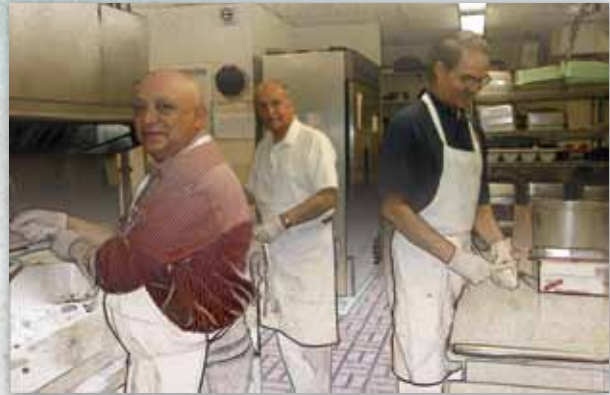


Knights in Shining Armor

Every Sunday morning for over fifteen years a group of men from the Knights of Columbus have been preparing and serving breakfast to the Covenant House Texas (CHT) youth. That's quite a commitment by anyone's standards! It's obvious that the kids really like their breakfast and who wouldn't when it consists of sausage links, eggs, grits and homemade biscuits. According to the kids, they really appreciate the Knights coming out and fixing this great breakfast!

It's a labor of love for the six different teams that come out from the Knights of Columbus Council #10872.



Michael Ramirez, Pat McGuirk, & Will Rodriguez



Abel Ortiz, Jose Sosa, John Martin, Chris Quidry & Ed Keys

When asking the Knights how it all got started, from most accounts, John Martin, George Elias and Jim Grecco started the venture in 1991. Later Knights, David Gaska and Ed Dobies became involved and in 1994 it became an "official" Knights of Columbus project. Nine years ago Jose Sosa joined the men and has coordinated the teams ever since. It all sort of snowballed. Starting out as one team, it became two, then three and now there are six.

All of the Knights who have participated over the years have had moments that touched them. Jose Sosa comments, "One time I went to Covenant House and there was a mother with three children. It breaks my heart to see something like this and makes me glad I am able to contribute in some small way to feeding them at least in that moment."

John Martin remembers sitting down and talking with a young lady one Sunday. "She opened up to me telling me that her mother had told her that either she had to leave or her mother's boyfriend had to leave. Her mother, choosing her boyfriend, brought the young lady to Covenant House. It almost ripped my heart out."

Dave Broussard, another long-time volunteer, shares what working with CHT has meant to him, "When I look into the kid's eyes, I realize that behind every child is a different story; a different reason for being at Covenant House... All of the children deserve the dignity, respect, the chance to regroup, and the ability to move on to hopefully a brighter future. This is what Covenant House means to me – a chance for a new beginning. All of God's children deserve this."

The group not only prepares breakfast every Sunday, they also cook the turkeys for the Thanksgiving meal at CHT. Pat McGuirk heads up this project. Twenty individual families cook the turkeys and bring them to CHT for final preparation for the big day by Vergie Mitchell and the CHT kitchen staff. Pat says, "All the families really enjoy cooking the turkeys and it's a joy for us to help with the Thanksgiving meal."

Vergie calls the Knights her angels. "They are truly my knights in shining armor – they are there when I need them. Dan McDermott, whose been coming for many years slices the hams for Thanksgiving dinner. And, if I need something done he's the one I call."

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's volunteer service organization and Council #10872 has been in existence and serving the community since 1990. CHT is truly blessed to have this great group of men so dedicated to our youth.



LEFT:
Mom and daughter
enjoying
Thanksgiving meal

RIGHT:
Dan McDermott
talking with CHT
youth