing. If we can have a program and help them work with all the key areas of their lives and over time keep making those continued improvements then we’ve really made a difference in their lives and that’s really what they strive for.”

The kitchen is open every day of the year and serves hot breakfast and lunch and provides take-home meals. Approximately 114,000 people living in Allegheny County are food insecure, according to Feeding America, a non-profit that connects food banks across the country.

“We serve everybody,” Latterner said. “We don’t just serve the homeless we’re also serving the people who are in transition and live in poverty and we provide comprehensive solutions to help people become self-sufficient.”

Construction is expected to be completed in 2025.