

BREAD AND BOARD



The NSK & S Newsletter.....www.nsk.org

The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization providing meals, emergency shelter, transitional & permanent housing, food baskets and advocacy to poor and homeless men, women and families with children. The soup kitchen, at 42 Chestnut Street, serves dinner seven days a week and breakfast five days a week. Our philosophy:

No one should be hungry or homeless in our community.

WINTER 2011

WAY MORE THAN SOUP

The number of hungry faces we see and serve continues to climb. The most striking statistic is that in December of 2009 we served 4,202 meals; this past December we served 6,063 – an increase of 44%. We have extended our dinner hour by 30 minutes to accommodate all the new diners we are serving. Many are families, many are young, and many have never been to a soup kitchen before. NSKS is the lifeline that staves off hunger in our community.

“EMPTY BOWLS” IS BACK

Join us for “Empty Bowls” on February 23rd. Tickets are \$12 and are available at our office or at Nashua High School South. Soup, pottery bowl, music, and silent auction. www.nsk.org

AUCTION THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who sponsored, put an ad in our program, donated items, volunteered, served on the committee, attended, and gave so generously that evening. This was our most

successful event ever. Your generosity raised over \$144,000 to support our services.

IN MEMORY OF LEE MCCORD

Lee McCord will be missed by staff, volunteers and diners at the Nashua Soup Kitchen. Lee has a long history of helping those in need at the soup kitchen and in our community. He was involved with the agency long before I came and I have been here almost 22 years. Lee had many roles, including long time volunteer, serving meals, serving on the Board of Directors, and also being on staff for a few years. Lee and his wife Dorothy served holiday meals for many years in the kitchen, until it became too much for him. Lee was known for his compassion and non-judgmental ways with everyone. When anyone came into the kitchen needing something and Lee could provide it, he did. Rest in peace Lee, we will continue your legacy here.

- Lisa Christie, executive director

ADVOCACY COLUMN

Housing Action NH, a coalition of groups who work with low income persons who need a place to live that is affordable and safe, met recently in Nashua. Representatives from shelters, religious groups, housing providers, and others discussed how to meet the need. Good conversation ensued, in particular with staff from the offices of Senator Ayotte, Congressman. Bass, and Senator Shaheen. Some indicated housing was the # 1 issue for constituent calls, whether it be homelessness, foreclosure, or rent issues.

Financial resources for filling the gap in affordable housing is one of many solutions. Others include spreading the word and concern about the needs of struggling people in this economy who are employed but not able to afford rent. Tell people about your interest in assisting hungry and homeless people; much of their pain is hidden in our society. Few people want to admit how hard it is for them now, when it used to be easier.

Congress and our state representatives will be addressing many issues that affect housing. Please contact them and let them know you support safe and affordable housing. Please go to our website, www.nsk.org and check the Advocacy section for ongoing information or call Eileen Brady at NSK&S, 889-7770. - E. Brady

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Everyone should have somewhere to go, even if it’s here” – a diner said during our meal in the soup kitchen on Thanksgiving. Hearing that reminded me that in addition to making sure that no one is hungry, we also serve as “family” to the most disenfranchised in our community.

Sometimes we get caught up in numbers and statistics of how many meals we serve, nights of shelter we provide, food baskets we give out, and so forth. It is easy to focus on those things because it is harder and more painful to think about the people who have nowhere to go on a holiday and come to the soup kitchen because along with their meal they know they will find volunteers and staff who care about them and welcome them as soon as they walk in the door. Whether it is the single dad with two little children, the elderly woman living on a small fixed income, the man who struggles with mental health issues, or the woman who is battling

addiction, the soup kitchen is Home on the holidays and every day for many who come here.
- Lisa Christie

VOLUNTEERS HONORED

Congratulations to these very special volunteers and supporters recognized at our Annual Auction in November:

Unsung Hero: **Joanne Gaudette**
Outstanding Community Leader: **Temple Beth Abraham**
Outstanding Corporate Citizen: **Crowne Plaza**

18th ANNUAL RUN FOR FOOD & SHELTER - Sponsored by Subaru of Nashua

Sunday, April 10th is our annual 5K and 10K runs, 3K Walk, and Kid’s Sprint. New courses this year from Rivier College. Great food, youth categories for medals and student pricing. Check our website at www.nsk.org for details. Register soon – tech tee shirts to the first 300.

Sponsors as of this printing include: Nashua Police Patrolman’s Association – Kids Sprint; Apple Therapy Nashua; beckonings; JR Poirier Tool and Machine; Kalil & Kress Family Dentistry; Ruo & Haschig Realty, Inc; Smith-Weiss Shepard, PC ; St. Joseph Hospital; Tamposi-Nash Real Estate; and Unity Construction.

SEEKING CORPORATE RACE SPONSORS

If you would like to see your company listed on our t-shirts, website, etc. please call 889-7770 or email carol@nsk.org. All proceeds support the programs and services of the NSK&S.

SAVE THE DATE

Our 11th Annual Auction will be **Sat, November 19**, at Sky Meadow Country Club.

Please remember your donations support our work and allow us to feed and shelter those in need. Please give as generously as you are able so we can continue to help the families who come to us in order to survive.



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