

Fall 2012

*As we have recently observed the third anniversary of Barbara's death we are blessed to have our fall newsletter written by her daughter, Camila.*

Often when I am asked about Martins I think about the holidays. Martins' holiday meals are joyous and festive and bubbling over with smiles and homemade pumpkin pies. There are more than enough volunteers and each person that arrives is eager and ready to help wherever needed. The guests don't need to ask for seconds as thirds and fourths are handed out freely and parting gifts are given away at the gate. The Martins' holiday meals are a celebration and it is both the guests and the volunteers who want to return. Once I was old enough, I couldn't wait to work at those meals and be a part of those moments.

As I think about Martins now and I think about Barbara, it is the quiet moments that I am reminded of most. When I think about volunteering at Martins, I think of very early mornings in summer. I think about walking in the light of dawn the ten blocks from my mother's house to the kitchen that smelled of hot oatmeal and brown sugar. I think about the simple thank you's and hellos of guests just waking up, accepting bowls of oatmeal with just enough room in them to add milk. I think about those early mornings spent in the kitchen my parents helped build. I think about the sanctuary of the garden and the tiny nooks that people spent time in. I know Barbara yearned to create a place where people feel safe. No matter who you are or how society may perceive you, you still deserve those simple human rights. You still deserve to eat a nutritious meal, to bathe in clean water and to feel safe. Barbara was determined to give those very simple things to anyone who needed them.

This fall and winter, there will be many of you who will give to those guests we serve every day. It is such a blessing to have the support of so many people who continue to care about this wonderful place. We thank you for everything you have done, not just during the holidays, but in the quiet moments too. We thank you for supporting Barbara's dream of giving the guests everything they deserve as humans.

Many thanks and love from my extended family to yours,

Camila Martin