



TASK

OUR MISSION

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) is a private, charitable, non-religious organization whose mission is to respond to the needs of hungry people in the Trenton area by:

- 1 Providing meals to all those who are hungry;
- 2 Providing services to encourage self-sufficiency and improve quality of life;
- 3 Informing the wider community of the needs of the hungry; and
- 4 Advocating for resources to meet these needs.



TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN

Annual Report FY 2010 | July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010



DEAR FRIENDS OF TASK:

Recently while listening to the news I heard two pieces of information that caught my attention. The first was that the recession has been over for a year. The second stated that the poverty rate in the United States had reached an all-time high of more than 50 million. When one understands how the poverty rate is calculated – a family of four with annual income less than \$22,000 is considered to live in poverty – you realize the pain is much worse. So even though we hear on one day that economic times are better, we see for ourselves that not everyone has shared in the recovery.

Over the last two years, we at TASK have seen our demographics change. We see young families who are experiencing unemployment for the first time and seniors who are finding it more difficult to get through the month on a fixed income. Some who have volunteered in the past now come to TASK for a meal. These “new needy” have joined our traditional clients who include the homeless, the mentally ill, the addicted, the physically challenged, and the working poor. Today hunger isn’t just a “poor person” issue.

In the face of these many challenges faced by our patrons, we still see stories of success. For example, there is Jean. She was dependent on alcohol, had become homeless, and suffered violence on the street. Jean came to TASK initially for a meal. Once here, she engaged in some of our other programs, like Adult Education and making regular visits with our social worker and other staff members. We were able to enroll Jean in a program called “Housing First” through our alliance with both The Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness and Greater Trenton Behavioral Health. The philosophy of the program is that if a person is housed, the rest of their life will stabilize. Jean now has remained in her apartment for more than a year, attends regular counseling sessions and has reconnected with her family from whom she had been estranged for many years.

In addition to Jean’s story, we are very proud of the accomplishments of the participants in our newest program, PROJECT SHARE. This program was created to provide patrons an outlet for their musical and poetry talents. Every year during the month of September, which is “National Hunger Awareness Month,” General Mills and ShopRite

sponsor a program inviting groups to submit an original creative expression of what hunger means to them. This year they chose video as the medium. The SHARE participants created their own script from individual poems; videotaped themselves reciting parts of the poem at different sites around the City and submitted their entry. *They won the contest!* Now their photo appears on the back of Cheerios boxes for sale at local ShopRites. The link to the video may be found on our website www.trentonsoupkitchen.org.

We at TASK are able to help people like Jean, and have programs like PROJECT SHARE because of the support we receive from the community. In addition to the funds we receive through the generosity of our donors, more than 3,500 people come to TASK each year to volunteer. Our volunteers served 170,000 meals this past year, performed the duties of tutors in our Adult Education Program, and organized community food drives among the many ways they have shown their support for TASK.

In order to ensure our ability to fulfill our mission for years to come, we have started our first ever endowment campaign. The goal of the “Keeping the Bowl Full Endowment Campaign” is to raise \$2,000,000 in endowment gifts by December 2012, which marks the 30th anniversary of TASK. The campaign, which is being led by Mara Connolly Taft and Pete Taft is currently in its planning/silent phase. We hope that our longtime supporters will consider making a donation to this crucial effort in addition to their annual donation so that we can continue to meet the needs of our everchanging patron population.

In closing, let me personally thank each and every one of you for all you do for TASK. Without your help, TASK would not exist.

Best regards,

DENNIS C. MICALI | Executive Director



TASK IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE...

that for the sixth time, our organization has received the highest four-star rating by Charity Navigator, the leading independent evaluator of charitable organizations in the United States.

TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN:

Responding to the needs of people in the Trenton Area.

RATING:

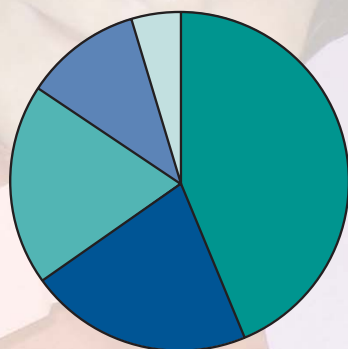


CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Four Star Charity

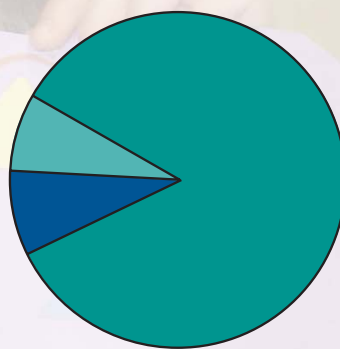
Fiscal Year 2010

VOLUNTEER BREAKDOWN



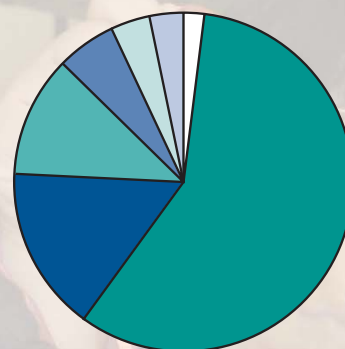
- Church/Religious Groups 45%
- Schools/Colleges/Universities 20%
- Individuals/Families 20%
- Corporate/Gov't Organizations 10%
- Civic Groups 5%

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



- Program Expenses 87.3%
- Administrative Expenses 6.9%
- Fundraising Expenses 5.8%

INCOME BREAKDOWN



- Individuals 60%
- Foundations 15%
- Corporations 11%
- Government 5%
- Religious Institutions 4%
- Misc. Organizations 3%
- Endowment/Interest 2%



TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN

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