

# VOICES

## HOLY APOSTLES SOUP KITCHEN

### STILL OPEN: New Yorkers Come Together for the Soup Kitchen's Community



Soup kitchen guest, Eva, recently picked up her weekly backpack full of pantry items for herself and her two sons. Eva works full-time as a Home Health Aide, going into the homes of our elderly neighbors to help run

errands, wash dishes, disinfect the stove top and sink, and whatever else they may need.

The \$15 an hour Eva earns isn't enough to fully support her family, so she relies on food stamps and the soup kitchen to be able to feed herself and her two growing teenage boys. "They eat A LOT," she joked when picking up her items. She went on to add, "I'm just so grateful you are still open. Especially right now. A lot of my friends have lost their jobs because so many businesses had to close. Every time the phone rings, I'm nervous it's my job and they need to let me go."

Like Eva, we are all anxious and affected by the swift arrival of the current global health crisis. But we take comfort in knowing that we are not alone. Our community has never been more important than it is right now and knowing we are in this together gives us the courage to

continue preparing and distributing hot meals to New Yorkers who would otherwise go without.

As other soup kitchens have closed, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen is the last light still on, serving hot meals "to-go" and encouraging social distancing among guests who are waiting on the line for their meal or to talk to a social worker.

By partnering with local culinary figures who have contributed their time and talent to relief efforts after natural disasters, we continue serving hot meals to New Yorkers who have come to rely on the soup kitchen for sustenance, while also expanding to feed and sustain our neighbors who are feeling financial constraints from business closures and cutbacks.

New York City may be going through a rough time, but we know that together, we will ensure our neighbors have access to hot, nutritious meals during this unprecedented moment and beyond.



# OUR DAILY MEAL

1 in 5 New Yorkers are hungry and in need of a meal today. As New York's largest soup kitchen, we serve 1,000+ meals every weekday. The guests we serve today will be hungry again tomorrow.

## FUNDING SOURCES

We have no means testing, residency or other restrictions: our door is open to all. Donors like you fund over half of all our operational expenses enabling us to serve more than **7,000** meals each and every week.



## WE PURCHASE HALF THE FOOD WE SERVE

Despite generous food donations we still need to purchase over half the food we serve every day. This is especially true as more and more New York City restaurants have shuttered their doors in response to social distancing requirements.

We serve New York's most hungry and vulnerable: the elderly, veterans, people struggling with disabilities or homelessness, children, and hardworking individuals like Eva. Without you, we just couldn't feed about half of our guests who need an emergency meal today.



FARM  
to  
TRAY

HOLY APOSTLES SOUP KITCHEN

**POSTPONED**

In light of the evolving global health pandemic, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen has rescheduled its 8th annual Farm to Tray benefit, originally scheduled for May 14, 2020, to **September 24, 2020**.

If you purchased a sponsorship, table or ticket, your package will automatically be honored for the rescheduled date. If you find you are unable to attend on September 24, please consider donating your ticket price by contacting [funddevelopment@holypostlesnyc.org](mailto:funddevelopment@holypostlesnyc.org) or 212-924-0167.

# Voice of a donor... Barbara



Barbara's care for others fortifies her own wellbeing and joy.

After hitting a wall as an aspiring singer and actress in New York City, Barbara Gustern decided to take the advice of an older woman she met at a social event and turned to vocal coaching. Fast-forward several decades and many students later,

Barbara is now a proud supporter of Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen.

"I live across the street from the soup kitchen, and every day I see their good works. They do so much more than just feed people," Barbara shared in an interview with *Call Me Adam*, a website devoted to interviewing TV, film, and Broadway artists. She goes on to add, "These folks are made to feel like guests at a family

gathering. They are given food but just as important, they are given dignity."

In a selfless act of kindness, Barbara organized a fundraiser to benefit the guests of Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen to mark her 85th birthday. There were more than 25 performers at the event, and all of them had her as a vocal teacher.

"Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen delivers food, clothing, social services, and most importantly love and dignity to more individuals than any other in New York State. Of course, the most meaningful thing I could do to show my gratitude for all my good fortune was to support this cause."

Barbara goes on to add, "Knowing that I was part of an effort to feed hungry people – young and old – at this critical time is so heartwarming. Now I pray that this current problem will subside so that we can get back to looking for creative ways to aid the less fortunate in our midst."

## The Writing Den: Partnering with Others to Nourish Mind, Body, and Soul

In recent years, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen has joined forces with **The Writing Den**, a new and growing nonprofit dedicated to re-connecting people experiencing homelessness with their loved ones using the power of handwritten letters, cards, and postcards. Once a month, *The Writing Den* comes to the soup kitchen to assist our guests one-on-one with their writing. After finishing their lunch, or talking to a volunteer counselor, guests will stop at a table where they are greeted by Jill Higson, the Executive Director and co-founder of



*This is an opportunity to reconnect with people who have been meaningful and supportive in my life. Otherwise I would not be able to reach out to them.*

Matthew, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen guest



*Thank you for giving me holiday cards to write my mom and dad, as well as mailing them for me. I enjoyed the experience and was grateful for the opportunity to communicate with my family.*

Peter, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen guest

the group. They sort through colorful postcards and stationery before sitting down to either write a handwritten note to loved ones, employers, housing contacts, and elected officials, or just have a moment to reflect and creatively express through stories, poems, and drawings. "We provide a much-needed emotional outlet: time to ponder, plan and hope, as well as to create," explains Higson. "Through self-expression, handwriting has the power to transform relationships. opportunities for work and sustained housing."

# Bite Sized News

## Estate Planning

Because of generous, forward-thinking friends like you, soup kitchen guests will have a strong and vocal advocate well into the future. Your personal legacy will help sustain New Yorkers who are struggling with poverty, hunger, and homelessness, enable us to advocate on their behalf, and sustain our agenda to drive transformational change. Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen simply could not exist but for investments like the ones you make.

For more info, or to let us know that you have included the soup kitchen in your plans, please call 646-998-6101 or email: [plannedgiving@holypostlesnyc.org](mailto:plannedgiving@holypostlesnyc.org)

### DID YOU KNOW?

The soup kitchen has served **9,879,000 meals** since it opened in 1982? At this pace, we're on track to serve our **10 millionth meal** by September 21! We could not have done it without you.



## Soup and Soul

In 2019, your support of the soup kitchen provided physical and spiritual nourishment to hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers.

- **340,000+** meals provided
- **338,000** pounds of rescued food diverted from waste streams
- **76,000** Social Services Interactions
  - 1,700 reading glasses
  - 11,000 clothing items
  - 9,000 haircuts
  - 33,000 personal hygiene toiletries
  - 7,800 mail and phone
  - 1,100 referrals for housing, employment, and healthcare



## Care2Share: Investors Bank makes it easy to support the soup kitchen!

Investors Bank offers an easy and free way to support the soup kitchen simply by doing what you are already doing. We all have to bank somewhere and if you open an account with Investors they will make a quarterly donation to the soup kitchen on your behalf with no cost to you! Find out more by calling Jennifer Smith, Community Development Officer, at 718-330-3830, or by visiting an Investors Bank branch. [www.myinvestorsbank.com](http://www.myinvestorsbank.com)



## Giving Warmth

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise over \$5,700 for our Layers of Love pop-up fundraiser this winter. You provided 570 soup kitchen guests with a package of warm gloves, socks, thermals, and a hat.



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