

THE NEW HAVEN FOUNDATION - PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

1. Name of Organization.

The Community Soup Kitchen

2. Address and telephone number.

c/o Dwight Hall
P.O. Box 404A Yale Station
New Haven, Connecticut 06520
(203) 436-1480

3. President of Governing Body.

Henry B. Freeman

4. Chief Administrative Officer.

Diane D. Welborn

5. Name and title of person making request.

Diane D. Welborn, Coordinator

6. How many years has this organization been operating?

The Community Soup Kitchen opened in November of 1977.

7. Background of organization if new or recently formed. (purpose and brief history)

The Community Soup Kitchen was formed in order to meet the personal needs of the indigent, homeless, hungry, and alcoholic persons in New Haven. There was no free meal service or centralized referral service so that these individuals did not receive help. With donations of food from local churches, one school and a few businesses, a small group of volunteers began serving one free meal each week in November of 1977 in the kitchen donated by the Salvation Army. Additional volunteers and donations of food enabled this small group to add a second serving day each week in February of 1978.

A Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) sponsored by Dwight Hall of Yale University began working full-time to coordinate the Soup Kitchen in July of 1978. Also in July the Soup Kitchen moved to its present location in the parish kitchen and dining hall of Christ Church Episcopal. As more volunteers joined and more donations were received, the Soup Kitchen was able to add a third serving day each week in August, a fourth in November, and a fifth in February 1979.

Although the primary aim of the Soup Kitchen has always been to provide free meals to those in need, it has quickly outgrown its initial realm of responsibility. Concerned volunteers have created a pleasant and caring atmosphere during the meals. Several participants have found the encouragement needed to attend AA meetings, to seek counseling, to call for job interviews, and to find better housing. Those who come to eat regularly help with the meal preparation and clean-up. The Soup Kitchen is a place where the hungry, the lonely and the outcast can find a meal and companionship.

8. Is this organization tax exempt? Does this organization have a 501(c)3 listing with the IRS?

The Community Soup Kitchen has now completed the application to become a tax exempt organization. The organization is presently operating under the auspices of Dwight Hall and uses the number EC103.

II. If the request is for program/service activities answer the following:

- (a) Summarize the program/service being proposed. Whom will it benefit and how?

The Soup Kitchen is looking forward to expanding the service in order to offer free noon meals six days each week. Presently 350 to 400 individuals are being served each week: families in crisis, runaway adolescents, alcoholics, indigents, unemployed men and women, psychologically and emotionally disturbed individuals, and elderly citizens. These individuals are served a nutritious meal consisting of soup or stew, bread, margarine, peanut butter, coffee, tea, and desert. Take out meals are available, and clothing is distributed. Concerned volunteers offer informal counseling, referral for employment, housing, counseling and alcohol treatment, or just a sympathetic ear. Most who come to eat participate in preparing the meals, cleaning up, working in the Soup Kitchen garden, and even helping with fundraising events. More than 20 walked 15 miles in the 1979 Walk Against Hunger.

- (b) Why is it needed and how was the need determined?

The need was partially determined by a year-long study conducted by Dwight Hall in 1977 and 1978 regarding the services available for alcoholic and indigent persons in New Haven. (Please see attached list for agencies contacted.) This study revealed a severe lack of services for the homeless, indigent, alcoholic population of New Haven. In January of 1978 the Downtown Cooperative Ministry formed a sub-committee to investigate founding a soup kitchen in New Haven. In March of 1978 this committee enthusiastically endorsed the Community Soup Kitchen.

- (c) How much will it cost? (Give a rough budget.)

The Soup Kitchen will need \$15,200 in order to operate next year. A salary of \$8,000 will be needed for the coordinator, and the rest of the funds will be used to purchase bulk wholesale food. It will always be a primary emphasis of the Soup Kitchen to involve the community in the support of the service through food drives at churches, schools and businesses.

- (d) Amount requested from the Foundation.

\$6,000

- (e) Is this an undertaking of the applicant alone or will there be other agencies in the community or elsewhere involved? Explain briefly.

There is a very broad range of support for the Soup Kitchen already. In only one year there have been donations from over 40 churches, 300 individuals, many businesses and schools. Over 35 volunteers dedicate their time to meeting the needs of the population served. These volunteers represent many parts of the New Haven community: churches, businesses, schools, retired citizens, ex-patients from psychiatric facilities, clergy, unemployed individuals, and the indigents themselves. Volunteers range from a 40 year old retarded man to one of Bartlett Giamatti's secretaries. Donations include \$6.00 collected by the 4th grade class at Sacred Heart, a turkey from a welfare family at Christmas, and funds from the New Haven