



MISSION

The Stewpot provide resources to homeless and at-risk people, as well as opportunities to start a new life. The Stewpot has a history of evolving - starting new initiatives and even new nonprofits - in order to meet the changing needs of the homeless. When established in 1975 by First Presbyterian Church, The Stewpot served food to several hundred people each week in the Church basement. By 1991, The Stewpot's services had expanded significantly, and the agency moved across the street to a donated two story office building that continues to be "home". In January 2008, The Stewpot served its 2.5 millionth meal, and the agency was selected to be the direct meal service provider at The Bridge, the new homeless assistance center for Dallas, where we are now serving between 1,500 and 1,800 meals per day at Second Chance Cafe.

At our main location, The Stewpot offers essential services that (1) alleviate hunger and suffering; (2) help overcome barriers faced by individuals experiencing homelessness, and (3) foster autonomy and self sufficiency. Children and youth programs aim to prevent the cycle of poverty before it can begin. Services include:

- dental and medical care; substance abuse counseling;
- caseworker assistance;
- representative payee assistance;
- vocational / job training;
- children and youth programs;
- referral for employment, housing and other benefits;
- access to mailing address
- free voice mail.

GOALS

- Work with The Bridge to provide nutritional meals and support for the homeless;
- Offer case management services and job training that help people rebuild their lives;
- Provide street outreach regarding drug/alcohol addiction, offering realistic alternatives to addressing chemical dependencies;
- Provide accessible dental and medical care, mental health services, and legal aid to the homeless and at-risk;
- Offer sequential programs for children and youth that help break the cycle of poverty for future generations;
- Build alliances with other social service providers and businesses that strengthen the continuum of care and offer opportunities for self-sufficiency.

The Stewpot continues to collaborate with 20 other nonprofits to provide comprehensive services, and when appropriate, we have "birthed" new organizations to meet community needs. Austin Street Shelter, Genesis Women's Shelter, Interfaith Housing, City of Dallas Day Resource Center and the Youth Communication Project are agencies that grew from Stewpot programs. In 2008, The Stewpot was honored with an *Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in the Workforce System* by Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas. In 2005, The Stewpot received the *Excellence in Mission Achievement Award* presented by the Center for Nonprofit Management.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

- The Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, which operates The Bridge, Dallas' new homeless assistance center. The Stewpot is the direct meal service provider for the center. Partnerships with the North Texas Food Bank and Ben E. Keith Corporation help keep food costs to a minimum, and monies designated for meal sponsorships are used to alleviate the contract expense budget.
- Crossroads Community Services – established by First United Methodist Church and located at The Stewpot, CCS is the largest client for the North Texas Food Bank, distributing more than 2 million pounds of food each year. CCS also offers clothing and educational programming to homeless and at-risk.
- Community Dental Care, Inc. provides on-site, free dental care on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The primary dental clinic is funded by Veterans' Administration and the HUD Super NOFA grant. The Stewpot funds secondary dental care for prosthetics.
- The Parkland Homeless Health Care Team provides a weekly on-site van.
- Dallas Metrocare provides on-site mental health care each Wednesday morning.
- Planned Parenthood provides a weekly AIDS Testing and Counseling outreach clinic.
- Epilepsy Outreach Program of Parkland Hospital staffs an epilepsy clinic each Wednesday morning.
- The Welcome House provides 20 hours per week of intensive, street outreach for drug and alcohol counseling as contracted by The Stewpot.
- North Texas Legal Services provides weekly legal services to clients.
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers and the City of Dallas Municipal Courts collaborate with The Stewpot to sponsor a semi-annual Community Court Project. There is also a collaboration for a DART Community Court.
- Collaborating with City Park Elementary School and downtown shelters, The Stewpot coordinates a weekly Saturday School Program for elementary students and weekly Venturing Crew programs for inner-city youth.
- First Presbyterian Church partners with The Stewpot to sponsor the Gun Buy Back Program, a semi-annual effort to reduce weapons of violence in our community.
- Community Voice Mail (CVM), a national program, offers free voice mail service to homeless and impoverished persons seeking stabilization and employment. The Stewpot is the area Community Voice Mail provider for more than 50 nonprofit agencies in and around Dallas.
- Dallas Housing Authority provides housing assistance on Fridays.

OUR SERVICES

- Three meals a day, seven days a week at Second Chance Café at The Bridge. Breakfast is served from 7:00-8:30 am, lunch from 11:30 am–1:00 pm, and dinner from 6:00–7:00 PM
- Open mornings (8 am-Noon) and afternoons (1-4 pm), Monday through Friday, for casework and other homeless and emergency services at The Stewpot.
- A free Dental Clinic with three fully equipped dental operations to fulfill primary care dental needs: teeth cleaning, fillings & extractions, & secondary (prosthetics) dental care.
- A free Medical Clinic with quality health care by volunteer doctors (general and eye clinic), complementing the services offered by the Parkland HOMES Van & Epilepsy Outreach Program of Parkland Hospital.
- Drug & alcohol counseling & "street outreach" and daily AA/NA meetings.
- Caseworker assistance to obtain legal documentation for employment, housing & other benefits, including a representative payee program for clients eligible for benefit payments.
- Stewpot Transitional Employment Program (STEP), offering a 90 day job readiness program, community voice mail benefits, and immediate employment through sales of *Streetzine*, a monthly publication of The Stewpot addressing issues of poverty and homelessness in our community.
- Year round educational & recreational programs for homeless and poverty stricken inner-city children, including Saturday School (first – fifth graders), Junior Crew (sixth – eighth graders), Venturing Crew (ninth – twelfth graders) for at-risk youth; and Summer Day Camp for children and youth of all ages (first – twelfth graders). These programs are complemented by college scholarship, mentoring opportunities, internships, special family events, and ESL classes for parents.

I. ALLEVIATING HUNGER AND SUFFERING

A. Breakfast at Second Chance Café at The Bridge

The Stewpot is the direct meal service provider for breakfast at The Bridge, as contracted by the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance. The Stewpot trains and schedules 16 volunteers per meal, plans menus, trains and hires staff for each breakfast, serving on average 625 per breakfast each and every morning of the year from 7 to 8:30 a.m.

B. Lunch at Second Chance Café at The Bridge

Lunch is served from 11:30 am to 1 pm daily at The Bridge through a management contract with the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance. The Stewpot trains and schedules 18 volunteers per meal, plans menus, trains and hires staff for each lunch, serving on average 625 per lunch each and every afternoon of the year from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

C. Dinner at Second Chance Café at The Bridge

Dinner is served from 6 pm to 7 pm daily at The Bridge through a management contract with the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance. The Stewpot trains and schedules 15 volunteers per meal, plans menus, trains and hires staff for the each dinner, serving on average 235 per dinner each and every evening of the year from 6 to 7:00 pm.

D. Special Meals and Food Accompanying Program Curriculum

- Quarterly "graduation" lunch for the graduates of STEP (Stewpot Transitional Employment Program)
- Food for Receptions and Special Events (morning Bible Study classes, Summer Community Concert, Winter Community Concert, Annual Talent Show, Mental Health Day Outreach/Ice Cream Social)
- Saturday morning breakfast and lunch for Saturday School
- Saturday morning breakfast and lunch for Junior Crew
- Wednesday evening snacks for Venturing Crew youth
- Lunch and a snack for Summer Day Camp and Summer Crew participants (all ages, plus the ESL parents)

E. The Stewpot Dental Clinic

The Dental Clinic was created to address a void in community services. All too often food was served to a hungry man, woman or child who could not eat because of badly decayed and painful teeth. Established in 1988, and remodeled in 1991 and 1998, the Stewpot Dental Clinic has three fully equipped dental operations to fulfill primary care dental needs--teeth cleaning, fillings and extractions. Since 1991, The Stewpot Dental Clinic has provided a "second phase dental care" to provide complete dentures, partial prosthetics, adjustments and repairs and denture cleaning.

F. The Stewpot Medical Clinic

The Stewpot Medical Clinic was founded by volunteers in 1999. Accessible health care is one of the most urgent needs facing today's homeless population, and volunteer doctors to augment and work collaboratively with Parkland Hospital's homeless outreach program.

G. Drug and Alcohol Counseling

II. OVERCOMING BARRIERS FACED BY INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

A. Casework Assistance (aka, the Good Samaritan Program)

The Good Samaritan Program allows people take the first steps back on the road to a productive life with individualized casework management. The Good Samaritan Program allows clients to identify and set their immediate goal and then helps with a variety of tangible resources necessary for employment, public housing, Social Security, SSI, food stamps, veteran's benefits, etc. By instituting a safety net of services, casework services strive to end homelessness and prevent recidivism.

B. Identification Documentation

Identification documentation is the first step toward overcoming the barrier of homelessness, and The Stewpot excels by providing documentation assistance to more than 6000 persons annually, essential for jobs and housing. More than 24,780 Stewpot identifications have been issued to the homeless of our community, often the only source of information for next of kin information. Often caseworkers become involved in the complicated state identification processes which help someone establish legal identity, including ordering school records, census reports, birth certificates and other vital records

C. The Stewpot Transitional Employment Program (STEP)

STEP targets chronically homeless individuals who have been on the streets or in a shelter for one year or longer. Participants are lead in small groups run by each Stewpot caseworker who offer job readiness training; job search; case management; voice mail; and other benefits. STEP clients find jobs with partnering companies such as Walgreens, Petropotitian, Goodwill Industries, Austin Industries Road & Bridge, Grace Presbyterian Village, Millet the Printer, Christopher Roofing, Bell Janitorial, Community Council of Greater Dallas, AARP, Tops Restaurant, Weirs Furniture, Lifenet Community Behavioral Healthcare, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, North Texas Food Bank, Tom Thumb, Ben E. Keith Company, Poor Man's Music and Homeward Bound.

D. Stewpot ID's and Stewpot Mail Service

Over 24,000 Stewpot identifications have been issued, allowing clients to receive mail from family members, medicines, and other critical shipments. The mail desk is operated by volunteers Monday through Fridays.

E. Dallas Community Voice Mail

Community Voice Mail is a national program that empowers people in crisis and transition by distributing free, personalized 24-hour voice mail access nationwide – directly linking individuals to jobs, housing and stability. The Stewpot launched Dallas Community Voice Mail in summer 2004 and is the area host for distributing numbers to more than 50 area nonprofits. Stewpot caseworkers use voice mail in STEP and Rep Payee programs as a free service to clients.

F. Community Court

Since the Fall of 2000, The Stewpot has worked on a Community Court project which targets the poor, homeless, and at-risk who are motivated to re-enter the work force, but experience difficulties in clearing their records of outstanding violations and warrants. The program will allow them, in most cases, to clean up their records in one day. Participation in the program requires filling out an application in advance, returning it to The Stewpot, and showing up for a Saturday court attendance, and completion of same day service hours. Participants are assigned community service projects such as downtown street sweeping and projects needed by area nonprofits and social service agencies. The Stewpot organizes the work crews who are assigned to projects. The Community Court offers a unique opportunity to assist a number of people in transition. The program is a collaborative effort of Dallas Municipal Courts, the City Attorney's office, private attorneys, and the Stewpot. In 2007, a third DART court was added to assist individuals in clearing up their DART tickets.

G. The Gun Buy Back Program

The Gun Buy Back program offers a chance for families to benefit from the safe removal and destruction of unwanted weapons and ammunition across the Metroplex. Each year more than 25,000 people are victims of gun-related violence in the United States. Many children are wounded due to firearms in the house. We created this program as an effort to help make Dallas safer by offering an incentive to turn in weapons. The gun buy back has been a part of The Stewpot has collected and destroyed over 400 pistols, rifles, shotguns and semi-automatic assault weapons since its inception. After the guns are collected, they are ground down and the metal is recycled. The Gun Buy Back program is supported entirely through designated gifts of support. Since the successful introduction of this program, several other nonprofits have used our model to launch similar efforts.

III. ACHIEVING AUTONOMY AND SELF SUFFICIENCY

A. Stewpot Representative Payee Program

The Stewpot's Representative Payee Program provides free caseworker assistance to persons suffering from mentally illness, chemically dependency, or physically disabilities, and who are unable to manage their federal benefits independently, including Social Security, Supplemental Security, or Supplemental Security Disability. The Stewpot providing the only free representative payee services in the area. The only qualification is that the client be working with a collaborating mental health agency. Named the beneficiary's representative payee, Stewpot staff serve as an independent advocate to ensure an adequate living situation for the at-risk client, allotting enough money to meet the client's basic needs. In some instances, paying rent and bills exhausts the client's entire budget. In such cases, caseworkers arrange for the client to receive regular supplies of groceries and clothing from Crossroads Community Services, an alliance agency located at The Stewpot. Making it possible for disabled and addicted clients to receive Social Security benefits, The Stewpot Representative Payee Program is a proactive effort to keep clients living independently. The Stewpot represents approximately 30 clients and is actively recruiting volunteers to serve this vital function in our community.

B. Stewpot Art Program

The Stewpot Open Art Class provides critical peer support and creative opportunities targeted to individuals experiencing homelessness. Creative outlets build self-esteem; provide group social skills, and mental respite from the harsh realities of living on the streets. The art projects vary from craft-oriented to group projects, and paper, paints, pencils and charcoal, are provided for clients who prefer to work on their own. The Art program provides a community of support for all participants. It is open to all people looking for an environment to express and create through the medium of art. Classes are held daily, Monday through Friday, and exhibitions of work are held monthly throughout the metroplex.

C. The Homeless Newspaper *Streetzine*

Streetzine is a monthly street paper published by The Stewpot for the benefit of clients needing an alternative to panhandling. Street papers go far beyond economic opportunity - offering a positive experience of self-help that breaks through the isolation that many homeless people experience. They offer the public a means to reach out with their dollar to help a homeless person directly and, over time, form a caring relationship. The 16 page paper is published monthly at The Stewpot. Sales from the paper provide an estimated \$5000 direct income each month to approximately 100 individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness.

D. Stewpot Enterprises

Building on the success of the art and street paper programs, and in collaboration with the Farmer's Market Association of downtown Dallas, The old Stewpot Kitchen is now being used for entrepreneurial ventures such as candy making and pickling. Eligible participants are sponsored to attend The Plan Fund and are given the opportunity to rent the commercial kitchen.

IV. PREVENTING POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS IN FUTURE GENERATIONS

A. Saturday School for 1st through 5th graders

Working with at-risk youth, children come from Family Gateway, City Park School, and downtown shelters to participate in programs. Last year Saturday School saw 2,092 individual student visits. Students received nutritional meals and participated in computer lab, reading tutorials, arts and crafts, group games and gym. Summer Day Camp served 3,775 student visits during (2) 4 week camp sessions in Summer 2007. This year-round program provides educational and recreational opportunities on Saturdays during the school year and every weekday during the summer. Since 2006, a year round ESL class has been held for parents of the children and youth in our programs.

B. Junior Crew for 6th through 8th graders

C. Venturing Crew for 9th through 12th graders

Typically, at-risk children experience poor adult supervision, poor nutrition and inadequate health care. Individual student records for this population are erratic with transfers, absenteeism; and truancy and drop out rates are growing at an alarming rate. In Dallas, the Hispanic population is one of the fastest growing groups, and DISD reports that the drop out rate among Hispanic youth is 70%. This underscores the significance of The Stewpot's youth programs on these young people. The programs are unique in offering sequential activities for homeless and at-risk children as they move from elementary through high school. Venturing Crew provides a positive alternative to drug or gang involvement and serves as a second family. Tutoring, education and career counseling, computer training, field trips, special family events, and one on one mentoring provides students with needed support. Because of the significant growth in participation, the program was split into Junior Crew which serves middle school youth and Venturing Crew designed for high schools students in early 2007.

D. Summer Children's Day Camp for 1st through 6th graders

E. Summer Crew for 7th through 12th graders

F. Community Ministries Scholarships for former program participants

Community Ministries Scholarships of \$2000/year are available to former participants in Stewpot children and youth programs. \$2000 annual scholarships/person are available to help former Saturday School and Venturing Crew participants to go to college. In 2009-10, 35 former program participants are enrolled in college on CM Scholarships.

G. English as a Second Language Classes for the parents of program participants