

Teen Feed Times

University Street Ministry works with the community and people of all faith traditions to address basic needs, build strong relationships and ally with homeless youth as they meet their future off the streets.

Greetings All!

This issue of the Teen Feed Times is packed with lists, how-to's, and ideas to get involved right now. Stay tuned for news from our newest night of Teen Feed early next year!

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Warm Holidays for Homeless Youth!

Once each year, the University District service providers throw a holiday party for homeless youth. On December 14th, homeless young people will be surrounded by adults who care about them, good food, cheer and live music. Best of all, each young person will leave the party with a present picked out just for them.

At the University District Holiday Party, for at least one whole evening, homeless youth have the comforts of home at the holidays.

Here are three ways you can help this December:

1) Be a Secret Santa. "Adopt" a particular youth and purchase the gift they ask for this season. Beginning mid-November, a list of adoptable youth will be available for those who request it. Choose a youth from the list and purchase their gift, an item around \$40, before December 9th. Email secretsanta@teenfeed.org or call (206) 853-1927 and talk to Julie to become a Secret Santa!

2) Host your own donation drive. We have a list of general need items for youth. These items fill the "General Store" and provide gifts for youth at the party who were not able to request a Secret Santa. General need items are the perfect things to collect among your youth group, family, or work place. A partial list of general need items is included in this newsletter – please email secretsanta@teenfeed.org for more information.

3) Make a donation to University Street Ministry via mail or securely online at www.teenfeed.org. Type "Holiday Party" under "designation" when prompted and your gift will be used to purchase presents for youth who need them.

I often think about a young man who received Ben Nye costume paint at the Holiday Party last year. He opened up the small box that had his name on it, nestled under the tree, and said, "Oh man yes! This is *perfect!*" This is exactly the right stuff!" For just a few hours that evening, he had a sense

of what a happy holiday season might be – with caring adults, thoughtful gifts, and home-made food.

May we all feel warm and loved this winter.

In Hope, megan

Teen Feed is excited to be partnering with KEXP this November!

Listen for Teen Feed on KEXP and save the date for a live music showcase benefiting Teen Feed on December 5th at the Sunset Tavern in Ballard.

For more information go to www.kexp.org.





“It is far too easy for our youth to feel forgotten in this time of year that puts so much emphasis on the family.”

Teen Feed: Hooray to our Advocates!

Teen Feed has an amazing group of new and long-time volunteers. We are grateful to have so many dedicated advocates from differing backgrounds and life experiences. Our distinct perspectives bring forth wonderful conversations and meaningful support, which is especially important to our guests with the Holiday Season approaching.

Our advocates work together to support our guests, and it

shows.

One advocate, who has lived in Tanzania for the past three years, takes a ferry from Bainbridge and two buses to get here.

We have a mother-to-be who has incredible conversations with the young mothers that access Teen Feed. She also convinced her husband to donate 80 lbs of Salmon for our dedicated meal teams!

We have an advocate that brings a chessboard and plays a lighthearted game or two with guests.

These styles, perspectives, and histories complement one another. Let us all continue to support our youth throughout these cold winter months.

Thank you, and Happy Holidays!

Jaime & Alexis

STOP Dispatch

The Holidays are upon us again and that means that the U-District Holiday Party is right around the corner. For many of the youth we serve, this is as close as they get to a family celebration of the season.

Some of our clients have expressed that some of their fondest Christmas memories are from attending the U-

District Holiday Party. A room full of caring and supportive people can make the difference between a wonderful holiday and a marginalized one. It is far too easy for our youth to feel forgotten in this time of year that puts so much emphasis on the family.

I can honestly say that, having been on both the

client side and the staff side of the event, it is one of the most meaningful things that happens all year.

Keep our clients in your hearts and minds this holiday season. We would not have the great privilege of the work that we do without your continued support.

Happy Holidays, Will

Jim Knodle & Karin Kajita are hosting a House Concert to benefit Teen Feed on November 22nd.

Come enjoy Jazz tunes and classical standards. More information at

<http://jimknodlemusic.com/>



SLY: Connections to Change the World

We all know that supportive relationships are important. They give us strength to press on, get us excited for new possibilities and, ultimately, give us hope in our ability to make a difference in the world. The youth we serve are more than deserving of these relationships, but all too often they miss out on the chance

to have genuine connection with others, to know they are cared for and that they matter.

Since many of our youth aren't with their families, they are left out of holiday celebrations that so many take for granted. Thankfully, here in the U-District we have you: volunteers that

share your time, resources and hearts so that the youth do get to feel hope, warmth and love.

I am continually humbled by the strength and abilities of the youth I work with; just in October seven youth got into stable housing.

[continued on page 3]

Many Warm Thanks to the following Teen Feed supporters:

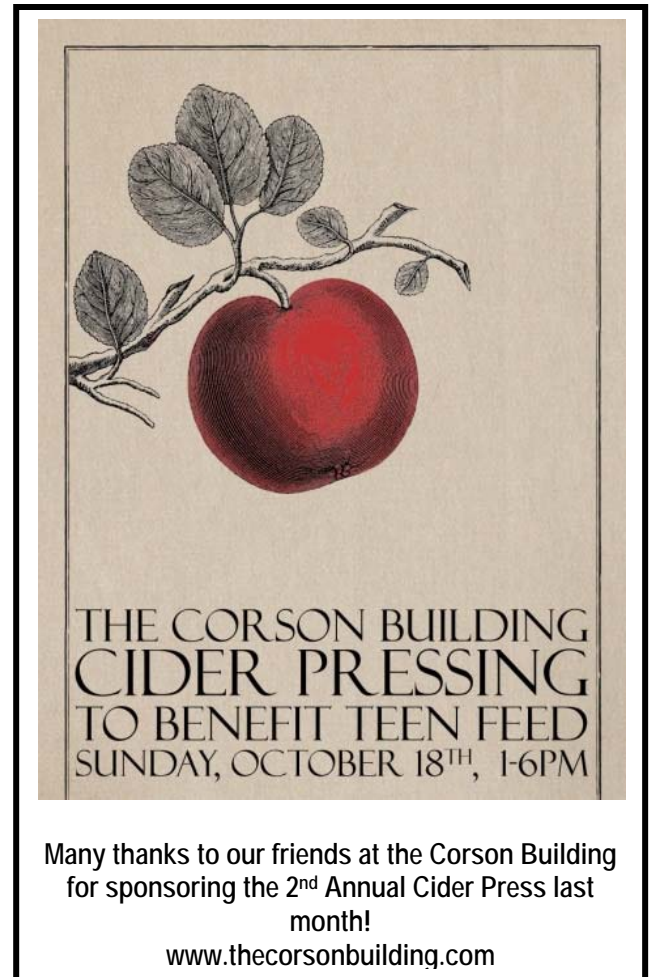
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In Kind Donors to the 2009 Annual Celebration:

Le Panier
 Madison Market
 Roosevelt Trader Joe's
 Grand Central Bakery
 Big Johns PFI
 Stumptown Coffee

~~~~~  
*Finally, warm thanks to the  
 several couples this summer  
 and early fall who designatea  
 Teen Feed as the recipient of  
 gifts to honor their unions.*  
 ~~~~~



[continued from page 2]

The reason they all got into housing is because they know they can have housing...because they deserve housing.

And they know they deserve it because of you...your gift, your warm meal, your inviting conversation, your smile...they can (and will) change the world.

With gratitude, Ryan

"Because nobody is a lost cause."

- "Kay", when asked why he tries to help his friends on the streets.

Want to get involved? Wear your plate on your sleeve!



“Nothing bad ever happens here. I feel safe here.”

- A homeless youth eating at Teen Feed

- Very stylish Teen Feed T-shirts, sweatshirts and reusable grocery totes are now available for purchase – you may have seen USM board and staff wearing them at the Annual Celebration this year.

- o **Grocery totes \$5**
- o **T-shirts \$15**
- o **Hoodies \$30**

Spread the word about the youth living on our streets as you bag your groceries! Call (206) 605-5044 or email megan@teenfeed.org to purchase yours.

- Donate securely online at www.teenfeed.org – where you can also schedule automatic monthly gifts.
- USM can now accept credit card donations – simply complete and clip the pledge form, below.
- You can give via the King County Employee Giving Program (charity code 9162), the Washington State Combined Fund Drive (charity code 0315179), and many other employer matching programs.
- Have Friday nights free? Email Jaime to join a meal team, become an advocate, or get elbow deep in dishes to support our newest night of Teen Feed beginning in January of 2010. jaime@teenfeed.org

Yes! I would like to help sponsor a night of Teen Feed!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMPLOYER _____

E-MAIL _____ MATCHING PROGRAM? _____

Pledge Information

I (we) pledge a total of \$ _____ to be paid: Today Monthly Annually

I (we) plan to make this contribution by: Check Credit Card Other: _____

CREDIT CARD TYPE _____ CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____ AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____

I (WE) WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Checks should be made out to :
University Street Ministry
4740 B University Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105

Giving Thanks and Pledging Support: USM's 2009 Annual Celebration a Success!



Warm thanks to everyone who attended this year's Annual Celebration or made a gift! Special thanks to Link, Teddy Wright, Jennifer Stambaugh, the Brad Papineau Quartet and the many volunteers who made the event a success.

We were pleased to announce at the Celebration that

table give them the hope to start meeting their future off the streets.

We know, and you know, that youth's need for food, strong relationships, and allies in their struggle on the streets does not have a weekend.

Special thanks to University Christian Church, who has agreed to host Friday nights of Teen Feed in 2010!



Teen Feed will be expanding to 6 nights each week – Sunday through Friday – beginning in January of 2010.

Over \$9,000 was raised at the event, including 11 nights of Teen Feed sponsored in 2010, ensuring that we can offer youth the safety, warm food, and consistency of Teen Feed every night they need it.

Currently, Teen Feed is every Sunday through Thursday night, 52 weeks every year. We believe that youth need their dining room table – their Teen Feed – every night of the week. Every night they are hungry. It is the place they feel they belong, the place they feel safe and heard. The conversations they have over this dining room

Congratulations to the following honorees at the 2009 Celebration:

Temple Beth Am
2009 Meal Team of the Year

Douglas Querl
2009 Advocate of the Year

Cody Baggenstoss
2009 Golden Plunger Recipient



Stay tuned for updates on our newest night of Teen Feed in the next Times.



USM Is:

Staff

Megan Gibbard
Executive Director

Jaime Jamison
Teen Feed Coordinator

Alexis Lair
Direct Service Support Staff

Will Thompson
STOP Coordinator

Ryan Fouts
Support Coordinator

Board of Directors

Jeff Albertson, Chair
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Alisa Betz, Secretary
Jack Yager, Treasurer
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Elliott Barrere
Thoa Huynh
Frank Lawler
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What to give right now:

This is a partial list of “general need” items requested during the Holiday season.

For a full list or for more information, email secretsanta@teenfeed.org or call Julie at (206) 853-1927.

- Backpacks
- New, warm sweatshirts in dark colors
- Socks
- Hand warmers
- Hats, gloves, scarves
- Blank journals
- Men’s and women’s new underwear
- Sleeping bags
- Silly putty
- packaged food – granola bars, nuts, etc
- Ethnic hair products
- Water bottles
- Blankets



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Holidays 2009

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