



BREAD AND ROSES

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More than soup... AT THE SOUP KITCHEN

A small group of individuals connected with Yale Divinity School recently opened the Community Soup Kitchen in New Haven. The group was concerned about the lack of a centralized free meal service in the downtown area. With donations of food from local churches, schools and businesses, volunteers began serving one free meal a week last November at the Salvation Army building. With the assistance of a Yale Divinity School intern and support from the community, the Soup Kitchen expanded to a second serving day each week in February. With more volunteers, donations, and funds from the Walk Against Hunger a third serving day was added in August.

The Community Soup Kitchen presently serves meals every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12:00 to 1:30 in the parish hall of Christ Church Episcopal at 84 Broadway. The meals consist of a hearty soup, bread, peanut butter, coffee, tea, and an occasional dessert. The service is coordinated by a VISTA volunteer sponsored by Dwight Hall (the YMCA chapter affiliated with Yale University). Twenty volunteers, both students and townspeople, help with the program. They serve 45 to 65 individuals at each meal; families in crisis, runaway adolescents, alcoholics, indigents and unemployed men and women.

Although the primary aim of the Soup Kitchen has always been to provide free meals for those in need, it has quickly outgrown its initial realm of responsibility. Concerned volunteers have created a caring and pleasant atmosphere during the meals.

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Local Politicians and Hunger

In recent interviews local politicians expressed varying degrees of concern for hungry people in Connecticut. The New Haven chapter of Bread For the World, a Christian citizens' movement, conducted the interviews.

Some officials, such as Democratic State Senator Joseph Lieberman, Senate Majority Leader, said that they felt the state should take a major role in combating domestic hunger. Lieberman said, "I have consistently worked for increases in the levels of assistance that the state provides to those who cannot work. I intend to do so again during the next session."

Other legislators and candidates affirmed the goal of eradicating hunger in the state. These include Democrat Regina Smith (Senate District 12), Democrat Pasquale Barbato (Senate District 35), and Republican Lawrence DeNardio (Senate District 34). Three candidates spoke out against the state taking a significant role in fighting domestic hunger: Senatorial candidate Barbara Reimers (12th district), House of Representatives candidate Paul Karbowski (99th district) and House candidate Michael Kraskowski (85th district). Karbowski said of aid to the hungry: "No, it is the responsibility of the Federal government."

Senator DeNardio said that he introduced a bill to establish an emergency food commission. Senator Lieberman described his efforts to coordinate aid through the Commission of the State Department of Health.

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COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN (continued from page 1)

Several participants have found the encouragement needed to attend AA meetings, to call for job interviews, to seek counseling, and to find better housing. Many who come regularly to eat help with the meal preparation and clean-up. Several helped to plant and maintain the garden plot on Ashmund Street donated by the Dixwell Community House. The Soup Kitchen is a place where the hungry, the lonely and the outcast can find a meal and companionship. It is a place where people feel wanted.

The Soup Kitchen often needs food or money with which to buy items that are not donated. Additional dishes and appliances will be needed as the service expands. Left-overs from group dinners are greatly appreciated, as well as food that is prepared at home. In order to begin serving five days a week, the Community Soup Kitchen needs more volunteers. Interested individuals may call Diane Welborn at 436-1480 or 624-2688.

- Diane Welborn

POLITICIANS ON HUNGER (continued from page 1)

The Rev. Bob Forsberg serves as local coordinator of Bread For the World. Rev. Forsberg, in addressing the need for citizens to be aware of the policies of their elected officials said: "One vote by your elected officials could create policies that would ruin church and individual efforts toward hunger relief. On the other hand, one helpful vote can multiply private efforts a thousand fold."

- Paul Wood

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* What happened to the Nestle boycott? Has
* Nestle changed its ways, or are infants still
* dying because of Nestle's advertising practices?
* Was Nestle ever really responsible?
* Bread and Roses attempts to answer these
* questions in its next issue, coming out in mid-
* November.
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