LEFSA Hosts Super Bowl Sunday

by Patrice Athanasidy

The Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates (LEFSA) turned the Super Bowl into a truly super Sunday for a number of homeless people in the St. Jean Baptiste Church area of Manhattan. The brainchild of James Addison, operations manager at LEFSA, this special Super Bowl Sunday was a way for James’ family to share their Super Bowl tradition with a number of those in the community who had no place to see the game. James said he and his family often gather for the Super Bowl, so this year he asked them if they would like to share their party with members of the St. Jean Baptiste community. His family happily agreed and began planning a menu. He put word out on the street and on Super Bowl Sunday, some 35 people joined in the party.

Members of the Addison family and LEFSA did all the cooking and kept the food rolling from kickoff to halftime to the final whistle. Guests feasted on chili, wings, and other typical Super Bowl fare, while enjoying the game and conversation. One gentleman began teaching James’s grandson how to play chess before the game started.

Pointing to the community feeling, James said, “It was probably one of the best times I had at the Super Bowl. I think I am going to make it an annual event.” He said he could not have done it without the help of his family and Karolina May, the Director of LEFSA. He said the guests were all very grateful that LEFSA had thought of them.

Sister Karen Helfenstein described how James talked about his idea just a few weeks before and how amazing it was that it all came together so quickly. “They had between 30 and 35 guys coming. They just kept food coming. They made it such a wonderful party.” She concluded, “The guys are still saying, ‘thanks so much for thinking of us.’”

LEFSA runs a number of programs year round for homeless men and women. James says the main goal is always to make the people he visits with feel comfortable and safe. The first important step, he said, is treating each person with dignity and respect.

Message in a Bottle from Seton Village

Residents and staff of Seton Village, a Sisters of Charity-sponsored affordable housing complex for seniors in Nanuet, NY, are known for their fun-loving and creative spirit. For Seton Village’s tenth anniversary last year, a group took an early fall cruise to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Sister Eileen Patricia Walsh, Resident Services Director, came up with a unique public relations idea. She and resident Barbara Heaney arranged to drop two bottles into the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Ocean, each containing greetings, information about Seton Village, and a request for the finders to drop a note in reply. On November 12, Sr. Eileen opened her e-mail to find this note:

Hello residents of Seton Village,

Happy 10th Anniversary, this year!!

My name is Shawna (age 43), I think you will be pleased to hear that my Husband (54), Mike Finley, found your message in a bottle while he was beach combing, in Morden, Nova Scotia, yesterday, November 11, 2013. It was quite a pleasant surprise! We are wondering if you would like for us to put your note back in the bottle, add a note of our own, then toss it back into the Bay of Fundy so the next person who may find it will know where the bottle has traveled? We would be happy to do so! Thanks for sharing the fun with us!!

As they say, you never know…. Regina Bechtle, SC

Save the Date

Join Us

Wednesday, September 17, 2014
for lunch at

Xaviars X2O on the Hudson

Please help us support the Sisters of Charity ministries to those living in poverty.

11:30 am to 3:00 pm
71 Water Grant Street
Yonkers, NY 10701

Good food, old and new friends
Call Mary Ann Lynch at 718-879-5267

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