

HOMELESS BUT NOT “TURKEYLESS”

It was a cozy meal for sixty six. The families had to eat in two shifts because the dining room was not big enough to seat everyone at the same time. Nevertheless all the clients of the Homeless Family Center enjoyed the turkey, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, sweet potato casserole, stuffing, gravy and cranberries. The mood was both joyous and thankful. For some it was their first Thanksgiving meal in several years. It was amazing to watch how much the children could polish off.

The food was bought and prepared by Scott and Terry Turner. This was the second year that they offered to make the traditional Thanksgiving dinner happen for the clients at HFC. This meant that all day Wednesday they were working in their home kitchen cooking the three turkeys and preparing the side dishes. They confessed that the apple and pumpkin pies came from Sam's. For them this was a labor of love and giving back.

Every holiday and days in between families, couples, formal and informal groups, clubs, work teams, social cliques offer their money, time and talent to help the HFC operate. Today it was the Turners who donated the food and time to prepare a wonderful meal. Other days it is people taking the children to a play, tutoring the parents or running a workshop. The need for financial and volunteer support is so great because in this time of economic crisis the need to be of service is growing exponentially. Each month on average the HFC has to turn away about thirty families.

Being homeless brings with it a myriad of problems and difficulties. Preparing a meal, hosting a party, providing tutoring are ways of helping to turn lives around. Please contact Leeanne Honey, Program Director at 772-567-5537 if you would like to

volunteer your time. We need enthusiastic people who want to make a difference.

The Homeless Family Center provides opportunities for homeless families to end homelessness by achieving self-sufficiency through education, living wages and permanent housing. For more information or a tour of the Homeless Family Center call Julia Keenan at 772-567-5537. Check out the HFC website at www.homelessfamilycenter.org so you can see the faces and read the stories of the people you will be helping.