

# WHAT'S COOKING

AT HOLY APOSTLES SOUP KITCHEN

296 NINTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10001

[www.holyapostlesnyc.org](http://www.holyapostlesnyc.org)

FALL 2009

**OUR MISSION**  
 The mission of the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen is to feed the hungry, to comfort the afflicted, to seek justice for the homeless, and to counsel and provide a sense of hope and opportunity to those in need.

## The City's Largest Soup Kitchen Continues to Serve



<b>Number of Meals Served August 2008 to July 2009</b>	<b>335,238</b>
Number of Meals Served in Calendar Year 2008	330,115
Number of Meals Served in Calendar Year 2007	303,633
<b>Number of C&amp;R Sessions August 2008 to July 2009</b>	<b>8,233</b>
Number of C&R Sessions in Calendar Year 2008	6,892
Number of C&R Sessions in Calendar Year 2007	4,923
<b>Cost of Food Purchases August 2008 to July 2009</b>	<b>\$536,039</b>
Cost of Food Purchases in Calendar Year 2008	\$520,617
Cost of Food Purchases in Calendar Year 2007	\$444,069

Thanks to the support of kind friends, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen is managing to serve every hungry person who comes to our door despite the tremendous demand for our services. This is not the case for many other NYC Emergency Food Providers that have not been able to respond to all the increased need for their services.

Today, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen is facing many challenges, among them:

- Record numbers of people needing food and connections to social and medical services.
- Soaring operating costs.
- Reduced funding from various supporters that have been hurt by the recession.

We are taking important steps to ensure that we continue to operate as efficiently as possible. There is a tremendous amount



of work and a wide variety of skills required to maintain the exemplary program for which we are renowned. Our hard-working new Operations Manager, Michael Ottley, is doing a terrific job effectively managing a staff of 14. He replaced John Ruiz, who held this position for 15 years before his decision to retire.

With Michael's oversight of a new maintenance conservator, we are experiencing marked improvements in the care and maintenance of our facilities despite the additional stress and strain incurred by serving so many people. Our facilities are sparkling clean, day-to-day activities run smoothly, and we

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I first started my ministry at Holy Apostles, I vowed to take the time to share meals and chat with guests, staff, volunteers, and key supporters to explore ways for our Soup Kitchen to be an even greater vehicle for assisting struggling New Yorkers.

Through these ongoing conversations I have gained valuable perspectives from many individuals who are very engaged in the extraordinary work that goes on here. My intention is to use what I have learned to take a fresh look at our programs and enhance the ways we're helping people. The ultimate goal is to help our guests to get their lives back on track and move off the Soup Kitchen line.

HASK provides a remarkable sense of community for people who are isolated as a result of their unemployment status, their homelessness and other unfortunate situations. While our Soup Kitchen provides concrete assistance in the form of nutritious, life-saving meals and links to a wide range of social services, we also offer something less tangible but no less valuable – a sense of family and support through the interaction of guests, staff and volunteers.

Through nearly 27 years of service the Soup Kitchen has evolved into something so much greater than simply a place to eat – bringing people and resources together in an uplifting environment and providing “five-star” meals.

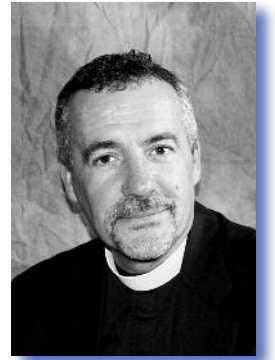
*The Soup Kitchen would not be in operation without your financial assistance.* For this we are very grateful, and we pray that your commitment to our life-saving work will remain strong.

It is painful to see the many new faces on the line as the ranks of unemployed New Yorkers continue to swell. And it is difficult to juggle expenses. But my hope is that our wonderful donors will continue to support our efforts, as you have so generously in the past.

Faithfully,



The Reverend Glenn B. Chalmers  
Executive Director



# A Creative Outlet for Soup Kitchen Guests

This spring marked the 15th year of the Holy Apostles Writers' Workshop. For eight weeks from late March through late May, the Workshop met two hours each week before culminating with the publication of an anthology of the participants' works, and a public reading.

Giving our Soup Kitchen guests the opportunity to express their emotions through creative means is a valuable adjunct to our feeding program and Counseling and Referrals services. We recruited participants primarily from the Soup Kitchen line. A few former Soup Kitchen guests and an occasional HASK volunteer also joined the group.

Reflecting perhaps the record numbers of Soup Kitchen guests, there were 30 workshop participants this year, which is about a dozen more than usual. We managed to accommodate the large number of people by spilling out of the narthex where we hold the classes.

Renowned author Ian Frazier began the Workshop in 1995 with a three-year grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation. The goal has always been to address our Soup Kitchen guests' needs and aspirations that go beyond immediate survival – giving this underserved community voice and expression. Instructors teach the craft of writing and allow participants to express their unique feelings.

The Workshop, the anthology and the



**Father Chalmers Welcomes Attendees of the Writers' Workshop Public Reading**

public reading demonstrate that people who are homeless, jobless and in crisis can produce high quality work despite the many challenges they face. Guests share their perspective and experiences, thereby opening the eyes of the general public to the plight of the poor. Everyone involved gains a sense of our shared humanity.

Several participants over the years have had their works published. The Workshop has been featured on national and local television and in newspapers. Founder Ian Frazier's noteworthy article about the Workshop and the Soup Kitchen was featured in the May 26, 2008 issue of *The New Yorker*. Another highlight was in 2004 when Seabury Books published *Food for the Soul*, an anthology of selections from the Workshop.

The 2009 Workshop included long-time instructors Ian Frazier, Susan Shapiro, Bob Blaisdell, and Alice H.G. Phillips, as well as more recent instructors Jackson Taylor and Pari Chang. Since 1998, the Writers' Workshop has been made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency. Among other major contributors to the 2009 Workshop were Bob Blaisdell, Susan Shapiro, the Kingsberg Foundation, and Barnes & Noble Greenwich Village.

If you wish to make a contribution directly to the Writers' Workshop, please send it to: Writers' Workshop, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen, 296 Ninth Avenue, New York, New York 10001.



**Operations Manager Michael Ottley's two decades of experience include positions as Executive Chef and Food and Beverage Manager for hotels and fine restaurants. He has a degree from the Culinary Institute of America and was recently the featured Executive Chef in "Culinary Edge."**

## Continues to Serve

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employ a reliable staff that always gets the job done. Michael is also developing excellent relationships with our many vendors to ensure that we are charged the lowest possible prices. This is critical, as the record demand for our services has caused an increase in operating expenses.

Among the exciting changes that Michael is undertaking is the expansion of our Soup Kitchen menu rotation. Presently, the meals we prepare generally

began to repeat within about three weeks. Michael is revamping the menu so that we have a wider variety that will take five weeks to repeat. He is also working on enhancing the meals without sacrificing nutrition, calories and balance. In view of his experience in fine restaurants, we anticipate some delicious changes.

**Our Soup Kitchen has consistently received a "4-star" rating from our hungry and homeless guests. With Michael at the helm, our meals will most likely achieve 5-star status among the thousands who dine here each week!**

# Summer Interns Provide Assistance and HOPE

As our Counseling and Referrals (C&R) services experienced unprecedented demand, HASK was very fortunate to have had excellent interns to assist us for much of the summer. During the 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. period when the C&R trailer was open, the interns talked with guests to assess their needs and then directed them to appropriate counselors and on-site services.

**John, who is from London, England, came to HASK through the Winant Clayton Volunteer Program, which often arranges summer volunteer opportunities in New York for Londoners, and in London for New Yorkers.** John was one of 12 Londoners in New York for the summer. He felt that because he was assigned to Holy Apostles, he was the luckiest. He found guests, staff and volunteers all to be warm and friendly, and was amazed from the first day at how professionally the Soup Kitchen operation is run.

**Julia is a native New Yorker and high school senior at Trinity School on the Upper West Side.** After our great success last year with a Trinity student intern, we were very pleased to have another Trinity high school student join us. Julia was thrilled to be able to assist our guests. She felt fulfilled by the experience and plans to return in the future to volunteer.

**Alysia, who is from Atlanta, graduated in May from Sewanee, The University of the South, in Tennessee.** She selected Holy Apostles from among a list of participating parishes where internships are made available by a Lilly Foundation program developed to attract students to the ordained ministry and to vocations that embrace service as a way of life. We have been a popular choice among students from Sewanee in recent years. For Alysia, a highlight of her work was a small poetry workshop that she organized and held primarily for Soup Kitchen guests. It was a first-time



**Summer Interns (from left to right): John, Julia and Alysia, outside the C&R Services Trailer with Counseling Assistant Jackie.**

experience for most of the 10 participants. Everyone agreed that the sessions were valuable and productive.

**In addition to the three interns, Jules, a General Theological Seminary (GTS) student, assisted us two days a week.** He helped primarily with updating our referrals information folders and our "Street Sheet" which lists other services in Manhattan and vital information such as where they are located and when they are available. From an idea long in the works here at Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen, Jules arranged a collaboration with GTS,

which is just down the block from us, that allowed two of our Soup Kitchen guests to wash their clothes there one day a week at no cost. Insofar as this is a huge issue for our homeless guests in particular, HASK hopes to expand this program in the future.

We are most grateful for the volunteer spirit and assistance provided by the interns, and we wish them well in school and in their careers. We also thank The New York University Community Fund and its contributing employees for helping to fund a portion of the cost for our summer interns.

## Typical Needs Addressed by HASK Counselors

- Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation / Permanent Housing / Shelter
- Clothing / Medical Care / Social Security Benefits / Public Assistance
- Food Stamps / Additional Food Services / Employment / Photo Identifications
- Haircut Referrals / Shower Referrals / Food Pantry Referrals