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.

James and Devon

The Faces Behind Disturbing Local Poverty Statistics

Devon was laid off due to federal cutbacks 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 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 reflect God’s love and work to transform our lives and the lives of our guests.

Donor Option No. 2022

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

On May 23, the ADDC 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.

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