

30-HOUR FAMINE

Our World Vision famine event on March 3-4, 2006 was a great success! Nineteen students, three adults and one college student, gathered at our church for a time of fasting, reflection, fun, learning and community service. Congratulations to our youth who far exceeded our fundraising goal by collecting \$3,089.00 in donations. This total is being matched by federal funds. The doubled amount will feed and care for nearly 18 children for an entire year!

The event began Friday night with Susan Solomon leading a short study on Christian fasting. This was followed by Peg Curtacci educating us on the hunger and poverty in the world and right here in our own community. To keep our minds off our own hunger, we kept busy through the evening with organized games, projects and free time. Saturday began with a morning devotional where we made beaded prayer necklaces. Then the group was divided for our community service projects. Some stayed to help in our own food pantry and thrift shop while others went to Hope House where they were put to work cleaning in the kitchen, dining room, bathroom and basement. In the afternoon we divided into teams for our scavenger hunt that took us to area homes, businesses, farms and cemeteries. Everyone returned exhausted. At 5:30 we broke our fast with communion led by Susan Solomon served "disciple" style by passing the bread and cup to each other. For dinner we had participants (including invited family members) draw a color coded card, the majority of which were red to represent the world's poor, two were yellow to represent American poor, and one was green to represent abundance. Red were instructed to sit on the floor in the corner. A big bowl of rice was brought out and they were served half-filled cups of rice with no utensils. The two American poor were fed macaroni and cheese and Koolaid. The one "wealthy" person was given a hearty steak dinner complete with dessert. The point of this exercise was to show the large percentage in the world that has little to eat. To the relief of our fasters, we served everyone a real meal of salad and baked ziti, garlic bread and dessert but they had to follow these rules: 1) they could not serve themselves, 2) they could not ask for anything to eat or drink. Instead of focusing on ourselves as we finally got to eat, everyone had to stay focused on those around us so no one got left out. It was a good way to bring the famine to a close by continuing to serve each other.

Many thanks to our church members who donated money and prayed for our event and the participants. Also thanks to those who helped with planning, presenting, leading, chaperon-ning, driving, meal prep, serving in the kitchen, food shopping, cake making, and cleaning up. They are Peg Curtacci, Lisa Noviasky, Carol Allen, Carolyn Niedzielski, Sue Niedzielski, Susan Solomon, Barb Field, Marilyn Racha, Bev Perry, Susan Stockman, John Noviasky, Heidi Taubert, Janet Lascuresses, and Larry Beasley. A final thanks to all the students who were well-behaved and a joy to be with. They are Augie Allen, Martine Angell, Anna & Taylor Beasley, Jessica Coddington, Cody Engstrom, Lonnie Harris, Ned Hinge, Laura Howard, Morgan Mills, Taylor Mills, Angela Noviasky, Jeff Quay, Nick Reittinger, Katrina Serach, Chris Shepherd, Russ Stockman, Kerkira Stockton and Sarah Sterling. We hope to do it again next year!

Carol Beasley, Event Coordinator