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# CENTERPEACE

News from the Asbury Dining & Caring Center • Fall 2013

## BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Can You Spare a Few Hours Each Week?

Our Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday breakfast teams are all in real need of additional volunteers. Whether you fantasize about working a griddle and making pancakes for 100 or have trouble making toast for two we can use you. A sense of humor, heart for service, and an open mind are all that we require. Breakfast volunteers commit to serving once a week from 6:30-9:00 a.m. Unlimited coffee is included. Please contact Michele Cooley at 271-0692 or [mcooley@asburyfirstumc.org](mailto:mcooley@asburyfirstumc.org) to learn more about these opportunities.



Photo courtesy of [ggpalms](#); Creative Commons license.

#### 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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#### 2013 BOARD MEMBERS

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Ed Ristau, Secretary

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Rand Warner, Emeritus Board Member

Bill Lisi, Emeritus Board Member

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



United Way  
of Greater Rochester

## How You Make "What Really Happens" Matter

"This morning we served breakfast to 115 people," shares Michele Cooley, Executive Director at the Asbury Dining and Caring Center. "And that's at the beginning of the month, when our numbers are usually lower." A year ago, an average breakfast crowd totaled 75-80 people.

Why the increase? "People are out of work, we're seeing a lot of new people, especially a lot of homeless people, and the need just continues to grow," reflects Michele. "Word keeps getting around that our food is good and that we're a positive place to be, so more people come." "And that's a good thing," she makes sure to add.

As the number of meals served has grown, so too, has the number of referrals Michele and other Dining Center volunteers provide. When asked how many guests she might talk with one-on-one, she chuckles and says, "Oh, maybe 35 or more a day." Guests filter in and out of Michele's office non-stop, often more than one at a time, asking for help with anything from finding a clean pair of socks to thinking about getting sober to figuring out how to locate lost relatives. "There's never a dull moment around here."

Your involvement with the Dining Center makes all this activity possible. Every dollar and every volunteer hour donated help guests like David and Frank, pictured above (l to r), get back on their feet.

Frank talks candidly about the Dining Center's impact on his life. "I'm originally



from Queens, and when I first moved here in 1996 I lived in an apartment on Park Ave. Years ago a friend of mine told me about the Dining Center and I've been coming here ever since. ... I tell anyone I can about what a blessing the Dining Center is ... it's like a 360, you can get everything here, food, clothing, job leads, you name it."

He's especially grateful to volunteer Rand Warner, for his help in finding work. "Mr. Rand has steered me in all sorts of positive directions. He helps me with my resume, we look things up on the computer, he's even driven me to an interview." Though it's been a struggle for Frank to find permanent employment, he's currently working the night shift, 11:00-7:30 a.m. as a machine operator at Austro Mold, and

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## Dinner Among Friends Sets New Records

On Saturday, September 28, close to three hundred people took part in the 7th Annual Dinner Among Friends to benefit the Asbury Dining and Caring Center. Thanks to this record turn-out and the generosity of our sponsors, we raised net proceeds of well over \$22,000, an all-time high!

The evening began with an hors' d'oeuvres reception at Asbury First United Methodist Church, where attendees enjoyed appetizers donated by Jines Restaurant, Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Signatures at Humphrey House, and Tasteful Connections and music by Laurie Kennedy and Beth Glaza, both of whom donated their time and talent. From there, guests traveled to private homes where meals ranged from a kid-friendly barbecue to sit-down beef tenderloin for 32.



*Special thanks to this year's hosts for their exceptional generosity:*

- Tim & Libby Ashley
- Tom & Judy Bristow
- John & Angie Burch
- Stephen & Emily Cady
- Larry & Karen Conrad
- Len & Nancy Davidow
- Peter & Tess Doerner
- Larry & Robyn Gage
- Dave & Sandra Holloway/Ray & Marilyn Waring
- Timothy Johnson & Robert Miller
- Carol Kramer & Ron Stallworth
- Jeffrey Lamica
- David & Karen Long
- Phil & Morna Monahan
- Diane Lucas & Maxine Morse
- Betty Nichols
- Jeanne Rowe & Linda Shevlin
- John & Susan Shafer
- Dick & Ann Standish
- Al & Laura Swett
- Carol Trout/Andy Dutcher/Dawn Reidy/Ruthellen Hoyle
- Teddi Urriola

### Sponsors and Volunteers Make It All Happen

Heartfelt gratitude goes to our sponsors for their generous financial support:

Presenting Sponsor **Dutcher & Zatkowsky**; Gold Sponsors, **Federated Clover Investment Advisors** and **Howe & Rusling**; Silver Sponsors, **American Packaging Corporation, An Anonymous Friend, Jim & Carmen Brush, and Nolan's Rental**; Bronze Sponsors, **Canandaigua National Bank, Edward Jones, Hammer Packaging, The Powers Law Firm, A.D. Simonetti Properties, Summit Federal Credit Union, and Thomson Reuters. Kittelberger Florist, Make Waves Salon, and Art Sparks** provided in-kind support.

Last, but certainly not least, we thank the volunteers—most of whom also serve on Asbury First's Embrace Team—who donated countless hours of time to make this year's event so successful: **Sandra Holloway, Martha Tuke, Nancy Davidow, Andrea Adair, Jim Stinehour, Elaine Short, Mary Walker, Jeffrey Lamica, Cathy Bracht, Morna Monahan, Ann Standish.**

Our guests cannot thank you personally. But, one cold morning this winter, please stop for a moment and imagine a crowd of hungry people gathered in a warm, inviting dining room, enjoying a hot meal and the comfort of good friends. Your participation in DAF makes that image a reality.

*Continued from page 1*

thinks he may have found his niche. "I really like the consistency of what I do. It's repetitive and for me, I really like that. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work."

Michele shares that "Frank has been exceptionally diligent about seeking employment and he has a big heart." Another frequent Dining Center guest is homeless since her house is uninhabitable due to multiple, significant code

violations. Frank has been donating his time to make repairs on the home, with the goal of getting her moved back in before the worst of the cold sets in this winter.

"It's a community here," says Frank. "The warmth and the time and care that goes into everything makes this place special. ... Everyone here tries to take care of each other and I'm grateful to be part of it. There have been a few times

I've drifted away, but I always come back. The people here, they're like family, and that's what really matters."

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



## Bottles and Doctor Visits

### DCC Partnership Provides Bikes to Those in Need

Howard Cone, one of the volunteers in R Community Bike's partnership with the Asbury Dining and Caring Center this summer, shares a story that illustrates the importance of safe, working bikes to our guests.

Based in a warehouse at 226 Hudson Ave., R Community Bikes provides free bikes and bike repairs to people in need. In order to be as accessible as possible to clients, the group operates four satellite sites. We were extremely fortunate to have them on-site at the ADCC each Thursday from April-October this past year.

Howard recalls that one particular morning well. "This gentleman showed up at the shop and was really worried, we could see the panic in his eyes ... he had a 1:00 doctor's appointment that afternoon and woke up to find his rear [bicycle] tire flat and wheel broken. That bike was his only way to get to the doctor's office. We started the repair on-site at Asbury First but had to make a special trip to our Hudson Ave. warehouse to get a replacement wheel to fix it and then off he went, on his bike, with just enough time to make it."



Eric is another favorite memory. "After breakfast at the Dining Center he came out back to see us with his four large plastic bags filled with recyclable cans he had collected overnight. His bike needed a new chain and adjustments to the rear wheel cones, crank cones, spokes, brakes, and gears. We were able to get him fixed up and he left a happy man on his now-safe bike to cash in his recyclables."

All told, Howard and his crew of volunteers fixed 330 bikes for Dining Center guests this past year. They also built a lot of relationships. Howard shares, "We get a lot of repeat business. These guys aren't used to being treated with any respect, but we treat them all like paying customers. I like to say that we see the spark of God in everyone. The guys appreciate that. We all

like to be noticed and these guys are no different. Lots of time they come back just to hang out with us. They come up with minor adjustments that their bikes need, but they're really looking for fellowship and we honor that."

Howard shares the sentiment of many ADCC volunteers when he comments on what he gets out of his involvement. "I'm a retired guy, and sometimes I wonder what the heck I'm doing getting up so early every Thursday morning, but then, by the third or fourth guy who shares genuine appreciation, I'm reminded, yeah, that's why I'm here ... these are really good guys ... I'm continually amazed at the sincerity of people's appreciation. They look me in the eye and say thanks, and they really mean it."

R Community Bikes is continually in need of donated bikes in any condition, volunteers, and financial support. If you'd like to learn more about getting involved—Howard promises they can use anyone, with or without an aptitude for bike repair—please take a look at their website, [www.rcommunitybikes.net](http://www.rcommunitybikes.net).

Thank you Howard and crew, for your generosity to our guests.