



Little Rock Stewpot Newsletter
September - 2014
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Stewpot Appreciation Dinner



The Stewpot will host an Appreciation Dinner for all of the Stewpot volunteers on Tuesday evening, October 7th at 6:00 p.m. If approved by the Westover Hills Session, the dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, 6400 Richard B. Hardie Drive (Corner of Kavanaugh, McKinley and Pine Valley).

Stewpot Receives \$1,000 Grant



The Social Concerns Committee of Our Lady of Holy Souls Catholic Church thanks you for your application for financial support for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Upon review of your proposal, our committee has determined this program meets our charitable giving efforts. We are pleased to inform you that your group has been granted funding in the amount of \$1000 for the Stewpot organization.

Our Parish is pleased to support your work in our community, and we hope you will keep us informed of your progress. Together with you, we are proud to help our brothers and sisters as family, united through Jesus Christ. May God bless you and guide your organization in the year ahead.

Ed and Cedric - Two Faithful Workers

Most of us remember the "good old days" when you could hear your shoes sticking to the floor as you walked across it or watching a roach strutting in broad daylight just to let us know he was well fed and happy or never quite knowing what crisis we might encounter on our serving day. Thankfully those days are gone. Ever since



Ed and Cedric

Ed Brown came on board 4 years ago we have learned how to glide across the floor almost catching our reflection. The varmints are gone and so are the daily problems. When something comes up Ed takes care of it, and most of us don't even know it happened.

Most of us also don't know that Ed lives across the street and comes up on weekends and evenings to make sure everything is cleaned up and ready for the

next day. Ed will be the first to tell you at he has never been a cook, but he sure knows how to do it now. On the rare occasion that a team doesn't show up until late they will find lunch already started. Now he knows how to be the Chef in-chief.

In other words , Ed Brown keeps the Stewpot running smoothly , is helpful always to our volunteers, is caring toward our diners and a real blessing to the Stewpot and its mission to the community.

Also.....

Many of us remember when the clothing room day was like a free for all in the back hall. That is a very rare event now, and a big credit goes to Cedric Gaither who helps our great clothing room team keep the peace while keeping things moving along.

Cedric also comes up on Wednesday to help carry up our Ben E Keith order of 1000 pounds a week as well as putting it away and dating it and keeping the pantry in order. Cedric is our man of so many talents and can take over any time Ed is not there.

Like Ed, Cedric brings his polite manner and good attitude with him at all times and is a valuable asset to Ed , the volunteers and The Stewpot....another blessing for sure.

Sometimes the "good old days" are best forgotten and behind us. Thanks to Ed and Cedric, we now know what really are "**The Good Days.**"

Stewpot Clothes Closet



Cooking and serving food to our needy neighbors isn't the only thing happening at Stewpot. Down the hallway from Stewpot's dining room is the Clothes Closet. The purpose is to distribute clothing and hygiene products to folks in need. The Closet is open every Thursday from 12:00 to 1:00, and it is staffed mostly by volunteers. Carl, a member of the Church at Rock Creek, is a long-serving volunteer. Barbara came on board about a year ago and is involved in assisting the women who come to



Some of the Clothes Closet Volunteers

Stewpot. Carl and Barbara sort through all of the items that are donated to the Closet. The Clothes Closet has five great volunteers (Sharon, Tori, Angela, Kim, and Paul) who come on different Thursdays to help give out the clothing. Cedric (of Stewpot fame) helps us by distributing items and generally keeping order! Almost everything that is distributed from the Closet is donated; however, Nancy Rorex does come to our rescue with many of the hygiene items (and other things) we need. Church at Rock Creek has for years collected clothing from its membership for the Closet, and some of our other churches are joining in collecting from their congregations too. This is critically necessary as the number of folks that we serve is continuing to grow. We are seeing a marked increase in the number of women.....some of whom are pregnant. Stewpot's numbers are up, and as a result, so are the numbers at the Closet. The Closet Closet serves an important service for the less fortunate citizens of the downtown area. In order that we can continue to perform this service, we are constantly in need of donated goods and items! It is our hope that this vital program will be able to serve far into the future!!

Stewpot Gets New Computer and Printer



The Stewpot recently purchased a new computer and printer for Ed Brown, Day Manager of the Stewpot. The computer and printer will be kept in the room where the food is stored. Ed will be able to access the wireless internet from this room. The computer will be used primarily for online

purchasing of food from various vendors, communicating with volunteers and responding to organizations that invite Stewpot to apply for Grants.

Stewpot Installs Video Cameras and Motion Detection Lights to Reduce Drug Trafficking



Bob Quinn, a member of Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, and a volunteer at Stewpot, and Cedric Gaither, one of the paid workers for Stewpot, recently installed three video cameras and two motion detection lights to reduce drug trafficking in and around 1st Presbyterian Church. Marie Mainard O'Connell, minister of 1st Pres, and

Ed Brown, Day Manager of Stewpot, reviewed areas around the building and decided on the strategic placement of the video cameras and motion detection lights.

"Books for the Offering"



Libby Ingram is a member of First Presbyterian Church and has served with the First Pres Stewpot team for several years. She is enrolled in graduate school and had to create and implement a project based around reading or information delivery. Her idea was to offer paperback books to the diners at Stewpot.

Reverend Marie Mainard O'Connell, minister at First Pres, offered storage space for the books in a Sunday School class room near the Stewpot dining room. Her instructors approved the project, and she collected a bunch of books from her friends, co-workers and members of First Pres. She had the first "Books at Stewpot" day on the second Tuesday in March.

Here's how it works: Ed sets up a table for her in the hallway just outside the main dining area. The diners who are interested come and browse through the books and make their selections. Stewpot has a lot of readers. They take their time looking at the books, they read the blurbs on the back and talk about what they've read and their favorite authors. They generally take a couple of books each. Libby sticks to paperback books because they're easily portable for the diners (and for her getting them to the church!) Diners select about 50 books each book day. Libby offers the books freely with no expectation of return and certainly no charge.

So far she has gotten all the books through donations from friends, coworkers, church friends. She has a website (www.booksfortheoffering.com) and a Facebook page (Books for the Offering) for contact information. She is happy to talk to anyone who would like to donate books.



Stewpot needs volunteers to pickup donated food, prepare food, organize the clothes closet and do deep cleaning. Contact Jan Van Ness, Volunteer Coordinator at jvanness8@gmail.com to signup.

Donations

Your generous donations have helped us fight hunger for 40 years. Please send your tax deductible donations to The Stewpot, 800 Scott Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.

Check out our Website

<http://stewpot-littlerock.org>