



At The Table



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A Look Back At 2018

As we close out 2018 we look back and see a great year for IMFK.

During the month of January, Leigh-Ann stepped out from behind the desk to share with the congregation at Fay Road Baptist about Life House. Not a crisis center or shelter but a “home” for women seeking to escape a life of sex trafficking.

In February, Destiny Christian Church opened their doors to IMFK, allowing us to hold our Winter Give Away there. Thank you Pastor Jeff!



March was an extremely busy month for Chef John. He was asked to be one of three speakers at the Utica National Insurance Group’s “Shining a Light” seminars. The seminar dealt with the question of the rising mental health needs and how to handle it in schools. Chef John spoke to superintendents and school administrators in seven cities about how “Relationships



Minimize Risk.”

April came quickly with Chef John speaking at Christian Brother’s Academy TED Talk. Chef John and Leigh-Ann both spoke to approx. 65 Girl Scouts at their World Thinking Day. Chef John and Leigh-Ann both encouraged the girls to become agents of change in their world.

During the month of May, IMFK worked the Cajun Café at the Operation Northern Comfort Crawfish Festival. Proceeds from the café were given to IMFK to enable us to continue helping those who feel invisible. A BIG thanks to Cajun cook Chef Steven Joule. Plans are already being made for IMFK to again run the Cajun Café for the 2019 Crawfish Festival.



In May Chef John also had the privilege to be the guest speaker at the Eagle Scout ceremony for Noah Kalin. Noah had worked with Chef John and IMFK to receive his eagle scout badge by making 50 backpacks with items he collected and fundraised for. We are so proud of you Noah!!



June was exciting month for IMFK. We partnered with Diemlife and the Midgley family for our 5th Annual 5k Walk/Run. Each year the number of runners grow and it is a great chance to meet our Sous Chefs. Thank you to Allstate, Cavallaro Foods, G.M. Crisalli, Northbound Coaching & Consulting and Utica National Insurance Group for the being our corporate sponsors for the 5k. 2019’s 5k will be held on Saturday, June 15th at Onondaga Park. Save the date!

Also in June, IMFK began partnering with Dr. David Lehmann from Upstate Hospital in reaching those who feel invisible. Dr. Lehmann accompanied Chef John and Kat two times a week to visit our friends who were living outdoors. The goal was to be a bridge for the gap in services for the homeless. Many of our friends do not have a primary care physician and often medical needs go untreated.

IMFK ended June by attending the CNY Golf Tournament where Chef John had the opportunity to share with participants IMFK’s vision.

In **July**, Chef John was invited to speak at **St. Michael and St. Peter** on Onondaga Hill, the **Marcellus Rotary Youth Leadership** and the **Greater Southern Tier BOCES Leadership Training** in Watkins Glen,

CNY 100 women who care chose IMFK as the charity of the month. This great organization is comprised of women from CNY who want to help **make a difference in their community through their giving.**

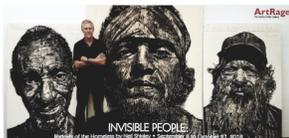
Chef John gave his culinary talents as **a judge for the Farm to Fork 101 cooking competition.** The competition was held at the **Onondaga Cup and Lakefest.** Thank you **Mark Pawliw** for the invitation. It was a blast!

The IMFK Summer Give Away was in **July** at Washington Square Park.



August was spent working on **Life House** with a group of great volunteers.

In **September**, IMFK partnered with **ArtRage** to bring artist, **Neil Shigley** and his amazing oversized portraits of homeless individuals to Syracuse for an exhibition. The **Invisible People** exhibit ran from Sept. 8th to Oct. 27th. Over 200 people attended the exhibit's opening.



During the month of **October** **Mark Horvath of Invisible People** spoke at **ArtRage** about homelessness as part of the Invisible People exhibit, Two question and answer panels were also included in this exhibit's showing. **A special thanks to the Palace theater** for allowing us to have our final Q&A panel at your location. Thank you also to all who gave of their time and finances to help make this a great event.



Also in **October**, Chef John spoke at the **UU Church of Central Square.** **Leigh-Ann and Kat** attended a human trafficking and court training at the **McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center.**

During **November**, IMFK held their annual **Fall Give Away** at **Dr. Weeks Elementary School.** Thank you to a generous group of volunteers who helped make this event such a success!



December opened with a reminder of the **risks of homelessness.** In late November one of our friends living outside was **assaulted while trying to save his bike** from being stolen, He was struck in the head with a brick and was admitted to the hospital in serious condition. While in the hospital **his encampment caught fire and burned to the ground.** The cause of the



fire is unknown but unfortunately our friend now has no place to call home. **IMFK has been advocating for him** with housing providers and landlords to find a place for him to go once he is discharged from the hospital the week of Dec. 3rd. A family friend has offered to take him in temporarily while we work to make arrangements.

Thorough this tough journey **IMFK has been advocating in all venues** for our dear friend. **IMFK will not let him fall through the cracks.** The road ahead may look challenging, but through love and faithful advocacy **we believe we will have a holiday miracle.**

Thank you to all who have supported IMFK in 2018. Without your prayers and financial support we could not do what we do for those who feel invisible.

As we close out 2018, please prayerfully consider making your best year end donation. No gift is too small.

Together we are making a difference!

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**