

**PROJECT SHARE: AN OVER-THE-MOON EXPERIENCE FOR ALL**

## ***Project Share:*** **An Over-the-Moon Experience for All**

The management of PROJECT SHARE on Yale Boulevard wishes to thank everyone at Church of the Good Shepherd for their efforts, sharing, and services. The unusually wide range of desserts thrilled the hungry homeless folks who came to eat on Sunday evening, July 31. There were creative surprises well beyond the typical, though always popular brownies: blueberry bars, Golden Delicious apples, cinnamon Snickledoodles, walnut-studded brownies, peanut & chocolate-laced bars .... yum!

Maya Crosby, age 10, manned the dessert table, carefully announcing to those in a line, eyeing the offerings, "This has nuts. Are you okay with that?" Privately, Maya confessed, "I was a little scared to come and serve the poor, but I see they're just people. It is fun to be here and help."

Sage, Maya's older sister, age 12, stood taller and could thus more easily hand out hard-boiled eggs from a shallow shiny bowl she'd piled high in preparation for serving. The homeless like taking these eggs with them to be peeled and enjoyed tomorrow or shared with a companion who could not come on his/her own, perhaps due to mental or physical incapacities.

The girls' dad, Doug Crosby, stood beside Mike Griffin who served steaming hot enchilada pie. "Salsa? Buttered tortilla or plain?" Doug later commented as the last of the dinner guests was leaving, "This has been a beautiful experience for my girls and me. We'd like to do it again."

Flour tortillas do not come packed already buttered and folded. That task fell to the eager and willing newcomers, Tilia and Derek Gilmore. After preparing several hundred tortillas, they both agreed with smiling faces, "This was great! When we're home from college,

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we'd like to do this again." Tilia will leave soon for NM State University in Las Cruces and Derek, for choral directing at Texas Christian University. COGS serves the homeless whenever a month has five Sundays, which amounts to about five times a year.

Because of the generosity of COGS, the shelter management was able to provide each of four families with small children an extra gallon of milk. Approximately 250 people were served, while 150 has been a more typical number in the past.

A healthy looking young woman spoke up as she passed in line with her tray, " How wonderful to see young people here serving us. I used to do this myself as a teen, but I never dreamed the day would come when I'd be standing in the food line myself!"

The 6-ft.-tall gentleman behind the salad station beamed a smile as his long arms easily reached across the counter to serve romaine leaves and fresh cut juicy tomatoes he'd just tossed with Ranch Dressing. We thought he must be new at COGS. Instead, he queried, "Who are you; where do you all come from?" He revealed himself as just an Albuquerque citizen who decided to drop in and help. He saw how essential his tall stature was to salad service. COGS was blessed with this surprise stranger. None of us was as tall and able as he was.

As final cleaning of counters, floors, and tables was completed by volunteers the management provided, Mike Griffin emerged from the kitchen with a bowl of still warm enchilada pie. The savory blend, obviously infused with love and watched over with care until it all arrived at PROJECT SHARE on Yale Boulevard.....delish! And tomorrow, folks who came by will eat from the two and a half pans that remained.

Are you thinking you'd like to help too? Why not wash out your used plastic carton from yoghurt, deli foods, miso, cottage cheese, etc. Save the clean containers with their covers on for the next PROJECT SHARE. Homeless people use them to carry away extra salad, enchiladas, dessert and tortillas. Be a blessing to those in need.

*Blanche Griffin*