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Between October 1, 2006 and January 31, 2007

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of all donor names. If we have missed you or spelled your name incorrectly, please let us know.

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Save the Date
The Gathering Golf
Classic - June 13, 2007

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NEWSLETTER

Volume 19, Number 1

March, 2007

25th Year of Service 1982-2007

*People in community
feeding the hungry*

2006 Volunteer Award Recipients

For over 24 years, The Gathering has been blessed with thousands of committed, passionate, caring volunteers. Some of you reading this newsletter were involved at the very beginning of this ministry; some of you are involved still; some are new. We honor all of you for the work you have done and thank you for choosing The Gathering as a place to act out your faith and compassion, and to give back to the community. We honor the following, in particular, for reaching milestones in 2006. Awards will be presented at our 25th Anniversary Commemoration Service on April 24 at St. James' Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave.



Dennis Callan

George Greene Award for exceptional service by a guest turned volunteer: Dennis Callan

Named after founder and long time Board President who passed away in November of 2006.

Special Service Award to Breakfast Guest

Volunteers: Raul, Sheryl, Jeanne, Diane, Fred, Kavon, Laura, Dennis, Steve, Patrick, Lucas, Richard, Mark...

These wonderful volunteers are honored for the intensity of their service and commitment to The Gathering and our guests, volunteering between 200 and 750 hours each in 2006.

Individual Volunteer Milestones Reached in 2006:

Years an individual has volunteered on a regular basis as a cook, coordinator or weekday volunteer:



Barbara Fahey and Sr. Carolyn Stahl

7 years: Tamara Jackopin, Colleen Pemberton
10 years: Robin Coffman, Bill & Mitzi Roy
15 years: Lucy Evans, Sr. Carolyn Stahl
20 years: Lisa Murray

Friend of The Gathering Awards: *Given to individuals, groups and agencies who have shown consistent compassion and dedication to The Gathering and its ministry.*

Fran Russell - *for faithfulness as a long time Dinner Program volunteer*

Barbara Fahey - *for transporting and guiding the weekly Marquette High School volunteers and for her commitment to and compassion for our guests*

Marge Gundrum - *for 18 years of gentle, persistent, loving and committed organization of the St. Anne's team cooking and serving monthly at our St. Andrew's Saturday lunch site.*

(Continued on page 2)

2006 Awards cont'd...

All Saints Cathedral Hunger Book Sale - *the annual event (25 years) that donates thousands of dollars to organizations addressing hunger - \$55295 to The Gathering alone since 1987*

Hunger Task Force - *for food, advocacy, organization and creativity promoted by helpful and compassionate staff - donates over 50,000 lbs of food annually.*

Jeff Steren - *owner of six McDonalds donating biscuits and pastries weekly for several years enabling us to serve biscuits and gravy each Monday morning.*

Serving Group Milestones Reached in 2006: *The number of times a group has served since it began to volunteer. Milestones are reached at set intervals beginning at 15.*

15-24: Ben Franklin School Faculty (15), Wooded Hills Bible Church (18)

25-34: Northwestern Mutual (25), Hunter Business Group (25)

35-49: St. Mark's Episcopal-Milwaukee (36), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (36), St. Christopher's Episcopal (39), St. Rafael Catholic School (40), Firm Believers (46), St. Matthias (48)

50-64: Oak Creek High School - HOSA (53); Thomas More High School (54); Immanuel Presbyterian (55)

65-74: Beta Alpha Psi/The Pillsbury Group (67)

85-99: Emmanuel Community United Methodist (86)

100-124: Prince of Peace School (103)

125-149: Johnson Controls (130)

175-199: Marquette University High School (198)

200-224: St. Anne's Catholic (205)

Reflection

Ginny Schrag, Executive Director

It is one of the coldest days of the new year...in fact, for the first time in ten years, schools were closed on Monday and Tuesday of this week due to the frigid temperatures. Guests came in for breakfast with icicles hanging from moustaches and beards. I stood between two guest volunteers on the breakfast line serving biscuits and listening to each of them tell their survival stories about growing up - one in Milwaukee's inner city; one on a reservation in the Dakotas. Two other guest volunteers are still sleeping outside.

Survival - our most basic instinct. Priorities crystallize when confronted with life or death. It becomes significant what we do with each dollar we have; where we spend our time, and with whom.

Food. Shelter. Companionship. The ability to tell your story. Someone who misses you; who wonders where you are. Meaningful service. It's what makes us human.

Over the past 24 years, The Gathering has provided a venue where these basic needs can be met - if only for a few hours a day. Thousands have chosen to spend a bit of their precious time with us - some as guests, some as volunteers or staff, some as both. Others have donated the dollars and the supplies needed to support this work.

We will never celebrate hunger. But this ministry - that is certainly something worth celebrating.

Volume 19, Number 1

The Gathering Newsletter is a publication of The Gathering, a volunteer-based interfaith meal program whose mission is to feed the hungry and homeless.

We welcome any comments or suggestions concerning the newsletter's content.

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Moses Cook	Security
Ed Kowach	Cook
George Neureuther	Breakfast Coordinator and Volunteer Manager
Josephine Oldfield	Office Administrator
Dennis Stokhaug	Operations

Ten Days to Better Understanding

Based on "Forty Days to Better Understanding" from Seeds of Hope Hunger Emphasis Packet 2005.

"We believe that a concerted effort, even by a small number of people, to observe a time of prayer together can make a huge difference in how we all face the problems of hunger and poverty. This calendar is designed to help you prepare spiritually for the work ahead of us."

<p>1 <i>When you go grocery shopping, buy extra canned foods or peanut butter for your local food pantry. Buy your favorites so a hungry person can enjoy what you do.</i></p>	<p>2 <i>Drink only water for one week. Most people don't have the luxury to choose what to drink. Many don't even have access to water that's safe to drink.</i></p>	<p>3 <i>Look a homeless person in the eye.</i></p>	<p>4 <i>Go to bed hungry and pray for those who have to do this every night.</i></p>	<p>5 <i>The next time you see images of starving children on your TV, don't change the channel. Say a prayer for the family and promise you'll do something to help hungry people that day.</i></p>
<p>6 <i>Volunteer to work at The Gathering and then sit down and talk to the guests.</i></p>	<p>7 <i>Try to make a budget for four based on the minimum wage in Wisconsin - \$6.50/hour.</i></p>	<p>8 <i>Don't eat between meals today.</i></p>	<p>9 <i>Americans give 15 cents per day per person in government assistance to poor countries. We spend 60 cents a day on soft drinks. Do without soft drinks for one week and give the money to hunger relief.</i></p>	<p>10 <i>Shop the 70% discount racks for warm socks, hats, gloves and fleece blankets. Donate them to The Gathering or another place serving the homeless.</i></p>

Anniversary Events: Recognizing 25 Years of Feeding the Hungry

25 years!

Please join us as we recognize 25 years of ministry

Tuesday, April 24, 2007
St. James' Episcopal Church
833 W. Wisconsin Avenue
5:30 pm - Service & Volunteer Recognition
6:30 pm - Reception
RSVP to 414-272-4122



The Gathering Golf Classic

-to benefit our meal programs-
Wednesday, June 13, 2007
Evergreen Golf Course
Elkhorn, WI
1:00 - Shotgun start
\$100 per golfer
-includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, dinner, drink tickets & silent auction-
To be sent an invitation call 414-272-4122 or email soulfood@thegatheringwis.org



Volunteer Celebration at Miller Park

Tailgate & Brewers Baseball
Late summer/early fall
Date TBA

