

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 2010

KIDS LEAD THE WAY

In October my granddaughter, Ruby, turned six. At her birthday party she opened a gift, looked at her mom and said, "I already have this." It was a cool rainbow light that would cast a rainbow on your child's bedroom wall or ceiling. Her mom said they could probably exchange it. Then we told her about the "birthday room" at the soup kitchen. (Toys we collect all year to give to parents who come to us when their child has a birthday and they have no money for gifts). We said she could donate her toy if she wanted to, so another child who didn't have birthday gifts could have it. Ruby got a big smile on her face and said, "I want to do that."

When we gave out the Thanksgiving food baskets I was talking to a mom with a small boy picking up their turkey for the holiday. She told me that he had gotten \$10 for his birthday and had donated it to an international relief program when he found out he could buy a chicken that would

lay eggs for a village and save children there from starvation. I was struck by the generosity of this child in a family who needs to come to the soup kitchen for food but had been taught to care about kids across the world being hungry.

In December we had a visit from a very special 6 year old. Christmas was coming but first it was his birthday. He had gotten so many presents from his parents, grandparents, step-parents and other family members, he said he wanted to share with kids who wouldn't get presents for their birthdays. So he brought them in and donated them to our "birthday room." Then his mom told us his older sister had been doing the same thing on her birthday since she was three.

"EMPTY BOWLS" IS BACK

Join us for "Empty Bowls" on February 17th. 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



NASHUA
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& SHELTER, INC.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am going to share a note I received from one of our auction dinner guests after the event.

We met the family from Kenya when we attended the Nashua Soup Kitchens auction. They were benefiting from housing support from the shelter and Jairuss (the father) testified about the generous support they had received when they arrived from Kenya as financial refugees just after Christmas last year. We shared a table together so we had an opportunity to meet Jairus, his wife and and their three charming kids over the auction dinner.

The event was held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and we had planned to have our Thanksgiving dinner on the following Sunday as we would be away for the holiday. It wasn't going to be anything huge this year, just half a dozen or so immediate family. I have no idea why I did this...but a few days before I bought a 22lb turkey. That meant we would be eating cold turkey for the foreseeable future. As we chatted with the family from Kenya I had a flash of inspiration that would solve our turkey problem and allow us to share an altogether larger and more interesting holiday meal. We insisted that Jairus, Teresia and their children join us for our Pre-Thanksgiving lunch.

Sunday dawned cold and bright and our guests arrived. What was probably going to be a quiet meal much like any other turned into a fascinating multi-cultural encounter between families separated by half a world. The entire family was charming, the kids are so well behaved and respectful...it was quite humbling. I'm also a first generation immigrant to the US. I arrived with my family back in 1996 but our arrivals could hardly have been more different. I was lucky enough to be relocated by my hi-tech employer so we enjoyed a soft landing in the US...radically different to the one experienced by this family.

As the meal progressed we shared stories and laughed an enormous amount. Our huge turkey was the perfect size for the occasion. At the end of the meal our guests asked us to stand with them and join hands. I was raised Episcopalian and as a Brit I'm inherently uncomfortable around enthusiastic displays of any kind of emotion...or religion. Our African guests are from a quite different tradition; one of vigorous and effusive display of affection and religious

expression. In short they blessed us...it wasn't a quick 'thanks God for the decent food' they blessed us for bringing them into our family and sharing with them. They said that although they could give us nothing in return they asked, indeed required that God bring his light into our lives...it was heady stuff. I don't think I've ever been so thoroughly and comprehensively blessed. Eventually our new friends left into the gathering dark of a New England winter evening, leaving a warm African glow behind them. We are looking forward to having them in our lives for a long time to come.

- Tim Judd, Nashua, NH

17th ANNUAL RUN FOR FOOD & SHELTER

Sunday, April 11th is our annual 5K and 10K run, 3KWalk, and Kid's Sprint. Our 10K race will be the first in the NH Grand Prix Series. We have new youth categories for medals and youth pricing. Check our website at www.nsk.org for details. Register soon – tech shirts to the first 300 entries.

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.

VOLUNTEERS HONORED

Congratulations to these special volunteers and supporters recognized at our Annual Dinner Auction in November.

Unsung Hero: John Fisher
Outstanding Volunteer Group: First Church
Outstanding Corporate Citizen: Dan Enxing, President, Subaru of Nashua

SAVE THE DATE

Our 10th Annual Dinner Auction is **Saturday, November 20**, 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.