

Fall 2016

Dear Friends,

No matter what theme we consider for our annual newsletter, somehow, we always return to the theme of gratitude. It never fails. There is so much we are grateful for but first and foremost we are grateful to you our faithful and supportive family! You are, as Barbara once said, “the hidden spring” that runs under Martins and nurtures its spirit and soul not to mention, of course, the bodies of our beloved guests.

As we approach our special holiday meals we are especially mindful that we cannot do any of this without your generosity. These meals allow us to celebrate the bounty that you provide. Along with the turkey, salad, sparkling cider, coffee and the abundance of deserts we serve, we can, literally, dance with each other to the lively music of musicians who donate their time to bring us joy. And as our guests leave this celebration they are given socks, stocking caps and rain ponchos, so necessary in the rainy winter months to come.

We still dream of the day when world hunger will no longer be the harsh reality that it is, but until that day, with your unfailing help, we will continue to be a drop in the bucket of those who are trying to alleviate the suffering we see around us ever day. Life for those who are homeless on the streets of San Francisco has, unfortunately, become harsher and harsher because, in part, of the massive gentrification which we are witnessing. We are seeing an increase in the number of desperately mentally ill women and men needing services that are unavailable to them. As we wait and pray that this situation will improve we do what we can to provide a loving community and sanctuary for them.

At Martins the prayer that we recite at all of our gatherings whether it be a weekly Monday morning meeting or our annual memorial for those who have died, begins, “Thank you, Great Spirit, for bringing us together in this circle of love.” Your inclusion in that circle of love is a constant blessing for us all. Thank you!

In deep gratitude, The Martins Community

Please note: After much reflection, the Martins community has decided to allow our supporters to make electronic donations. Please go to our website at martindeporres.org if you wish to make an online donation. Thank you.