

TO: Allie Perry, Hunger Walk Committee

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SOUP KITCHEN

1/23/78

The soup kitchen is currently the only place in New Haven where free meals are served to needy people in the community on a regular basis. It was opened in mid-November, offering a hot meal on Saturday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Salvation Army Building at 679 Chapel St. On the average 10-15 people are served each week. This is expected to increase as the service becomes better known in the community through word of mouth, posters in public places, and referrals from a number of community agencies.

The kitchen and diningroom facilities have been made available rent-free, and the operation has been run thus far by a core group of four Divinity School couples. Recently a number of other people in the Yale community have expressed a desire to volunteer their time. Food for the first several months has come mainly from three sources: a \$100 grant from Dwight Hall, a sizeable supply of dried and canned goods collected in a food drive at a Hamden ^{private} elementary school, and some fresh food donated from week to week by individuals. Current supplies are expected to last about 4-6 weeks.

A typical meal consists of a hot soup or stew based on dried beans or meat, vegetables, bread and butter, and coffee and tea. When possible,

or canned fruit, and peanut butter or tuna for sandwiches.

A recent development is that a YDS student has received a work-study grant from Dwight Hall to spend 15 hours a week directing and developing the soup kitchen. Two of the things he hopes to do are to expand the soup kitchen to two nights a week, and to establish contacts with local stores and churches as sources of food, funds, and volunteers.

Clearly at this point there are a number of undetermined or shifting variables which make it difficult to determine precisely what the funding needs and resources will be in the near future. However, based on a rough estimate of the cost per week to feed 15 people at \$5-10, we submit a request to the Hunger Walk committee for \$100-200, which would sustain the service for five to ten weeks approximately.

Sincerely,
Meg Sewell