

# Loaves & Fishes of Tompkins County

## ANNUAL REPORT April 08- March 09

### Our Mission

Loaves and Fishes of Tompkins County is a Christian Ministry which provides a place for free meals, hospitality, companionship, and advocacy for those in need, regardless of their faith, beliefs, or circumstances.

### Services and Opportunities

- Open to all who come; there are no eligibility requirements
- Free hot nutritious meals each weekday; lunch or dinner
- Free food as available from excess donations
- Advocacy (practical support) to guests for basic needs
- "Tabling" (outreach) of local agencies during mealtimes
- Health screenings by a county health department nurse, weekly
- Craft workshops and leisure time activities
- Volunteering, community service and work experience



### Program Statistics

- The duplicated number of guests coming to free meals rose from 29,415 (07-08) to 33,024 (08-09), a 12% increase.
- Guest count reflects: 5.8% children, 82% adults, 12.2% seniors.
- The average number of guests served each weekday was 125.
- About 15% of the guests received second servings bringing the total number of meals served to about 39,000/yr.
- Over 13,000 hours per year are contributed by volunteers working in the kitchen, the office and in other activities.
- Over 100 volunteers each week helped out in the kitchen.
- 13 volunteer advocates helped with the advocacy program.
- 200 emergency meal coupons were given to guests needing a meal at a time when Loaves & Fishes was not open.
- Through the advocacy program, \$1101.35 of emergency funds were distributed to 44 duplicated guests.
- "Tabling" was offered at 56 mealtimes by 11 different local agencies during September 08 and March 09.
- Referrals to community/government agencies were made daily.

### Program Highlights

- Loaves & Fishes volunteers, guests and staff participated in the Ithaca Festival parade.
- Loaves & Fishes was voted best place to volunteer in the Ithaca Times Best of Ithaca
- Pizza Hut served lunch at Loaves & Fishes in May, July, and September.
- Food donations were abundant. Regular donations came from: the Friendship Donations Network, Farmers Market, Wegmans, Ithaca Bakery, Gimme Coffee, Charlotte Bruce, Starbucks, Greenstar, Ithaca Soy, Purity, Clark's Food Mart and more.
- Hats, mittens, scarves and blankets were distributed during the wintertime.
- Grants included those from the United Way, Park Foundation, Share Our Strength (The Taste of the Nation event) as well as from federal, state and county governments.
- Fundraisers included: the EMPTY BOWLS dinner, the annual fund appeal letter, and the Alternative Gift Fair.

### Financial Report

#### Revenue

Contributions	170,286
Grants	36,523
Events	5,045
Investments	(7,565)
Other	306

Total Revenue 204,595

#### Expenses

Personnel	94,411
Operating	50,810
Management/General	33,270
Fundraising	8,486

Total Expenses 186,978

- In-kind contributions of food for the meal program totaled \$21,218.

*from Chris Pothier, Executive Director*

If you've never come to Loaves & Fishes, it might seem that all we do is provide a free meal. But, there is a multitude of ways in which people connect creatively to the benefit of each person.

Music, prayer, mending clothes, craft workshops, a health nurse, food give-aways from excess food donations, student projects, community service, paid work experience, outreach from local agencies and practical support for basic needs. Grade school kids, mothers with children, college students, professionals, elderly folks and individuals from all backgrounds find ways to come together as a community of people who care for and serve one another.

We thank all of those who have participated in and have generously supported our ministry. We welcome anyone to share their talent or just their humanity with another human being.

*from Stephanie Abrahams, Advocacy Coordinator*

The Advocacy Program helps people with many issues. Housing is one of the categories. We have been able to help a variety of people in different situations acquire a stable residence. Sometimes it's a long struggle and can take many months. Advocates have worked closely with guests in preparation for code and Section 8 inspections, with issues surrounding eviction, moving, storage and more. The present housing market is very difficult for low income people. Sometimes it's important for people to hold on to housing, because there are not a lot of other options out there.

In another category, this past year we've been able to assist individuals in getting Social Security benefits. We've done this by attending intakes, medical appointments and evaluations with them. All of the folks we worked with were approved in less than a year which is unusual by Social Security standards.

We also have been able to assist with various health care and dental issues by attending appointments with guests and sometimes being a voice in the process.

We offer assistance navigating the "system". This is to insure that the person is able to access the services that may be available. We have accompanied guests to DSS for meetings, paperwork and hearings.

Through our emergency fund, we have helped many people with prescriptions, transportation, court fees, over-the-counter remedies, application fees, faxes, postage, short term storage fees, bus tickets, gas cards, etc.

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## Staff

Chris Pothier, *Executive Director*  
Maggie Whitehead, *Administrative Assistant*  
Neil Golder, *Kitchen Manager*  
Isaiah Parker, *Kitchen Manager*  
Stephanie Abrahams, *Advocacy Coordinator*  
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