

Geneva teens attack hunger issue

Groups launch collection drive, soup kitchen visit

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

GENEVA — 'Tis the season to be eating, as Americans gear up for big Thanksgiving feasts.

That is, most Americans. Those who are fortunate enough have families and the financial means to enjoy traditional holiday celebrations.

The number of hungry people in this country increases daily, and that fact hasn't been lost upon two youth organizations in eastern Ontario County. To help ease the burden of those who can't provide for themselves, these groups have been making extra efforts as of late: one contingent is sponsoring a Thanksgiving food collection drive, while the other recently visited a soup kitchen in New York City.

Taking to the streets

Halloween has already come and gone, but a number of Geneva residents should still plan to answer their doors and be greeted by youths in search of edible items.

This Sunday evening, Nov. 22, members of the St. Stephen's Church youth group will seek donations to be used toward preparing Thanksgiving food baskets for needy people in the Geneva area.

According to group leader Kathy Fuchs, members will go door-to-door between 7 and 8:30 p.m. Their target list of donors will be parishioners of St. Stephen's Church, 48 Pulteney St.

Residents should be prepared to give various types of non-perishable items that would typically be used for a Thanksgiving dinner. The youth group will then go shopping for turkeys early next week, and St. Stephen's will disperse the completed baskets based on requests received by the church.

As youth group member Kira Longo sees it, this is an especially important time of year for emphasizing service to the less fortunate.



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor
Kira Longo (left), Kate Nessler (center), David Cataline and the rest of St. Stephen's youth group will go door-to-door Nov. 22, gathering donations to prepare Thanksgiving baskets for needy people in the Geneva area.

"Our church does things for poor people all year long. But it hurts more (to be poor) at holiday time, for sure," remarked Longo, a 17-year-old senior at Geneva High School.

"People who can't have what we have, should have a chance for a good Thanksgiving dinner," added David Cataline, 16, a Geneva High junior.

Fellow group member Kate Nessler, a 14-year-old freshman at Geneva High, noted that this food drive is a good opportunity for community youths "to show that we really care about all types of people — the elderly, the poor."

Fuchs agreed with Nessler's viewpoint.

"Youth ministry is not just fun and games, or even prayer. It's also about service," she concluded.

Service and sightseeing

For a two-day trip, a group of DeSales High School students sure covered a lot of ground.

The seven youths, all members of DeSales Teens for Life, visited New York City last Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13-14.

Their most memorable experience, according to Kathy Peters, group coordinator, was volunteering in a soup kitchen at St. Agnes Church, located on 43rd Street in Manhattan.

The teens arrived on Friday evening to prepare meals, and returned the next morning to serve lunch. The Geneva group were among 35 volunteers — mostly adults — who served a total of 471 lunches to homeless people who came through the church's doors on Saturday.

"The homeless really enjoyed seeing the youth there, and the kids loved it, too. They were wonderful," said Peters.

Later that day, the DeSales students joined a group of other Catholics in prayer outside an abortion clinic on 39th Street.

Also during the weekend, the youths visited the United Nations building as well as the residence of Archbishop Renato R. Martino, permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations. In addition, they viewed a slide presentation at the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, based in New York City. The organization aids the Vatican Congregation for Eastern-rite Churches and missionary activity in 18 countries in Europe, Africa and Asia by ministering to orphans and the needy.

AQ offers advance tickets for benefit Wind Band show

Tickets are available for the Greater Rochester Music Educators Wind Band benefit concert.

The show will be held on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Aquinas Institute auditorium, 1127 Dewey Ave.

Founded in 1990, the Wind Band includes about 50 music educators from the Rochester area. The group is directed by Al "Corky" Fabrizio, who served as band director at Aquinas from 1969-73.

For details, call Jim Ferris at 716/254-2020 (days) or 865-3969 (evenings); or Jim Henderson at 227-8663 (evenings).



Chastity video available by mail-order purchase

A video entitled "Teens and Chastity: A Talk With Molly Kelly" is available through mail order.

Kelly is a nationally known figure who conducts frequent seminars to promote chastity.

Those interested in the one-hour video may write to the New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus, P.O. Box 3222, Trenton, N.J., 08619-0222. Cost is \$29.95, which includes shipping. Specify either the public or religious-school version of the video.

New gospel choir forms

PITTSFORD — A newly formed gospel choir at St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave., is hoping to spread a positive message to the community.

Father Alvin Parris of New Life Ministries directs the 15-member choir. Students will sing contemporary and modern gospel.

The choir was founded by Shari Terry, a senior at Fisher, and Renita Singletary, a 1992 Fisher graduate, both of Rochester, with the help of Father Mitch Dowalgo, CSB, former director of campus ministry, and Marie Mallory, secretary to the director of residential life.

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