
Welcome to Your Kitchen Corps Newsletter

May 14, 2026



KITCHEN CORPS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

Dear friend,

Welcome to the very first edition of our Kitchen Corps newsletter, written just for you.

Every month, I'll bring you updates from around the world, stories you won't find anywhere else, and introductions to the people doing this work every day.

What you'll find this month:

1. Exclusive recipes just for you
2. A special story from Gaza
3. Staff spotlight: Meet Ki Thornberry, Volunteer Corps Manager
4. Your questions answered: How WCK knows a community is recovering

This newsletter is our way of celebrating you and the work you help make possible.

73,401
Kitchen Corps
Members

6 million
Meals Served
in 2025

Thank you for being part of our kitchen!

A reminder: *If you ever need to update your monthly gift, including changing your payment method or gift amount, you can login to the secure [donor portal here](#).*



Exclusive Recipes **For You, From Madagascar**

When Tropical Cyclone Gezani hit eastern Madagascar in February, our team was on the ground within days. From the very first meal, the people we served told us something important:

"Tsy misy vary, tsy misy sakafo."
Without rice, there is no meal.

In Madagascar, every meal begins with Vary—the beloved steamed white rice that anchors daily life on the island. Alongside it comes laoka: the savory stews that bring nourishment and comfort to every Malagasy table.

Today, we're sharing these recipes with you. [Click here for a PDF of the recipes](#).

Every community deserves a response that honors who they are. Thank you for helping us show up that way, every time.

Made the dish? Share your table with us!

📱 Tag **@WCKitchen** and use **#WCKitchenCorps**



From Wooden Pallets to Classrooms Giving Kids a Place to Learn and Play

In Gaza, the Academy of Hope school reached out with an unusual request: Could we provide furniture so students wouldn't have to learn on the floor? Our team used leftover wood pallets to hand-build 50 tables and 50 benches. The scraps that remained became more than 500 handmade toys: cars, trucks, airplanes, and helicopters.

The head of the school expressed genuine happiness, sharing the children's joy at finally having desks to learn from: "I can't express how happy I am imagining how happy my students would be to have them."

When a community speaks, WCK finds a way. Monthly donors like you are how that happens.



Staff Spotlight Ki Thornberry

Behind every activation is a network of people who were already there. **Ki Thornberry, World Central Kitchen's Volunteer Corps Manager**, has spent over three years leading our global network of 160,000+ volunteers ready to deliver emergency food relief in their own communities when crisis strikes. Seeing neighbors helping neighbors has inspired her work, and now you can join our Volunteer Corps too.

How does Volunteer Corps make WCK faster or better?

Even the most skilled disaster response teams start at a disadvantage without local knowledge. Local volunteers understand the cultural and social dynamics that can ensure a successful operation: understanding indigenous languages, familiarity with trusted community leaders, and even knowing how people prefer to receive aid. Without this context, even well-intentioned efforts can be misaligned with what communities actually need.

What do you wish Kitchen Corps donors knew about the work their support makes possible?

I wish they could stand beside us at a serving line. To witness the relief, comfort, and hope food can bring in someone's hardest moment is something words will never capture.

But the best part is what happens next: people who were served yesterday step forward to serve their neighbors today. Service itself becomes a source of healing and connection. Your monthly support is what keeps that circle of care turning.

What's the one meal that always makes you feel at home?

Growing up in Oklahoma in a cattle-ranching family, my favorite meal remains a homegrown ribeye paired with a simple baked potato!

[Join Volunteer Corps Today](#)



Your Questions Answered **How Do We Know When a** **Community Can Feed Itself?**

When the Highway 82 Fire tore through Brantley County, Georgia, last month, WCK served 5,135 meals over eight days to community members, volunteers, and first responders.

How do we know when a community no longer needs our help? We never set an end date, but instead read the signs: teachers and students back in school, smoke clearing, roads reopening. When a community starts finding its footing, that's our cue. When we leave, we leave behind restaurant partners who can now cook thousands of meals at a time and relationships that last.

We show up to feed people, but those meals are just the beginning. The goal is a community that knows it can feed itself and that it's never alone.

As our team member Naomie Germain said:

"We come in ready to cook and feed people, but so many are already helping one another...the community is the real backbone."

Have questions about how we work or content you want included in this newsletter? [Email us with your questions, feedback, or topics you'd like to learn more about.](#)

With gratitude,
Lindsey