

Beyond the Myth

by Megan Rohrer

For the past couple of months I have heard the following myth: I cannot help out with the Welcome Ministry because I work during the day. I would like to take this moment to shout this message from the roof tops: While it is true that the Welcome Center is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2 pm - 4pm, there are also many other ways to get involved with the ministry of the Welcome Ministry.

One great way to get involved is to volunteer at a community dinner. The community dinner is Community dinners are the Second Saturday of every month. The Community Dinner is different from the regular Welcome Center meals, because we try to serve restaurant quality meals. Our homeless guests are served at their table and our volunteers enjoy dinner with our guests. Often times, we have musicians play at the dinner. However, the location varies from church to church so make sure you check with Megan (megan@oldfirst.org) to find out where it will be, or look up the location on our website:

<http://www.oldfirst.org/welcomeministry/news>

Community Dinner Schedule:

March: @ Old First; sponsored by The Church of Christ, Scientist

April: @ Old First; sponsored by The Old First Jazz Vespers

May: @ Old First; sponsored by Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Does your organization, business, work, committee or group want to sponsor a community dinner? Contact Megan for more information. Many friends of the Welcome Ministry have created an office volunteer day at the Welcome Ministry. How does this work? Get 8-15 members of your office to volunteer with you at a community dinner. Sponsoring a dinner helps the Welcome Ministry increase its contact list and has also been a way for the Welcome Ministry to get community grant money from corporations.

If you are looking for other creative ways to get involved, contact Megan, because the Welcome Ministry is looking into adding more programs in the future that our guests have requested. Stay tuned for more information about new and exciting opportunities to get involved.

A more entertaining way to get involved would be to attend a night of music and poetry performed by our homeless and hungry friends. Some of our seasoned volunteers may join in on the act too! Did you know that many of our homeless friends and neighbors are musicians and poets? Many of our guests do not have instruments of their own, but have been practicing at the Welcome Ministry. On March 1st at 7:30 pm at Old First, our homeless friends would like to perform for you. The suggested donation price for tickets is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For more information contact Katrina Markov (Katherine's daughter) at 415-923-9368 or k5princess@yahoo.com