

The Partnership to End Homelessness: A Hot Meal on a Cold, Wet Night



Guests enjoy a great hot meal of chili, salad, bread, and dessert. Member Leroy Bertram makes the chili extra special by adding shredded cheese and parsley, just like at the gourmet restaurants.



On March 14, AmeriCorps members from the Partnership to End Homelessness offered a tasty, hot meal at the Central Branch Library on Church St. The members specifically chose to serve a Saturday evening meal because no one else in town was offering a meal at that time. They didn't want anyone who was hungry to have to go to bed still hungry. The library was chosen because it is a popular hangout for our homeless friends. They can spend time there, reading the books or using the computers, and be out of the weather.

The members cooked the chili themselves and arranged all of the logistics for the dinner. They prearranged with the Salvation Army to use their Disaster Relief Vehicle to act as the service kitchen and Deb Fisher, from the Night Watch group, volunteered to operate the vehicle for us. At the end of dinner, there was still a little chili left, so the vehicle drove to an overpass where some people were camped. They gave them each a chili dinner. In total, 59 people were served a



delicious, hot meal, many of them coming back for seconds and thirds.