

WHAT'S COOKING

AT HOLY APOSTLES SOUP KITCHEN

296 NINTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10001

www.holyapostlesnyc.org

FALL 2007 • VOL. XII, NO. 2

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.

HASK TO MARK 25TH ANNIVERSARY



On October 22, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen will mark its 25th anniversary of serving our city's homeless and hungry citizens. By that time, we will have served over 6 million meals! We marvel at these numbers, but are saddened that there has been such tremendous need. At the same time, we are grateful that for these two and a half decades we have been able to provide such an astounding amount of help to the multitude of people struggling with hunger each day. The dedication and commitment of our staff, volunteers, Church of the Holy Apostles congregation

and vestry, and our many benefactors have made our life-saving work possible. We commend and thank you so very much at this special time in our history for all that you have done.

We see our anniversary as a symbol of hope and caring for our poorest neighbors. As befits the occasion, Mayor Bloomberg is proclaiming October 22 "Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen Day" in New York City. We have planned special events in observance of this day. We are inviting supporters, special friends and

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen, I am proud to say that I have been with HASK for 24 of its 25 years of service to our city's poorest people. I was the Program Director in my first year and became the Executive Director a year later when I succeeded Father Rand Frew as the Rector of the Church of the Holy Apostles. I never imagined that the need for emergency meals would escalate so dramatically over the years since I arrived here. In 2007 through the end of August (the most recent figures available), we served an average of 1,152 meals each weekday, more than ever in our history for this eight-month span!



As we mark our 25th anniversary and I look back over my many years at the Soup Kitchen, I am saddened by the extent of need there has been in our city. This is despite the increased growth in Emergency Food Providers (food pantries and soup kitchens like HASK) to more than 1,200 today as compared to fewer than 800 in 1994 and only 30-50 in 1980. Even so, the number of EFPs today is insufficient to keep up with the need. HASK has been able to keep up with the ever-growing demand, thanks to the support that you and our family of staff, volunteers and parishioners give so caringly and generously.

You make certain that we survive. I have been overwhelmed with gratitude at your dedication, commitment and generosity, particularly when we asked you to dig deeper if possible. We needed more and you gave more when the 1990 conflagration nearly destroyed the church and HASK; when the change in welfare laws in the mid-1990's resulted in a huge increase in the number of people going hungry and in need of our help; when the tragedy of 9/11 resulted in our lines swelling with hundreds of low-wage and undocumented workers who lost their jobs when their places of employment were destroyed or forced to close because of the incredible destruction of and around the Twin Towers. You helped us get through blackouts, blizzards, and economic downturns ... through the hardest times and despite financial challenges.

Unfortunately, our government policies often do not fully reflect the belief that our poorest neighbors deserve assistance with life's most basic and essential needs. Therefore, in this our 25th year, I hope that you can and will once again give a gift from your heart to assure the survival of our most desperate neighbors. On this very special occasion, I ask that you again dig a little deeper and make an extra generous gift not only to honor and support our important work, but also to help secure our future.

On behalf of the entire HASK family of staff, volunteers and especially the Soup Kitchen guests, we thank you again from the bottom of our hearts for your years of dedication and steadfast commitment to our important mission.

God bless you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Greenlaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

The Reverend William A. Greenlaw
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS IN HASK HISTORY



1982 Soup Kitchen opens in October and serves 35 meals

1986 Counseling and Referrals services begin

1988 **One millionth meal served**

1990 Church of the Holy Apostles severely damaged in fire; Soup Kitchen continues to serve

1992 **Two millionth meal served**

1994 Beautifully restored nave of the Church of the Holy Apostles becomes dining area for Soup Kitchen guests

1996 **Three millionth meal served**

2000 **Four millionth meal served**

2004 **Five millionth meal served**; Soup Kitchen serves a record 296,505 meals in one year

2007 **Six millionth meal served**

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political leaders to join us for a continental breakfast and to serve as volunteers at HASK the morning of October 22nd as a way to publicize both the ongoing hunger crisis across the country and the remarkable work of the Soup Kitchen. We are also inviting extensive media coverage in order to give our prominent leaders the opportunity to speak to the press about our specific program and the ongoing reality of hunger and poverty in our nation.

We are holding a benefit reception that evening from 6-8 p.m. in the nave of the Church of the Holy Apostles. The reception will not only mark the occasion, but also will thank and honor

friends who have provided exceptional support. Those honorees are: The Rhodebeck Charitable Trust, The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, The Right Reverend E. Don Taylor (Vicar Bishop for New York City of the Diocese of New York of the Episcopal Church), The Venerable Archdeacon Michael Kendall (Diocese of New York), The Reverend Randolph Frew (founder of the Soup Kitchen), Trinity Church, St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, NYS Assembly Member Dick Gottfried, Christabel Gough, writer Ian Frazier (founder of the HASK Writers' Workshop), and actress Susan Sarandon, who is unable to attend.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our many friends who contributed in so many ways through the years. Your caring and generosity have sustained our important program for these 25 years. With your continued support, we can look to a future where we remain a center of help and hope for our poorest neighbors, as long as the need persists.

HASK Receives Important State Award

On July 31, the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen received the “2007 Best Practice Award” from the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program of the New York State Department of Health (HPNAP). The award was in recognition of HASK’s valuable contributions in promoting “Healthy Food for Hungry People.”

Shown right are: Lewis H. Clarke, associate director of the Bureau of Nutrition Risk Reduction, New York State Department of Health, the Reverend Elizabeth Maxwell, who accepted the award on behalf of HASK, and Olivia Chan, nutritionist/contract manager with HPNAP.



A Poem by a HASK Volunteer

The following poem was written by Rose Aranoff. An Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, Rose has been volunteering at HASK for 19 years. As someone who has seen the Soup Kitchen grow from serving a few hundred meals a day in her early years to serving the record numbers we are seeing these days, Rose is eminently qualified to write about our guests. She wrote the poem below in a poetry class at a local senior citizens’ center. (Based on “Howl” by Allen Ginsberg)

THEY

They line up early for a hot meal
 (Some even attend morning prayers for “food
 for the soul”,
 and a light breakfast, too)
 They bring their belongings
 in bags and carts – it’s all
 They have and they guard them
 with their lives.
 They go from one soup kitchen to another
 for a meal.
 They sleep in “shelters” or cardboard boxes,
 or in a nook on the sidewalk – in all seasons.
 They are on the bottom rung of the ladder
 and most can’t see the top.
 They are the forgotten – the throwaways.
 They can’t sit or rest on benches in the
 stations – anymore –
 they’re slotted for discomfort.

They are eyesores to many, not people
 without homes.
 They are the discarded from the “system.”
 They are the jobless, homeless,
 helpless, hopeless.
 They have once been “somebody,”
 professionals, workers, self-employed until
 fate dealt them a whopper – an accident,
 a loss of job, health, family.
 They were once veterans from one of our
 endless, useless wars.
 They are the discharged from hospitals, without
 further treatment for body and mind.
 They are the “lucky” survivors –
 WE still have the snake pits and the wars –
 nothing has changed.

