

Kathleen Baumgardner, Humanitarian

Her Legacy: Giving back to the community

Kathleen Baumgardner created and managed FoCo Café, a nonprofit eatery for which diners pay whatever they can afford. The restaurant serves lunch daily and is staffed by volunteers, with food waste managed in an environmentally responsible way by composting food waste.

The café provides a cart, the Giving Tree, racks filled with essentials for people in need plus space for leaving donations. Breakfast is offered to food-insecure families during the summer, in lieu of school lunches, and refrigerator space is available for donors to bring excess produce.

After retirement and relocation, Kathleen turned management of the café over to a board of directors. Numerous local businesses and farmers have stepped up to help support the café, which operates on the premise that every human being innately has dignity and should be treated as such, participation in the community nourishes the soul, every duty has value, everyone deserves nutritious food, and all people need a hand up at some point in their lives.

People who can pay are encouraged to include a donation. People who can't pay are invited to volunteer.

Through her humanitarian beliefs, Kathleen has brought generosity and kindness to the forefront in the Fort Collins community.

Written by Barbara Fleming, Author, Coloradoan Columnist and Living Her Legacy Wordsmith