

## TRINITY HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

We enter the new decade with much hope, some expectations and sadly, many of the same issues and struggles that marked the decade just ended. Hunger in the St. Louis region, is but one concern but a staggering and a relentless one. The trend that areas of the city rank among the worst in this country with regard to food deprivation and to malnutrition continues unabated. Trinity Episcopal in the Central West End has made it their mission for decades to be a major resource for their area and Holy Communion has been fortunate to be part of their amazing efforts for many of those years. We inaugurate the 2020 with the same commitment and dedication to the mission of alleviating hunger through Sunday hot lunch program and the weekday food pantry.

In 2019, still under the superb leadership of Deacon Barbi Click, the Trinity Food Ministry served over 4500 Sunday hot lunches, through the generosity and volunteering spirit of the various participating faith communities, of which HCC is one, and one of two that serve every month. The weekday pantry (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons) handled almost 10,000 requests. Also, during the pantry hours, food is served, adding another 150 to 200 meals to the weekly total.

Holy Communion continues to serve an average of 85 meals per monthly visit, and helps with the pantry through the food and toiletries collected throughout the year. And, once again, the distribution of hats, gloves and socks during the December meal was a hit, immensely appreciated by Trinity and the guests alike. After the major changes in 2018 of the transition to cafeteria-style service, and the use of real china dishware, instead of paper plates, 2019 saw few modifications. Holy Communion continued to experiment with the menu, such a serving fried chicken, but, because we serve every month, there are fewer options that allow us to stay within the budget – always a challenge! The food of our various current menus is nutritious, ample and definitely enjoyed by the guests; however, we are always looking to provide greater variety and a more enjoyable experience for the guests.

As I write every year, even though the quality and taste of the food we serve certainly is important, the success of any ministry ultimately depends on the hearts of the volunteers. HCC continues to have a dedicated group who prepares and serves the food with an a generosity of spirit that confirms to the guests, to Barbi and to the Trinity Food Ministry that HCC's is fully vested in this mission and in this call for social justice. Our association with Rockwell House is ongoing and wonderful. And, as is our goal every year, a number of new volunteers joined the ministry, which is crucial if HCC is to remain a major part of a feeding community that unfortunately *has* to exist. How wonderful it would be if the need were no longer, if the crisis of hunger in this land of overabundance were to simply disappear. Lamentably, the dream of solving the crisis remains just that, a dream. But HCC continues to do its small part and the gifts and blessings of lending a hand in this service are truly immeasurable.

To those who gave their time so willingly during the year, I offer my sincerest thanks. For those who have yet to share in this ministry, I hope that you find the time in 2020, even if it just one time for a couple of hours, to experience what an exceptional one it is.

Submitted by  
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