



CENTERPEACE

News from the Asbury Dining & Caring Center • Spring 2014

You Can Feed Our Guests with a Gift of \$82

That's All It Takes to Provide a Warm Meal For the Guests On One Day

Even though we receive much of our food for free or very low cost through Foodlink, our out-of-pocket food costs are projected to reach \$30,000 this year as we work to keep up with growing demand. A donation of \$82 could pay for the food to feed all of our guests for one day. A donation of \$41 could feed half of our guests.

Please consider a donation using the enclosed envelope (checks can be made payable to Asbury First UMC, with ADCC noted in the memo line) or on our website at www.asburydiningandcaringcenter.org).

Your gift will go to immediate use caring for Devon, James, and our hundreds of other guests: the faces behind the startling statistics.



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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2014 BOARD MEMBERS

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Donor Option
No. 2202

When you contribute to the United Way of Greater Rochester, please consider designating AD&CC. Thank you!



James and Devon*

The Faces Behind Disturbing Local Poverty Statistics

Devon was laid off due to federal cut-backs after working for most of her career as a case manager at a large, local non-profit organization. Bright, motivated, and active in city politics, Devon never imagined she'd need to depend on assistance from a place like the Asbury Dining & Caring Center. However, after her job search dragged on for several months, she depleted her savings and found herself without enough money for even the most basic necessities. She became an ADCC regular. "I couldn't imagine a more delightful, caring person than Devon," said Dining Center Director Michele Cooley. "After over two years of searching, she was just hired as a library assistant and gets to return to work. We're so excited for her."

James has struggled with addiction much of his life. He experienced significant abuse as a child and drugs provided an escape from his harsh reality. The supportive community at the ADCC has been therapeutic for him. Recently, he approached Michele about his desire to enter detox and rehab. He's now on a waiting list for a respected program, with hopes of entering in the next few weeks.

Devon and James' stories reflect the tremendous range of people in our community who regularly go hungry. They also put a human face on the statistics cited in a disturbing study put out by the Rochester Area Community Foundation in December 2013, "Poverty and the Concentration of Poverty in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area." According

to this report, Rochester's poverty rate (31.1%) makes us the fifth poorest city in the country among the top 75 largest metropolitan areas and the second poorest among comparably sized cities in those metro areas (www.racf.org).

"It's no surprise that we continue to see significant growth," reflects Rev. Lawrence Hargrave, Asbury First United Methodist Church's pastor of outreach ministries. "We served 2,800 meals last month, up from 2,100 in March. We're perhaps the most comprehensive church-run feeding program in the area; we serve six days a week, with protein at every meal. ... For people not close to the issue of hunger in our community, it's hard to relate to the devastating impact of a lack of adequate food."

Your involvement in the ADCC makes a very real difference to Devon and James and the hundreds of other guests who come through our doors. Thanks to you, they know the security of a tasty, nutritious meal in the company of a welcoming community.

**Not their real names.*

On May 25, the ADCC served 190 people – a new record for a single day. Director Michele Cooley reported, "it went smoothly."

“Why Haven’t I Done This Sooner?”

Active volunteers with a number of causes, retirees and new ADCC volunteers Bruce and Mary Ann Cady had never worked directly with people who are homeless and in need. Feeling called to find a way to help members of the Rochester community, they got connected to the Dining Center.

“I keep asking myself why haven’t I done this sooner,” shares Bruce. “It’s going to sound cliché, but over and over it strikes me what great people our guests are. Over the few months that I have been involved at the DCC I have had dozens of wonderful conversations with our guests ... I hope they have benefited as much as I have.”

Bruce volunteers on Saturday mornings, helping guests access the free laundry and shower services. It’s quieter on Saturday than during the week and allows more time for interacting with the guests. “We share life experiences and the news of the day. What has really struck me is how fragile we all are. Job loss, health problems, bad choices or

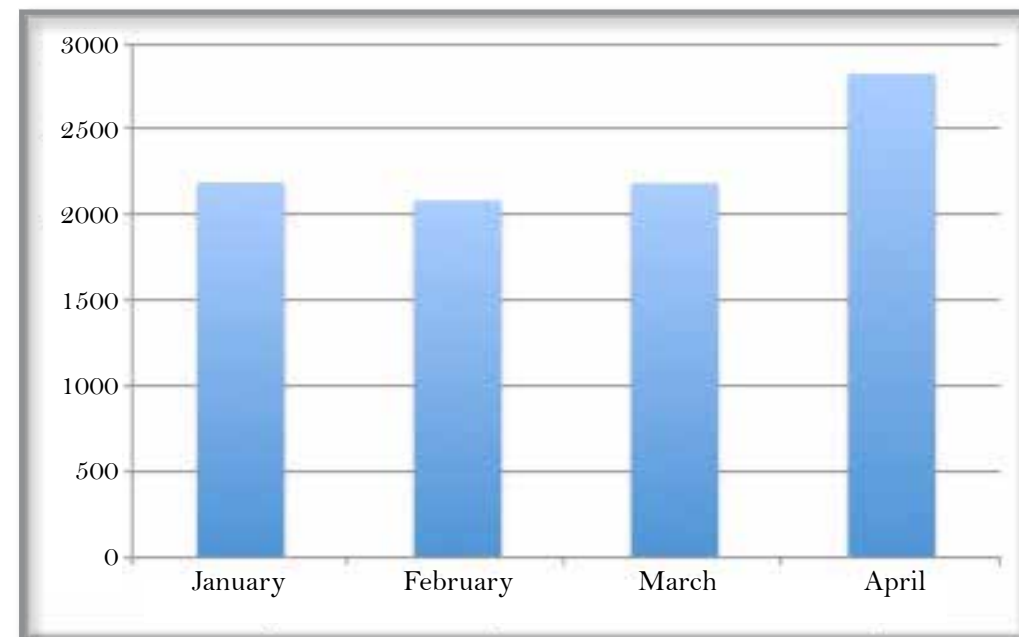
other misfortunes of life can be devastating, especially if we don’t have a support system. ADCC is where I, and other volunteers, can provide some of that missing support.”

Mary Ann adds, “Most people just want to be loved and recognized as having worth. I find it troubling that a large segment of our population just throws other human beings away.”

Might you be feeling a nudge to lend a hand to some of our guests? Our need for volunteers—especially volunteers who can serve on a regular basis—is real and immediate. The number of guests coming for assistance continues to swell and volunteer participation has not kept pace.

Opportunities range from serving on an early morning breakfast team, (we promise you can leave in time for work!), helping Saturday mornings with laundry and showers, picking up large food orders from FoodLink, and a variety of administrative tasks.

Meals Served at the DCC During the First Quarter of 2014



We're grateful to volunteers from Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and the AFUMC youth group who served our guests this winter.

A seasoned volunteer coordinator, Mary Ann is updating our volunteer training and support procedures to ensure that you will have a meaningful experience. To learn more about ways you can make a real difference, contact Executive Director Michele Cooley at 271-0692 or mcooley@asburyfirstumc.org.

“I can’t say enough about how much volunteering at the DCC has impacted me. ... The guests are immensely likable people. ... Our call is to keep them warm, to feed them, and to listen to them,” concludes Bruce.

This newsletter was printed at no charge to the AD&CC by



SAVE THE DATE

Asbury First Golf Tournament

Monday, August 4 ~ Mill Creek Golf Club

Proceeds benefit Asbury community services, including the Asbury Dining & Caring Center. To register or for more information e-mail charitygolf@asburyfirst.org.



Dinner Among Friends (DAF)

Saturday, September 27

Start with a gathering at Asbury First, where you’ll enjoy lively fellowship and appetizers from some of Rochester’s favorite establishments. Then proceed to dinner in the home of one of our volunteer hosts. Last year DAF raised well over \$22,000—almost 20 percent of the ADCC’s annual operating budget. If you’d like to support this event as a committee member, host, sponsor, or donor of food or other in-kind service, please contact Mary Walker at 377-6207 or mrywalk@rochester.rr.com. Special thanks to Asbury First’s Embrace Team for organizing the DAF again this year.

Heartfelt Condolences

Celebrating the Lives of Two Dear Friends



On May 2, 2014, the ADCC lost a devoted leader when the **Rev. Dr. E. David DuBois** passed away after a brief illness. A lifelong advocate for those living on the margins, especially the homeless and mentally ill, David served our guests faithfully as an active member of our Board of Directors and the leader of our weekly “Come as You Are” worship service. Executive Director Michele Cooley shares that, “David’s

energy and beautiful spirit and commitment to our guests and the Dining Center will truly be missed. He was a joy to us and an inspiration to many. His sense of humor and approachable manner made him a trusting friend to those in need of a kind, non-judgemental spiritual mentor.” Rev. DuBois and his wife Dorothy retired to Rochester after his 40+ year career as a

Methodist pastor in West Virginia. God bless, David. You touched us all with your humbling example of a life lived in service to those in need.

Tom Ferraro, the founder and executive director of Foodlink, died of pancreatic cancer on February 11, 2014. Thanks to his visionary leadership and passion for finding new ways to feed hungry people, he grew Foodlink from an idea into a multi-faceted operation that plans to distribute 18 million pounds of food this year alone.



Our guests benefit directly from Tom’s work, as we receive much of our food and a small operating grant from Foodlink. Thank you, Tom, for your amazing example of a life devoted to serving people in need.

★ THANK YOU! THANK YOU! ★

Our heartfelt thanks is extended to all who supported the Dining & Caring Center's work in 2013 with financial contributions, United Way pledges, and/or participation in the Dinner Among Friends.

Peter Abdella	Elise & Harold Carter	Dutcher-Zatkowski	Robert & Judy Hannon
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Fred Aten & Cathy Ryan	Michele Cooley	Donna Field	Daniel W. Hines
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		Jerry & Adelaide Svoboda	Pete Zuris

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we erred, we apologize and ask that you please contact Carol Trout at carol.trout@gmail.com so that we can correct our mistake.