



St. Francis Soup Kitchen

2008 Newsletter

All of us are looking at our community and at our own circumstances with a different outlook, since no one has escaped the impact of the economy's "melt-down". This is particularly true with the poorest in our neighborhoods who had no leeway to cut back.

We see it at the Soup Kitchen where our average weekly number of customers is more than 20% higher than last year.

The poor are really stretched; their prospects substantially diminished, and their need for a free hot meal, some free clothing, foot wear, canned goods, etc. has markedly increased.

This year we are on course to provide over 35,000 servings and an additional 3600 customers at the clothes closet. Through individual donations and by our qualification in the USDA's T.E.F.A.P. program, each week we distribute over 1200 pounds of canned goods and other non-perishables. Occasionally we are able to distribute hams and chickens and other meat products. One recent Saturday, we handed out over 740 pounds of chickens. Believe us that brought smiles!

St Francis Soup Kitchen continues its reach out through the efforts of many groups and individuals. Through increased efforts by our longstanding dedicated corps of volunteers, our extended community base and a wonderful weekly response, we've continued to be able to serve all comers.

These volunteers are a gift. It makes little difference the frequency, extent or nature of service provided, be it food preparation helpers, greeters, servers, janitors, busboys or girls, the individuals who volunteer are very special people. Sometimes, all they get is a shrug, or even some agitation. Most times they get the customers' appreciation. And, all the time, they get the prayers and gratitude of the Kitchen's coordinators!

This year we have had some extra-ordinary expenses, replacing the water heater, re-building a freezer unit, installing shelving, etc. but our basement operation is still above water, paying its bills on time, and meeting its obligations to the neediest segment of our community as a Catholic outreach.

Every Saturday morning before we open, the volunteers form a circle and we pray for each and every one involved in keeping the all-volunteer Kitchen operating; all our benefactors, those who help in a financial way, those who help gather the food and clothing, those who help prepare and those who help serve our less fortunate.

We thank each of you.
May God continue to bless you and your loved ones!

Peace,
Diane and Jim McVety
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