



## El Comedor de la Kennedy: A Place for Miracles

Presented by:



Chef Ivan Clemente firmly believes in miracles. The first one, he recounts, changed his life when he was barely a few days old. Son of a young addict, born in a women's prison, he was adopted by the prison chaplain and his wife. Only the miracle his parents asked for with so much faith was capable of saving the life of a terminally ill baby.

But that was just the first one. Chef Clemente claims that throughout his life and in each moment of need, miracles have occurred to allow him to continue fighting against hunger and social injustice.

"My parents were Methodists and they taught me to serve," he says, filled with pride and admiration for their exemplary lives. He has spent his entire life fighting against hunger and much of that work was done abroad, including the Amazon region." I helped build around 5,000 houses, schools, and hospitals in the Amazon. However, I didn't know that in Puerto Rico, in my country, people went hungry. Upon my return, I discovered that many did not have access to food and that those most affected were children and older adults," he states.

From that awakening, El Comedor de la Kennedy was born 10 years ago. It is a nonprofit entity focused on offering food to children and older adults. The COVID-19 crisis drove Chef Clemente

and his team to duplicate the number of weekly meals offered and, at the moment, they serve 2,000 children and 3,000 older adults. Not only do they prepare meals, they also provide groceries to supplement the needs of the populations they serve.

"People ask where does all this food come from. El Comedor is a place for miracles and they take place every day. This comes from the generosity of the many people that donate," claims the chef. "This comes from the people. This country is made up of good people that believe in kindness and caring." El Comedor also supports independent living retirement communities, retirement homes, and other institutions.

"El Comedor de la Kennedy has demonstrated its capacity to serve a growing population that lacks access to food, and we at Triple-S Foundation are proud to be able to support their mission," stated Ivelisse M. Fernández, Executive Director at the Triple-S Foundation.

When the impact of the work he carries out through his organization is mentioned, his answer is simple: "I'm only doing what others did for me."

For 10 years, El Comedor de la Kennedy has been meeting the food needs of children and older adults. The COVID-19 crisis has had such a huge impact on the food security of these groups that today it serves a population of 2,000 children and 3,000 seniors on a weekly basis.