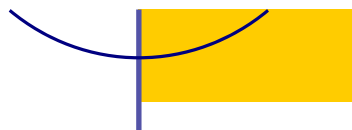




Loaves & Fishes



The State of the Economy - as seen through the eyes of the OSL staff

There is a great deal of talk about the state of the economy in the world today. The City of Seattle continues to trim away at its budget, laying off staff, discontinuing funding to human service providers; the United States is in serious debt, homes are foreclosing all over the country, and food and gas prices have skyrocketed.

It is true that when the economy takes a dive, those that are hit the hardest are those who have little or nothing to begin with. At OSL we don't have to watch the news to understand what is happening economically. We witness, first hand, every day, the devastating effects of the state of the economy.

Every day we see people that are hungry; hungry for food, hungry for social equity, hungry for affection, hungry for love. We see people that are angry, frightened, ill, cynical, mistrustful, and grateful for even the smallest kindness. We see people who live in the hardest of conditions without complaint, we see people who medicate themselves with illegal, dangerous drugs, we see people who are violent, people who are gentle, people who are dazed and wonder how on earth they got here. We see us.

Some used to be confident of their place in the community; people who had credit cards and bank accounts, a house in the suburbs, education, high paying jobs, expensive clothes and vehicles; and then the unthinkable happened. The job was gone, the house was gone, the car was gone, and the money was gone. How does one survive when everything that was ever worked for, has disappeared? To those who live on the streets, in a shelter, or sleep on someone's couch, this is a constant question.

This is only one side we see. Another side are those that never had opportunity; never had the option of education, a high paying job, a family that cared, food to eat, or a bed to sleep in. And still yet another side, are those that had it all, but lost it because of their own poor choices.

There are many reasons why and how someone ends up on the street; an abused woman running from an abuser, a teenager kicked out of the house, a runaway pregnant girl, a neurosurgeon who got hooked on prescription drugs, an alcoholic whose family has had enough, a mentally challenged person who is too scared to go inside, a refugee who is looking for the land of opportunity and freedom, a molested child, an unwanted dog, someone who is laid off and is one paycheck away from losing their home, and the list goes on and on.

This is what we see every day. It is not pretty. It is not easy. It is a crisis that doesn't seem to taper off. It is the on-coming train at the end of the tunnel.

The first quarter of 2011, OSL served **61,694** meals which is a **32 percent increase** over our first quarter of 2010. The need for our service continues to go up while our individual funding continues to go down. In a bad economy, those that feel it the most include those that are *working* in the trenches, with those who are *living* in the trenches. We need *your* help to continue to help. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.



beverly graham

OSL PROGRAMS

Over the last 22 years OSL has developed several programs that go beyond direct service to the food insecure, but also address the increasing needs in our community for social and nutritional equity.

Food In Motion (FIM): rescues more than **220,000** lbs of nutritionally dense food each year sharing it with other providers. Through our partnerships with food distributors, restaurants, caterers, and grocery stores we are able to pick up and transport food to agencies that are unable to procure product due to inadequate staffing, equipment, or transportation.

Outdoor Meal Site: Management of the outdoor meal site for the City of Seattle providing quality control, security, and an “exploitation free” environment. OSL was instrumental in pioneering the vision and the realization of a safe, permanent, sheltered outdoor meal site, complete with bathrooms, hand-washing facilities, and benches.

Occupation: Next Step (ONS): Taught by Chef Paul Nicolosi, OSL’s Next Step offers cooking classes to individuals that rely on donated food, that teach how to prepare donated food with a nutritional content. Next Step also trains homeless individuals Chef and Sous-Chef skills.

Meals Partnership Coalition (MPC): As a founding member of MPC our leadership in organizing other meal providers for the past 12 years has encouraged proactive involvement on many levels. As a resource for the 70 member meal provider agencies throughout Seattle, MPC also coordinates critical outreach support for the 118 known meal programs in King County, as well as educating community leaders and the broader community on hunger issues and the critical needs of the health-vulnerable among Seattle residents. In 2006 OSL became the fiscal sponsor for MPC, adopting the considerable responsibility to assure the coalition adequate funding, administrative stability, and autonomy to continue to operate as a consensus run organization where all members’ voices are heard and valued.

Volunteer and Community Service Program: Hands on volunteer opportunities and education on homelessness, discrimination awareness, and diversity; our volunteer and community service program serves more than 3,800 individuals, students, and corporate groups annually. We were instrumental in founding Seattle’s Community Court Community Service system for poverty-related crimes.

2010 Year in Review

2010 was an event filled year for OSL. We continue to grow even in a struggling economy. We accomplished a great deal of work with a reduced staff. We increased the number of meals served and the number of pounds of food rescued.

We served **185,948** meals. We value these meals conservatively at **\$790,279 (\$4.25)**

169,228 of these meals were unduplicated

16,247 were second helpings

We provided community service opportunities to **3710** volunteers who logged **12,988** volunteer hours. We value these hours at **\$168,844**

We rescued **97,764** lbs of food with our grocery rescue program, and received an additional **139,372** lbs of donated food

Total: **237,136** lbs of donated food @ an estimated \$3.25 per pound = **\$770,692.00**



We prepared and served **278,614** lbs of food

Food In Motion an OSL program, delivered **18,969** lbs

We moved a total of **297,583** lbs of food

Total Admin Cost: **8%**

Total Service Cost: **92%**

Total 2010 budget: **\$1,312,000.00**

Living Life Larger for others ... 2nd Annual Benefit Concert

Music, Life & Tails II



Doctorfunk - Dance!

May 21, 2011

Starting at 5 pm, till the fun ends!

Hale's Brewery - Fremont

4301 Leary Way Northwest, Seattle, WA 98107

Live and Silent Auction | Dancing | Food | Pets | Fun!

Proceeds to benefit ...
Operation Sack Lunch and PAWS!

Tickets:

\$25 minimum donation
Kids 12 and under, free.

\$100 VIP Tickets
2 tickets, swag bag, drinks and more ...

Tickets Online at:
www.livinglifelarger.org

OR
Call: 206-276-1539



LIVING LIFE LARGER
for others ...



Three Events to Benefit OSL

The Second Annual **Living Life Larger Benefit Concert** will raise money for people taking care of people and people taking care of animals. The concert will benefit two organizations that are making a huge difference in our community. Operation Sack Lunch feeds more than 17,000 people a month. PAWS provides shelter for animals, lobby and advocate legislation for animal rights. Both need volunteers, and funds go a long way to keep their doors open. Hope to see you there.

Wednesday, May 25, 2011; Meals Partnership Coalition happy hour fundraiser to support the work of meal programs that prepare and serve meals to homeless and food insecure. **"Eat Real Food: Food for Life"** held at FareStart in Seattle from 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM featuring a multicultural hors d'oeuvres menu, made from organic ingredients, organic wine, a silent auction, and live music performed by virtuoso guitarist, Andre Feriante. MPC, a satellite program of OPERATION: Sack Lunch, represents 70 meal providers in King County. OSL Master Chef Paul Nicolosi leads a team of chefs from 7 local human service organizations including OSL, Asian Counseling and Referral Services, Recovery Cafe, Union Gospel Mission, Pike Market Senior Center, Seattle Children's Home, and Angeline's Center.

EAT REAL FOOD: Food For Life

Wednesday May 25 5:30-8:00pm



Photo by Chris Rishough

An Organic **Food & Wine HAPPY HOUR**

Tickets \$25 Available ONLY online
www.mealspartnership.org

Sponsored in part by: FARESTART

Live Music by
Andre Feriante
& Silent Auction

FARESTART
Great Food. Better Lives.

**FARESTART
RESTAURANT**
700 Virginia St.



A Benefit for MEALS PARTNERSHIP COALITION

Join us as we work to ensure that nutritious and health-sustaining meals are available for vulnerable King County residents who would otherwise go hungry.
(206) 957-3857 • 2515 Western Ave • Seattle, WA 98121

2011 Marty Riemer 5:20 Funny Festival to benefit Operation: Sack Lunch

June 17, 2011 at the Paramount Theatre ~ Tickets available through www.stgprepresents.org.

The 7th Annual Marty Riemer 5:20 Funny Festival sponsored by 103.7 FM The Mountain will be the funniest night of the year, and this year it's a **benefit for OPERATION: Sack Lunch**. Starring Tom Papa (host of NBC's Marriage Ref) and Gary Gulman (Last Comic Standing), along with hilarious comics Dan Naturman and Owen Benjamin, it's a night of smart, relatable and (mostly) clean comedy. Marty Riemer has been the host of the 5:20 Funny on 103.7FM, (The Mountain), for 14 years. He has a knack for discovering and attracting the very best standup comics to his annual festival. This year a portion of each ticket will be donated to OPERATION: Sack Lunch.

MARTY RIEMER'S **5:20 Funny** FESTIVAL

featuring **Tom Papa**
with **Gary Gulman**
Dan Naturman & more

JUNE 17TH PARAMOUNT THEATRE - TICKETS ON SALE SATURDAY, MAY 14TH - WWW.STGPRESENTS.ORG

\$\$ TAKE STOCK IN OSL \$\$

OUR ADDRESS CHANGED IN 2010

PO BOX 4128

Seattle, WA 98194

There are many things we purchase today that may not be the best of investments. We have all purchased an item that becomes obsolete or breaks. In today's economy many things are no longer worth what they used to be; our homes, our education, our retirement plans, our social security. The one investment we can make that will always have great returns is the investment that we make in people. If we begin with the basics; nourishing food, clean water, dignity, and love, we can change a mind, we can save a life.

INVEST IN OSL TODAY!

\$25 buys 6 individuals a full nutritional hot meal

\$50 purchases 10 cases of water

\$100 will pay for 35 gallons of canola cooking oil

\$250 will provide 59 homeless youth a hot meal

\$500 will keep our refrigerated van functional

\$1000 feeds 235 people

\$5000 will cover our fuel costs for one year

Check out the new

OSL WEBSITE!

www.opsacklunch.org

Easier to navigate, faster to load!

Thank you Ken Wright!



The Banker Family has volunteered with OSL since 1992. OSL Chef Paul in the back ground.

OSL Stories

MAILBOX

OPERATION: Sack Lunch was not a planned birth. The day I drove into Seattle and handed out those first 30 lunches I had no idea that this child would be in my arms almost 23 years later. It has been a needy child. It has also brought me great joy, many lessons, and the gift of allowing me to grow with it. It has taught me the true meaning of sharing and serving.

When I first began making lunches for the people who lived un-housed in Seattle I used the money I made doing music...and then I used our house payments, utility payments, the kids college savings, took a second mortgage on our house, and finally took another loan...and then the money simply ran out. On the day the money run out, I called my friends, Bob Hamilton and Linda Berger, who had been helping me pass out the meals, to tell them I couldn't buy the ingredients to make the lunches for the next day. I felt very despondent and felt like I had failed; deep in debt, and no way to continue.

A few minutes after I had made the calls I went out to the mailbox. When I opened the mailbox and took out all the envelopes, mostly unpaid bills, there was one letter that was sent from Kennedy High School where I had been invited to speak about hunger and homelessness. When I opened the envelope there was \$2000 in it. *Lunch was on!* It was the first of many miracles.

Over the years the support, trust, and love that has been shown to OSL by the greater community has saved and changed many lives of those in need. Thank you for keeping our doors open.

*If you are interested in other OSL stories,
visit beverly's blog: www.spirit-speak.org*



OSL VOLUNTEERS ROCK and ALWAYS HAVE A BLAST!

Create your own volunteer experience.

Check out our calendar on the OSL website and reserve your spot!

volunteer@opsacklunch.org



OSL's newest chef, Shay Russell comes to us via a recommendation from OSL board member, Dannette Allen. Shay is an expert in Mediterranean cuisine and in keeping things organized. Shay has spiced up the OSL cuisine and kitchen! Welcome Shay!

More OSL Stories

US

After the first couple of years of walking the streets to hand lunches out the folks started to post a person on the street corner to watch for my van. As I drove down Yesler, a cry would go up and by the time I turned the corner, 400 people would be lined up waiting for me on Occidental. There were so many of them that I barely had a moment to look up at them to see their faces. One day, as I hurriedly handed out the sacks, someone grabbed my hands. It caused me to stop and look up. A middle aged Hispanic man with a kind and gentle face looked me in the eyes and said "Lunch Lady, you save our lives".

That was the day I realized that everyone I was serving had a face, a name, and a story... They also had voices that were seldom heard... I knew I had to join my voice with theirs and I began to tell their stories. It was how I learned that there isn't a "them" and "me"; there is simply "us". All of us... As my friend Tom Walker says in his song, "If one of us is homeless, none of us is home"...



LET YOUR HEART BREAK

Every day I tried to have at least 400 lunches to hand out. It usually took me about 5 hours to put the meals together and a half of an hour to hand them out. I always took extra food just in case someone came up after all the full lunch bags were gone. One day I simply ran out of food. I turned and looked and there were still a least 100 people in what felt like a never ending line. I was all of a sudden overwhelmed and distraught. I put my head down for a moment and then, embarrassingly, burst into tears. Not quiet running down your face silent tears, but heart wrenching, noisy sobs. I couldn't stop. It was too much. The grief, the hunger, and the courage it took every day for many of them just to breathe. And I failed them... I let them down...

Suddenly, I was surrounded by the people. They were saying, "who hurt you lunch lady"..." tell us who hurt you"... Their care of me and concern for me made me cry even harder. Finally I choked out that no one had hurt me...that I had run out of food. I blubbered that I was sorry I let them down. And then arms went around me, and people were patting my back, squeezing my shoulders and saying "you didn't let us down", and "we love you lunch lady" and "you just can't feed the whole world"... and I was surrounded in a cocoon of grace. That was the day my heart broke...wide open.

OPERATION: SACK LUNCH

PO BOX 4128

SEATTLE, WA 98194



OSL NEWS: LOAVES & FISHES

NUTRITIONAL EXCELLENCE:

A right we are born to not a privilege we earn

**"To provide dignity, care and compassion through action
with the example that each person can make a difference.**

To educate and advocate acceptance and understanding of each other's differences.

**To ultimately bring about the realization that we are all a vital part of this world and with extended effort put an
end to homelessness, hunger and hatred."**

**www.opsacklunch.org
206 922 2015
PO BOX 4128,
Seattle, WA 98194
info@opsacklunch.org**



OSL's second annual

Sing for Food

event will take place in August..

**It will feature great musicians, a great ball game,
and a whole lot of fun. We will keep you posted
for date and game time!**

