

# ST. PETER'S PROGRESS

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## 35,256 SERVED IN 2009

### DIRECTOR'S YEARLY REVIEW

By Patricia Lorenzen

Dear Friends of St. Peter's Kitchen,

We hope this past year was a good one for you and your family. Ours was one of many blessings, which overshadowed any trials.

Our website is running well and we have had many visitors. Some have contacted us to volunteer and we have received financial support through donations on line. We are keeping it as updated as possible. Our web address is on pg. 4.

We tackled the Certificate of Occupancy inspection, back in August with as much simplicity as possible. Due to a local contractor, we kept our expenses down and fulfilled the obligation. With the help of many volunteers our building is safe for another 3 years.

Our annual campaign went well. Although we did not make our goal, we know our needs will be met. Thanks to all of you who donated through this fundraising event. The lovely cards and notes you sent surely uplifted our spirits. We are so fortunate to have such kind and caring benefactors.

You will soon read about our Holiday Season. The Fall flew by as we prepared for our busiest time of year. Once again we were amazed at the amount of donations we received for our various holiday activities.

With the government increasing our community's food stamps and cash allowance benefits this past year, we have noticed a small decline in those who use our services. We would expect nothing less. The future dilemma will be what happens when those increases stop. We look at the situation with calm, but still have concern for how that will affect our ministry. *(continued on page 4)*

### *New Advisory Board Members*

We welcome three new members to St. Peter's Advisory Board.

**Bob and Marge Stuver** have been with the kitchen as volunteers since 1997. They have volunteered on Tuesdays and have seen the organization go through many changes. Bob is a retired plumber and does much of our plumbing repair work for us. At their parish of Guardian Angels, Bob is an usher and Marge delivers communion to the sick and infirmed. They both have a sincere interest in St. Peter's as their dedication has proved. They have developed strong relationships here not only with other volunteers but with community members as well.

**Kevin Carges** is a deacon with the Catholic Church and has his own printing business "Canadaigua Quick Print." He was a Deacon Intern at St. Peter's and Paul's Parish before the church closed and over the last few years has offset much of our printing costs. He has experience in financial planning, does much volunteer work (including trips to South America to work with the poor) and is an active Deacon for our Diocese. We feel privileged to have him join our Board of Directors.

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Kevin Carges

Bob and Marge Stuver

## *Holiday Happenings*

Before our Holidays even started we gave school supplies to our children in August. From crayons to notebooks, we served over 60 children. Thanks to the "The Red Cats" organization for the collection and dispersing of the items.

For one of the most hectic times of the year, The Holidays went very well. Thanksgiving took on a life of its own. We served over 155 guests that day. That is the most we have seen in over 5 years. We had 40 volunteers and our sit down meal was truly enjoyed by our crowd. Although a few had trouble with the concept of "being served" (our guests are use to cafeteria style) it was great fun. We deeply appreciate all those who donated items for this special day and of course to all the volunteers who made it so enjoyable.

We served over 106 children at our Children's Toy Store. Thanks to Paychex for a large last minute toy collection and to all who donated to make this a successful event.

Our Christmas gift to our Community this year was a beautiful towel and wash cloth set. We received enough for everyone due to the generosity of so many parishes around our area. Thank-you to all who were a part of our wonderful Christmas. So many guests commented on how grateful they were for this extra help.

Christmas Day was delightful. We served 89 neighbors and we had 40 volunteers so it was a two to one ratio, which made the day very relaxed and social.

We can never express our gratitude for the help we receive which allows us to do what we do. We hope all of your Holidays were blessed.



Back to School



Happy Halloween



My daughter will love this!



Happy Thanksgiving



Thanks for the towels!



Merry Christmas

◆.....◆

## *Michele and Steve*

This year we were so excited to watch a young couple and their one year old baby boy grow into a responsible family unit. Michele and Steve came to the kitchen about a year and a half ago for meals. They seemed very down on their luck, yet both were very attentive to their young son.

Steve was always looking for work, but just couldn't find anything. Michele was home with RJ, yet knew she also had to find some work to help provide a stable home.

Now, thanks to their determination and persistence, they are both working and making a decent wage. Together they have managed to start paying off the bills that had accumulated. After the holidays they were able to get their car back on the road which makes getting to work much easier.

Michele stated, she wouldn't have known what to do if St.

Peter's hadn't been there to help them with meals and other support during their hardest time. She had tears in her eyes as she told me how well they were doing now and really appreciated our presence in her life.

We do not see them much anymore, but they keep in contact once in awhile to let us know how things are going. It is our goal to have our guests become independent and it feels so good to know some of them do make it, but it is also hard when you have become fond of them to lose contact, necessary but bittersweet!

Then there are all the new faces to get to know and hopefully we will see them move upward and onward in their quest for personal independence too.

## *Give Us This Day - Testimonial From A Guest*

The Lord's Prayer continues with the words "our daily bread". St. Peter's Kitchen offers our daily bread and more.

The weather was getting cold when I first walked down the basement steps. I came to eat but really wasn't hungry. My appetite disappeared for nearly a year. My clothes were loose and friends were worried. I didn't know what to expect as I pushed through the door. I came as is; without hearing, my only skill is reading lips. It might be easier this way, no conversation, I could be what I wanted, an invisible person.

A kind man greeted me at the door, and showed me the trays and wrapped napkins. Then, I saw outstretched arms. Before I knew what I was doing, I opened my arms too and got a warm and caring hug. I moved through the food line, each person asking whether I would like the main course, vegetables,

salad, fruit, dessert and juice. There was compassion and respect in their eyes. I saw warmth and smiles. This was not what I expected ~ it was so much better.

This winter, I've come again and again to St. Peter's Kitchen. I come for the hugs, the food, the shared harvest of breads, coats, clothes, socks, calendars and friendship. I now choose to be visible and share my life with others. I can feel some appetite now and then. I come to regain a sense of the familiar; where each day I have worth, I am important, I can meet another's needs. I'm finding that I am so much closer than I thought. I needed an anchor while I worked to steer my life in the right direction. I needed to know there was a safe place for me, where it mattered if I showed up. I needed to know I could feed myself with bread when funds were low. I found all of it at St. Peter's Kitchen. Now, life is starting to show signs of progress, just in time for spring. The new green growth ready to poke through the snow will echo the hope growing in my grateful heart.

*Anonymous*

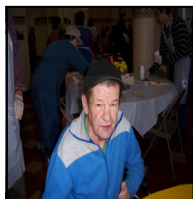
## *Those Remembered*



Betty Thomas



Lillian Herring



Frank Marks

With the passing of another year comes the acknowledgements and the sweet sorrows of those we've lost. This year we are happy to report that we had no deaths due to violence.

### **From Our Community:**

**Betty Thomas**-natural causes  
**Lillian Herring**-Natural causes  
**Frank Marks**-Natural causes  
**Brian Rosier**-The Rosier Family suffered great loss as Brian died two weeks after his brother.

*(Not all pictures available)*



Ruth Buckle



Ray Diehl



Jerry Raniewicz



Dominick Pardi

### **From Our Volunteers:**

**Ruth Buckle**-Thursday Group  
**Ray Diehl**-Friday Group  
**Jerry Raniewicz**-Wednesday Group  
**Dominick Pardi**-Monday Group

**We also remember all of our benefactors who were called home this year.**

***We have walked a caring path together. Thank you for all of the gifts you brought to us. We will remember you always and continue to pray for you as you rest in God's mercy and peace.***

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1982 - 2009  
Food and Life, Blessed and Shared

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***Our Mission Statement:***

*St. Peter's Kitchen, Inc. exists to provide nutritious meals to the needy because we believe in the dignity of each person. All associated with this ministry are therefore to receive each guest in the spirit of Catholic love, and to respond as far as able, to the many hungers of those who come through our doors. The "neighbor" will be served without distinction. The principles of Catholic Social Justice will be our guide.*

***( Director's Review continued from page 1 )***

The new building next door (DePaul Housing for the Mentally Ill) is going up very quickly. They expect to be finished by November 2010. This is a 88 room housing unit for those who are able to work or be on their own. There will a nursing staff to monitor medications and they will have their own food service. This should bring a bit more stability to our area of the city. We are hoping it will meet some very obvious needs for those with mental health problems.

Also there is a proposed project for a new Susan B. Anthony Memorial on Main St. with additional new housing sites around our area. This is being led by Spiritus Christi Church, Home Leasing Services and the Rochester Housing Authority. Our neighborhood is changing, let's hope for the better.

***Volunteers-What would we do without them!***

Our Volunteer's keep us afloat with dedication, laughter and an enormous amount of work. Our ministry has only 3 paid positions and everyone else is a volunteer, including our cooks. It is truly amazing that in our 28th year of service and without a larger organization sponsoring us, we are able to provide the help our community needs.

**Wish List**

Just a few "wishes" that we are in need of:

**Stainless Steel 3-Tiered Serving Carts**

**45 gal. Clear Garbage Bags**

**Long sleeved oven mitts  
Cutting boards  
Dish Washing Aprons**

**100 Cup Coffee Pot- for next winter**

**Refrigerator Repair Man**

**Working Hard**



**Lots of fun!!**

**Don't tell our wives!!**

Please remember us during the **United Way Campaign** Our Donor Option number is 1324.