

Homeless Dinner at Fresh Start

Stephenson Lenten Group, April 23, 2009



The Stephenson Lenten Group decided to host a homeless dinner at Fresh Start in Walnut Creek for its Lenten Project. The menu was:



Tri-Tip: Cooked by Bob Baker and Jerry Slater and carved by Charles Stephenson.

Baked Pork and Beans: By Judy Baker

Potato Salad: By Shirley Slater (with assistance by Jerry)

Green Salad: By Shirley Stephenson

Brownies: By Sylvia Benzler

Drinks: By Louise Farrow and Kathy Fulcher

We think the meal was pretty good, because the compliments flowed like water!!

Top photo: The ladies are setting up a serving table in the kitchen. Fresh Start employee John is assisting.

Text and photos by Bob Baker

Bottom photo: We barbequed 15 pounds of Tri-Tip! It was delicious! That's Jerry Slater at the BBQ.



Top Photo: The ladies are visiting in the Fresh Start kitchen, waiting for the Tri-tip to get carved. From the left we have Shirley Slater, Judy Baker, Shirley Stephenson, and Sylvia Benzler.



Left: Charles Stephenson is doing a massive carving job.



Right: Horace Crawford came by for lunch. He is the SRVUMC member who initiated the contact with Fresh Start. That's Fresh Start Board Member "Kitty" with Horace. Kitty's trademark is that she hugs everyone in sight!



Bob Baker took some time out from cooking to pose in front of "Alice's Garden." The Sheriff's Department built the planter boxes. Bob put in the drip system with donations from the Men's Faith Sharing Group. The San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church (SRVUMC) Men's Breakfast group (Thank you Dean McWilliams!) has donated \$200 to convert the eighth box (it's in the back with a board over it) from a storage locker to a planter box. Tom Byrom, Horace, Bob and Larry Pasquale are going to do the work. Fresh Start is located behind St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Trinity Avenue in Walnut Creek.



Dave Holleman came by to deliver some cookies to the Fresh Start food pantry. Fresh Start is open two days a week and provides a hot dinner, canned food to go, clothing, clothes washing facilities and shower facilities, and guidance to the homeless. Fresh Start always needs donations that are useful to homeless people like canned food, batteries, water, sleeping bags etc. Horace Crawford and Dawn Boyd have been coordinating Fresh Start donations for San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church (SRVUMC).



Horace is spearheading the work on Alice's Garden this year. Horace and Peggy Crawford, Tom Byrom, and Jackie and Rudy Ceragioli planted tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables that will be used in the preparation of the Tuesday and Thursday Fresh Start dinners. That's Jackie, Peggy, and Rudy above.

the homeless people. Listening to Jerry Slater was worth the price of admission: "He's not homeless! Surely he isn't homeless. He must work here." (all in reference to different people, all homeless.)

The preparation and serving of the homeless meal was a terrifically enjoyable activity for the Stephenson Lenten group. Everyone involved can't wait to do it again. It was really great to get to know

Fresh Start Board Member Kitty Maffei summed up their approach this way: "We just love them all!"