

Around the Table

You're Feeding the Hungry
in Eastern Wisconsin!

Look Inside

to see how
your gifts are
changing the
lives of hungry
children and
families!



Fall 2009


**FEEDING
AMERICA**
Eastern Wisconsin

Formerly named America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin

Children Thrive at Kids Cafe Thanks to Your Generous Gifts



Children receive a hot meal at La Casa de Esperanza thanks to the Kids Cafe program.

Picture a group of 5-year-olds deep in conversation about swimming as they eat a meal of sloppy joes, corn and peaches. As milk is handed out a few thank you's are issued without a reminder about being polite. This meal, which could have taken place anywhere, took place at La Casa de Esperanza in Waukesha. Forty to eighty kids per day are served supper year-round at Kids Cafe, a program of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.

"Kids who participate in our programs don't go home hungry," said Polina Makievsky, La Casa de Esperanza Director of Programs. The Kids Cafe program started at La Casa in April of 2007, without it "the dinner meal program at La Casa de Esperanza would not be possible," according to Makievsky.

La Casa de Esperanza, located in downtown Waukesha, started in 1966 as a small, high-quality childcare facility to help transition completely Spanish speaking children to the public schools English speaking environment. Thanks

"Supper is essential - if they don't eat here, there's not another option."

Polina Makievsky, La Casa de Esperanza Director of Programs

to the partnership with Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and the generosity of private donors, La Casa is able to offer hot, nutritious meals to children five times a week. "Supper is essential - if they don't eat here, there's not another option," said Makievsky.

When kids arrive at La Casa after school, they sit down to dinner before homework, tutoring or other activities. "I can't imagine kids focusing without food. It has an impact far beyond ways we can tangibly measure," said Makievsky. La Casa offers sports and craft activities in addition to homework help, tutoring and mentoring to the kids in their after school and second shift programs.

"A lot of youth come here on their own. The older kids usually come from 3:30 to 8:00 pm," said Makievsky. "They think of it as hanging out with their friends.

The meals are in with other activities, so it's just another part of their evening."

This year, Kids Cafe added more nutrition education. They grew a garden of tomatoes, zucchini and peppers. The kids were surprisingly very excited about gardening and harvesting the vegetables.

Started in Georgia in 1993, Kids Cafe is now the most expansive children's food program in the nation, providing meals to needy children at over 1,700 sites. Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin supports five Kids Cafe locations including Green Bay, Appleton, Racine, Milwaukee and La Casa de Esperanza in Waukesha.

Kids Cafe is a year-round program unique to each individual site. Common components include:

- A nutritious hot meal served every week to children, ages 17 and under
- Nutrition Education
- A safe and convenient location for neighborhood kids to participate
- Food centered activities and meals supplied by Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin
- A generous supply of volunteers

During fiscal year 2007-2008 the five Kids Cafe programs of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin served more than 28,400 meals to hungry children; an increase of 21% over the previous year. •

You Are Helping Make Ends Meet for Struggling Families



John Holland leaves Sherman Park Community Ministries with bags full of food.

a week to secure and distribute food to those in need. At their bleakest, they didn't have a location for the pantry, they were short on funds and their truck, used to transport food, fell apart. But Haberman never gave up on SPCM. "The food from the pantry means the difference between eating and going hungry for a lot of families," said Haberman.

Today the pantry is housed at two locations, Divine Word Church at 5505 W. Lloyd Street and Trinity Presbyterian at 3300 Sherman Boulevard. Together, these two locations served over two thousand people in July 2009 alone, a 20% increase from last year.

"It is a horribly stressful thing to ask for food," said Haberman. It's the genuine care of the SPCM volunteers that helps those in need cope with their difficult situation. "I've volunteered at the food pantry for almost a year to give back a little of what they've given me," said Shawanda Williams. Williams is currently undergoing chemotherapy and is unable to work. SPCM helps her provide food for her family and her sister's family.

Haberman encourages everyone to stop by for a visit. "Come to the pantry and see first hand how your donations are given to those in need. Come to the front lines of hunger and see what's being done." •

"Social security doesn't last all month and we're trying to pay our utility bills, put gas in the car and pay for our medicine, but there's just not enough to make ends meet." said John Holland, a 76 year-old retired auto mechanic. Holland relies on the Sherman Park Community Ministries, Inc. (SPCM) food pantry to supplement groceries for him and his wife. "I thank God for people who can share with others. They're truly serving others."

SPCM started in 1981 at Sherman Park Lutheran Church. "There was a time we didn't know if we would make it," said Russ Haberman, director of SPCM who volunteers forty plus hours

FEED YOUR SOUL



Feed Your Soul is an opportunity to enrich lives with art while helping raise money to feed the hungry in our community. Wooden bowls are transformed into works of art by members of Milwaukee's design community. The artwork is auctioned off with proceeds benefiting Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.

WHEN: Friday, November 6, 7 - 11 pm

WHERE: Flux Design, 811 E. Vienna Avenue

TICKETS: \$25 in advance; \$35 at the door
www.feedyoursoul.us

CONTACT: Jenny Mendenhall at
jmendenhall@feedingamericawi.org
or 414-831-6345



STUFF THE BUS

Take a few minutes the day before Thanksgiving to help us stuff the bus to feed the hungry in eastern Wisconsin. Stop by the Pick 'n Save at 11111 W. Greenfield Avenue to pick up your last minute ingredients and a few extra nonperishable items for the hungry. Kidd O'Shea and Elizabeth Kay from 99.1 WMYX will be broadcasting live to help stuff Milwaukee County Transit System buses for the hungry.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 25, 5 am - 6 pm

WHERE: Pick 'n Save
11111 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis

\$1 =





Up-to-the-Minute Information

Follow Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin on Facebook and Twitter for the most up-to-the-minute information on how we're feeding the hungry in Eastern Wisconsin. Watch for upcoming events, pictures and how you can become more involved in hunger relief efforts.

Find us on Facebook by searching for Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. Then click on the Become A Fan button. Follow us on Twitter by searching for FeedAmericaWI and then clicking the Follow button. You will need to have a Facebook or Twitter account to follow us on the respective social media networks.

Don't forget to check out our new website! www.feedingamericawi.org.

New Name, Same Mission

While our name has officially changed to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, our mission remains the same – feeding the hungry in Eastern Wisconsin. Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin will continue to supply food to 1,100 food pantries, shelters and meal programs who feed 235,000 people in eastern Wisconsin. Please join us in Feeding America. Visit our website, www.feedingamericawi.org to learn more.

1700 W. Fond du Lac Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53205

