



CENTERPEACE

News from the Asbury Dining & Caring Center • Fall 2014

Opportunities for You to Get Involved

Did you know that the ADCC serves hundreds of hot meals each week under the leadership of just one full-time paid staff person? We do this thanks to the dedication of our many volunteers. If you're looking to meet some amazing people and can spare a few hours once a week, or even once a month, we can use you!

Our Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday breakfast teams are all in dire need of additional volunteers. Weekday volunteers generally serve from 6:30-9:00 am and Saturday volunteers from 8:00-11:30 am. No experience needed and flexibility provided. Volunteer duties include serving food, clearing dishes, and mingling with guests.

We also need volunteers who can commit to going one Thursday a month to pick up large food orders at Foodlink on Mt. Read Boulevard or donated bakery products from BJ's in Webster.

If you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities, please contact Michele Cooley at 271-0692 or mcooley@asburyfirst.org. Benefits include lots of laughs, a sense of connection with a life-changing community, and complimentary grits—likely the best you've ever tasted!



MISSION STATEMENT

We are a welcoming outreach ministry of the Asbury First United Methodist Church that nourishes the bodies, minds, and souls of our sisters and brothers in the Rochester community. Through our ministries of meals, hospitality and supportive assistance, we reflect God's love and work to transform our lives and the lives of our guests.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Meet Charles McManus, ADCC Cook

"Charles started out as a guest at the ADCC, and jumped right in volunteering . . . when we saw that he knew exactly how to use a knife and he started talking about the 'five standard sauces', we knew we had an experienced cook in our midst," shares ADCC Executive Director Michele Cooley. "We've been so blessed to have Charles share his talent with us."

Charles, who has worked some 25+ years as a professional cook, shares that "It's a very unique place to work. Whatever ingredients I find on hand that day, that's what we cook. . . . You never know from one day to the next what to expect." And he loves it. "Working here, for me, it's brought back the joy of cooking. . . . I feel back in love with it [at the ADCC]."

After working for several years at a high-end Rochester restaurant, Charles lost his job this past summer when the owner passed away. He'd worked his whole life, but struggled to find a new job. "I hit some hard times," he shares, "and one day when I was having dinner at Sacrament [Blessed Sacrament Supper Program] a few guys told me about the Dining Center. . . . From day one I was amazed at the meals. . . . I never, ever had a bad meal here."

Asked to talk more about why he likes working at the ADCC so much, Charles immediately answers, "The volunteers. They are incredible. They give and give and give and expect nothing back."



They're the real deal." He also talks about the guests. "I really enjoy these guys. . . . Sometimes they can be a tough crowd. A lot of them are homeless and mentally ill. When I get praise here [from the guests], that's the real thing. That fills me up."

If you're looking for a way to help out some of our neighbors in need, Charles welcomes food donations of any type. "Meats, produce especially, fruits. . . . Those can be tough to come by at Food-Link." You can arrange to donate these items by contacting Michele Cooley at mcooley@asburyfirstumc.org or 271-0692. "If people donate it, we'll use it," concludes Charles.

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Dinner Among Friends: Another Record-Breaking Year

If, as it is often said, it takes a village to raise a child, then it takes a village and then some to keep the Asbury First Dining and Caring Center running. Sincere thanks to the many, many people who contributed to this year's Dinner Among Friends (DAF). Thanks to your generosity, we raised a net of almost \$22,000, or roughly 20 percent of the program's annual operating budget, at this year's DAF. We are blessed to have such a caring village.

Tremendous thanks to Kick-off Sponsor Dutcher & Zatkowsky; Presenting Sponsor, Federated Clover Investment Advisors; Gold Sponsor, Howe & Rusling; Silver Sponsor, Friends of ADCC; Bronze Sponsors, Thomas J. Kroon – Edward Jones, Eastman Savings & Loan – Charitable Foundation, Crawford Funeral Home, Messner Carpeting, Loria Electric, Tasteful Connections, Hammer Packaging, Rochester Lyric Opera; and Friends of the ADCC, M & T Bank – Hudson Avenue, Anthony

Funeral Home, Edge Marketing, Mayer Hardware, Read's Ice Cream, Recognition Experts, and Strathallan.

DAF attendees started the evening at Asbury First United Methodist Church, where they feasted on appetizers donated by Jines Restaurant, Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Signatures at the Humphrey House/Boulevard Grille, Pomodoros, and Palmer Foods. Glenda Brayman and Bob Hyman shared their musical gifts; Kittelbergers Florist & Gifts contributed table decorations; and Sentry Safe and Make Waves provided other in-kind support. Special thanks to the youth of Asbury First, who volunteered to help serve appetizers.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to the Embrace team and a few others, who planned and executed this year's event with exceptional care: Andrea Adair, Nancy Davidow, Carol Harrington, Sandra Holloway, Carol Lamica, Jeffrey Lamica, Morna Monahan,

continued on next page



Heartfelt gratitude to this year's hosts:

- Chris & Valerie Benjamin
- Angie & John Burch
- Cindy & Ernie Dankert
- Nancy & Len Davidow
- Tess & Peter Doerner
- Diane & Jim Dudley
- Paula & Larry Dugan
- Robyn & Larry Gage
- Carol Harrington
- Sandra & Dave Holloway
- Ann & Timothy Johnson
- Timothy Johnson & Robert Miller
- Christie & Tony Karpovich
- Dave & Bonnie Kay/Adelaide & Jerry Svoboda
- Davie & Laurie Kennedy
- Carol Lamica
- Jeffrey Lamica
- Amy Libenson
- Johanna Mahan
- Lisa Powers
- Dawn Reidy/Carol Trout
- Susan & John Shafer
- Laura & Al Swett
- Teddi Urriola
- Mary & Mike Walker/Andrea & Calude Adair
- Gwen & Tom Zink/PR & Lani Anderson

Hershel Patterson Elected to Rochester Housing Authority Board

"I was the president of my building," shares Hershel Patterson, who started as an Asbury Dining and Caring Center (ADCC) guest and now works part-time as an Administrative Assistant at the ADCC. "You hear so many complaints about the RHA [Rochester Housing Authority] and I kept hearing the same concerns over and over. I started thinking maybe I could make a difference if I run."

The RHA is a housing resource for the greater Rochester area that provides housing opportunities and related services for those in need. They manage 2,400+ housing units, and also offer vouchers and certificate programs to help lower income families afford private housing.

Every two years an RHA resident gets elected to the Board of Commissioners.



Charged with serving as a liaison between the residents and the non-resident commissioners, Hershel is excited about the potential for change. "It's a real honor to serve. There are some really good board members, I've talked one-on-one with a lot of them . . . they're ready for change."

ADCC Executive Director Michele Cooley says that the RHA Commissioners couldn't be more fortunate to have Hershel join their ranks. "He's a really, really good listener and somebody who is trusted and respected by such a variety of people . . . Hershel cares deeply about his work and will give 110% to this position."

Congratulations from all of us, Hershel, on this well-deserved honor.

continued from previous page

Jeanne Ristau, Ann Standish, Jim Stinehour, Martha Tuke, and Mary Walker. Thanks to your leadership, our guests will be able to count on a hot meal and welcoming environment during the coming cold winter months.

In reflecting on the event, Rev. Lawrence Hargrave, Asbury First's pastor of outreach ministries, comments that "The Asbury First UMC Dinner Among Friends offered a unique and extraordinarily successful fundraising opportunity. The Embrace committee and chair Mary Walker worked to provide a unique and welcoming experience to those who gathered to dine. It brought to mind the ways in which Jesus brought people together and fed them. This gathering brought people together to raise funds so that the many guests of our Dining and Caring center who experience hunger in a real way can be served. Thanks be to God."



ADCC Thanksgiving Day volunteers included Rochester's Mayor Lovely Warren. Approximately 90 guests and a spirited crew of volunteers enjoyed a time of fellowship and a traditional feast with all the trimmings on Thanksgiving Day. Guests and volunteers alike came away from the meal feeling "full" in every sense of the word.