

Martin's Volunteers' Newsletter

November/December 2004

Closing Dates

Martin's will close after the Christmas Eve meal on December 24. We will re-open on Saturday, January 8.

A Thanksgiving Story

"Thank you for a wonderful meal," he said, "Everything was so nice, the music and the people - the *people* here are so nice". Those words were spoken to me as I was making another round with a dessert tray by a man who had come back inside to find someone to thank for his holiday meal. "I'm so glad you enjoyed it," I said - and I meant it. I've worked many Thanksgivings at Martin's - after all, that's what I do on Thursday. As always, this Thanksgiving dinner was amazing - about 100 volunteers and 300 to 400 guests showed up to feast on turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberries, salad and many, many desserts.

Live music from Pat Fahey and his friends had guests and volunteers dancing and singing. Pat's been doing this at Martin's for the past 15 years. Before the meal, artist Brian Wallace played his guitar to entertain our waiting guests.

As you know if you've ever worked a holiday meal, our guests are seated and then served their meal by volunteers. Yes, it's busy and hectic but everyone has a good time and by the end of the day you can feel that you have contributed to "the whole that is Martin's," as Barbara said in her newsletter. You've probably had a chance to meet more guests than usual, work with volunteers you've never seen before and had a lot of fun in the process. And guess what? You can do it all again on Christmas Eve!

-Arlin Weinberger

Gifts for Guests

On Christmas Eve, Martin's guests receive gifts of socks, scarves, gloves and warm knit caps. You can help by donating these items. They should be new and unwrapped, please. You may bring them to Martin's anytime before Wednesday, December 22. We appreciate your help as these are much-needed items, especially in the winter.



**Martin de Porres House of Hospitality
225 Potrero Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-552-0240**

Got Pie?

Martin's needs donations of pies and cakes (homemade or not) for our Christmas Eve meal. If you can help, please deliver your desserts to Martin's at 225 Potrero Avenue on Wednesday, December 22, before 5 PM. If you have any questions, call 552-0240.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Come help prepare and serve our Christmas Eve meal. There'll be two shifts, 9 to 11 AM and 11 to 3 PM. Or, if you can, come and stay the whole day. We'll be serving from noon to 2 PM. Sign-up sheets are posted on the refrigerator or call Martin's at 552-0240 to let us know you're coming. It's a great way to spend the 24th!



Community Thrift Store: You Give, Martin's Receives

Community Thrift is a store that helps nonprofits in the community by giving back some of the proceeds from the sale of items you donate to them.

The store is at 623 Valencia Street, and they accept donations from 10 AM to 5 PM, seven days a week. The loading dock for donations is on Sycamore Alley, parallel to 17th and 18th streets, between Mission and Valencia. Call first to be sure your items are acceptable (861-7483).

When donating items on behalf of Martin's, please refer to Martin de Porres, or to Code 69. Remember, it's a good place to shop, too.

Look in the Book

The Volunteer Guide book has answers to just about every question you can think of. There's a laminated copy hanging near the chopping table in the kitchen. Look through it if you have some spare time. Refer to it for descriptions of jobs to be done, crew responsibilities, what we give out and when, what Martin's needs. It's a great resource!