

WHAT'S COOKING

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.

AT HOLY APOSTLES SOUP KITCHEN

296 NINTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10001

www.holyapostlesnyc.org

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A Beacon of Light and Hope

As the lines grow longer, our commitment grows stronger.

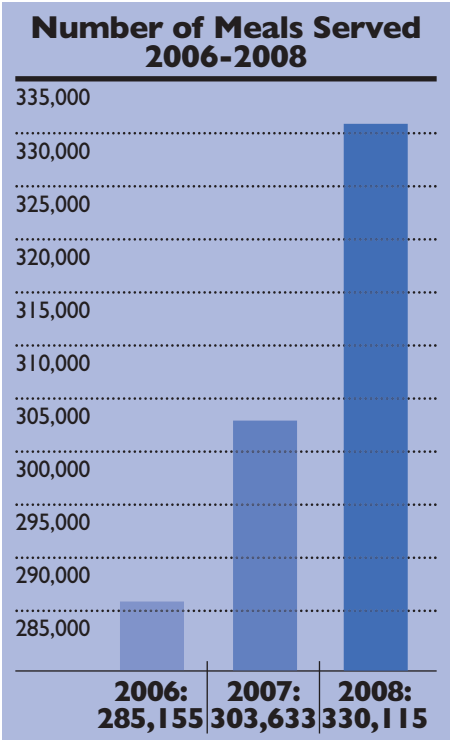


As NYC suffers from an avalanche of job losses and budget cuts, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen remains a beacon of light and hope to thousands of destitute people. Each weekday, we provide New York's poorest citizens with hot, nourishing meals and links to a wide range of social, medical and rehabilitative services.

For 26 years — in good times and bad — our Soup Kitchen managed to serve every person who came to our door for food and other assistance. Thanks to the support of kind friends, we have been able to conduct our essential humanitarian work despite the severe economic downturn that began in earnest in the fourth quarter of 2008. Our ever-dedicated staff and volunteers are also paramount in enabling us to provide the high quality services that have always been our hallmark. Our wonderful volunteers gave a record 59,140 service hours in 2008 (you can learn more about them on page four of this newsletter).

With the economy in such bad shape, it was no surprise when we began the New Year serving record numbers of people. Our expenses are at unprecedented levels

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LETTER FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The current economic climate is unlike anything that many of us have ever experienced. Last fall, job losses began to mount and a deep recession set in.

HASK, like other charities, braced for a reduction in funding. We were especially worried because well before the financial crisis began, we had been seeing steadily increasing numbers of guests coming to our door – while at the same time the Soup Kitchen's operating costs rose to new levels.

As we have seen time and time again, our donors came through for us when we needed it most. It is uplifting to witness your steadfast financial assistance that enables our very existence. All at the Soup Kitchen understand that your ability to help fund our efforts may now be diminished by the economic crisis and the shrinking of your investment portfolios. But we ask that you continue to make your support of our life-saving work a priority.

The hard fact is that New York City and our poorest neighbors are reeling from the impact of the recession. We are seeing many more new faces on our Soup Kitchen line as unemployment and layoffs continue to rise. As businesses throughout the metro area are trimming expenses or closing, many service industries are cutting back staff that include lower-paid workers. Without a paycheck and with no savings to fall back on, these individuals cannot afford to feed themselves and pay rent at the same time.

Please send a donation to our Soup Kitchen if you are in a position to do so. The growing numbers of guests we serve do not have investments or bank accounts. Many of them have nothing, or next to nothing. You can help assure that they do not go hungry.

Thank you for helping us to weather this crisis. I pray that your personal economic situation has remained relatively intact, and I bless you for your kindness and generosity.



Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Maxwell". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Reverend Elizabeth G. Maxwell
Interim Executive Director

100th Birthday Celebration at HASK

We wish to give special recognition to HASK's oldest guest, Crisante Torres. He recently turned 100 years old and we baked him a delicious cake for the occasion.

Crisante has been coming to Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen for about 10 years. He lives in the neighborhood and comes primarily for our meals. The new owner of the rent-controlled building where he resides is seeking to raise his rent significantly beyond his ability to pay. We therefore arranged for Crisante to speak to representatives from Urban Justice, which provides free legal services at HASK one day a week. We are continuing to monitor his progress.

Although feeding the hungry is our primary mission, we continue to reach out in other ways to help our guests – especially the frail elderly. An illness, assault, robbery, rough weather, or any such calamity can affect their tenuous hold on survival. Our counseling staff and volunteers are especially sensitive to the unique challenges faced by our senior guests – keeping a close watch on their situation and offering constant comfort and referrals to agencies that provide additional food, housing, medical and/or legal assistance, etc.



Crisante was delighted when we celebrated his birthday with a freshly-baked cake.

Making Spirits Bright

The holiday season is always a heartwarming time at HASK. We serve a traditional holiday meal on Thanksgiving Day and also offer a bountiful Christmas Eve meal. We adorn the church nave with seasonal greenery from early December through



Three Kings Day. We are fortunate to have the kind support of many volunteers as well as special donations that help make the season brighter for our Soup Kitchen guests.

Jason's Catering provided the Thanksgiving meal at no cost to HASK. Former volunteer Henry Pennell gave a gift to help pay for desserts and other seasonal needs. The New York Altar Guild covered the cost of Christmas flowers. VK Direct, Inc., Joey Lombardozzi, and Blair and Julie Jarvis provided or helped pay for the gifts that we dispensed during the Christmas season. We distributed hats, gloves, socks, and scarves to help keep our guests warm during the harsh winter months.

We are most grateful for these gifts as well as for the many kind friends who responded to our Thanksgiving and holiday fundraising appeals. The donations you sent were as inspiring as the paper place mats on which you wrote messages expressing kind sentiments and good wishes to our guests.

At a time of year when most Americans are occupied with family and friends, we are so grateful for your caring generosity. Thank you for helping those who have so little and in many cases no one with whom to celebrate this joyous time of the year.

A Beacon of Light

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as well. The general consensus is that the tremendous upheaval we have seen in our economy may get worse before it gets better. Turning the corner will likely not happen this year, so we must brace to meet the challenge by appealing to our supporters and friends for additional support.

Our expenses are soaring just as we are trying to respond to the increase in demand. Our cost for purchased food last year was \$30,000 more than in 2007 and nearly \$100,000 higher than in 2006. These increases were due not only to the rise in the numbers of meals served, but also to the continuing need since the fall of 2007 to buy huge quantities of food on the open market to make up for severe shortages at the Food Bank For New York City. Previously we received food allotments from the

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HASK Volunteers: A Dedicated and Diverse Group

Volunteers have always been crucial to our services. Their support, dedication and energy are the key to our ability to serve record numbers of meals and to hold record numbers of counseling and referrals sessions for our growing numbers of guests.

In 2008, the total service hours provided by our volunteers were an astounding 59,140! We held 7,411 counseling and referrals sessions. An average of 53 volunteers were on hand every weekday, up substantially from just a few years ago. Our retention rate for volunteers ranks among the highest of any non-profit organization. We also have various school and corporate groups participating on more than 60% of serving days.

One of our volunteers, Bob Kivelson, conducted a survey of volunteers. We now have an interesting profile to share with you. The findings are based on the responses of 96 regular volunteers who completed Bob's questionnaire.

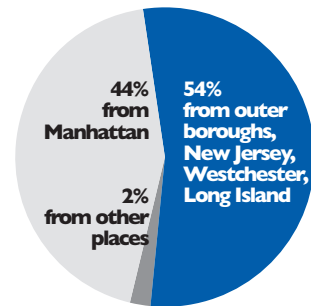


The survey revealed that almost half of our volunteers are from Manhattan and a slight majority is from the outer boroughs and suburbs. While 44% of volunteers helped us more than once a week, 8% assisted HASK every weekday. More than half have been volunteering at HASK for at least six years and just under a third have been here for more than 10 years.

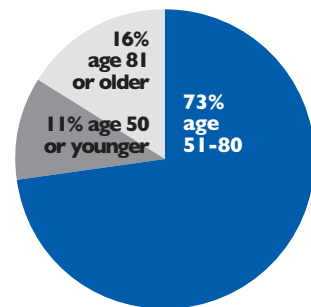
Not surprisingly, most volunteers are retired; 16% are age 81 or older! Married persons accounted for 30%, widowed 14% and those in domestic partnerships 5%. Single or divorced volunteers were 49%. There was a split of 41% to 59% in men versus women respectively.

There was a wide range of religious beliefs with Catholics the largest group.

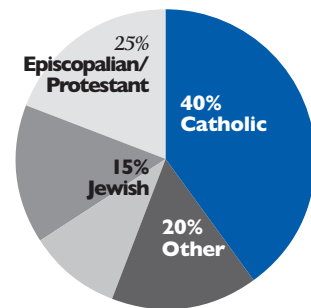
In their interactions with guests, all of our volunteers are sensitive, caring and always willing to lend a sympathetic ear. The respect they show to our guests nourishes their souls just as our food nourishes their bodies. We salute and thank our treasured volunteers.



Our volunteers travel from all over...



They are different ages...



and different religions.



Clyde Kuemmerle, our Associate Program Director, reviews Soup Kitchen assignments with volunteers.

A Beacon of Light

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Food Bank for essentially the handling charge. Because of the shortages at the Food Bank, many NYC emergency food providers (soup kitchens and food pantries) have not been able to feed

everyone coming to their doors. As a result, even more people are turning to Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen.

As the lines grow longer, our commitment grows stronger. Our vow to be here for all who need us will not be shaken. Our faith is sustained by the outpouring of support from kind friends,

the gratitude of our hungry and homeless guests, and the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers. In this time of historic economic challenges, we thank you for all that you do to help and we request your continued generosity and commitment.