



All people should have access to the food they need

Mission

The Mission of Wayside is to increase access to food for those in need in Southern Maine by providing a system for community based volunteers who serve prepared meals where such meals are needed, and by collaborating with other hunger agencies in developing an efficient network for the collection and equitable distribution of food. Wayside shall be guided in this mission by a deep compassion for our common humanity.

Who We Are

Wayside Soup Kitchen

The purpose of Wayside Soup Kitchen is to provide nutritious meals to those in need.

- Wayside Soup Kitchen is Maine's largest soup kitchen; operating since 1986.
- Lunch is served 5 days a week; dinner is served 7 nights; a meal has never been missed.
- Approximately 70% of population is the working poor; the remaining 30% is homeless.
- 133,809 meals served in 2007 at a cost of \$1.77 per meal.
- 23% increase in number of meals served in 2007 over 2005 & 2006.
- 8.3% YTD increase in number of meals served in 2007.
- 45,000 hours of Volunteer service was contributed in 2007, a value of \$691,000.

Wayside Food Rescue

The purpose of Wayside Food Rescue is to collect and distribute food which might otherwise be wasted from the area grocers, wholesalers, restaurants and truckers.

- Wayside Food Rescue has been in operation since 1999.
- 73 pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and social service providers served in 2007.
- Over 1.2 million pounds distributed free of charge in 2007.
- Over 250,000 pounds of food distributed to the Soup Kitchen in 2007.
- Cost of rescuing food: 12 cents per pound; up.5 cents from 2006.
- Current cost of rescuing: 17 cents per pound; an increase of 5 cents since January.
- Food Rescue serves as a single point of contact to Donors; smoothing tasks of distribution.

*Wayside is deeply committed to meeting the needs of hungry people
of the
Greater Portland community.*



Staff of Wayside

Staff consists of 7 employees: 4 full-time and 3 part-time positions.

Volunteers of Wayside

The sense of purpose and giving to Wayside Soup Kitchen and Food Rescue extends to a large, diverse group of volunteers and donors who offer an immeasurable humanitarian service. Volunteers come to Wayside with their own unique interests and gifts. They volunteer time to coordinate groups, cook meals, bake desserts, sort, clean and organize the kitchen and warehouse in preparation of serving meals and food pantry distributions. On what seems to be the endless occasion, contributions come to Wayside from outside the kitchen's day to day operations. For example: donations will have arrived from a group of children, who have held a food drive or a car wash in the rain. Yes, the rain and they collected \$418.00! Another youth group recently held an "empty bowl" Ice Cream Social and brought over \$600.00 to Wayside! A group of local medical practitioners forgo a monthly sponsored lunch, only to have those funds redirected to Wayside for the purchase of protein for the kitchen. In one final example, the children and parents of a local childcare and after school program pays, prepares and serves dinner for 300 Wayside consumers four or five times a year and still find time to craft centerpieces for the tables.

For the many ways that Wayside volunteers and donors participate, there are many more ways a community benefits. For those of us who are fortunate enough to work along side the volunteers in addressing the issue of hunger each day, we are rewarded with being a witness to the strengthening of our community. Volunteers come to understand that good nutrition at home is not always a choice, that many survive on poverty wages and that food is the most negotiable of living all expenses.

The miracle of Wayside Soup Kitchen and Food Rescue could not happen without the individual and collective efforts of each of Wayside's Donors and Volunteers.