

CFJ Partners
Chris Davidson & John M. Bradley

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen: Serving Those in Need

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (“TASK”) began by feeding sixty hungry people in the basement of a Trenton church in January 1982. By the end of that first year, TASK had served over 40,000 meals. Now, more than a quarter century later, TASK continues to live its mission “to respond to the needs of hungry people in the Trenton community.” In addition to the 180,000 nutritious meals it serves annually, TASK provides services to encourage self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life of the people it serves; inform the wider community of the needs of the hungry; and advocate for resources to meet those needs.

In the past decade, TASK has received more than 250 teenage volunteers from JusticeworX each summer. “Over the summer months we have come to rely on the help of JusticeworX with our meal service, our Adult Education Program, and in our pantry,” commented Volunteer and Patron Services Coordinator Mary Ann Dobson. “It has always been a pleasure having JusticeworX with us. Each group that we have worked with was eager to help give back and learn.” While at TASK, JusticeworX volunteers aid the soup kitchen with a myriad of projects: helping to prepare meals, sorting goods in the pantry, creating contests for TASK patrons, conducting give-aways, tutoring, helping the TASK art groups, and supervising art projects and small events for children. “JusticeworX has been a wonderful source of terrific volunteers,” expressed Ms. Dobson. “The young adults who serve TASK patrons through JusticeworX do so with compassion and love. They are an inspiration to us at TASK.”

The Dudzinski Family: Sharing Gifts

In the autumn of 2007, Denise Dudzinski walked into the Center for FaithJustice’s offices and handed its Executive Director its first donation. Her sons, Brian and Matt, had participated in JusticeworX through CFJ’s partnership with Immaculata High School, and Mrs. Dudzinski thought it was such a “great program” that she and her

family decided to back it financially. She recently recalled the importance of JusticeworX, in which “the kids are introduced to people less fortunate” through service work and participate in “evening discussions that relate to the experiences of the day.”

The support that the Dudzinski family showed towards the Center for FaithJustice came as no surprise to Helen Sanford, the long-time Campus Minister at Immaculata and a former Trustee of CFJ. “The Dudzinski’s have been dedicated in their support of Campus Ministry.” All four of the students (Matt and Brian were preceded at Immaculata by their sisters Nicole and Jessica) were generous with their time and “have always been responsive to every need in Campus Ministry.” They have “hearts of servants.”

All of Denise and Ed Dudzinski’s children have continued their lives of service in young adulthood. Nicole, who according to her mother was given the “spark she needed” through an Appalachia service experience run by the Sanfords, is now in her second year of post-graduate service at a Salesian all-girls boarding school in Honduras. Matt, a freshman at Bucknell University, recently travelled to Honduras to help Nicole during his spring break. Meanwhile, Brian and Jessica presumably enjoy debating who enjoys the better Catholic education, as Brian attends the Augustinian Villanova University while Jessica is a graduate of the Jesuit Loyola University Maryland. We take no side in that debate and simply look forward to the promise of their continued service to church and society.

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