GETTYSBURG COLLEGE STUDENTS lend help DURING HOLIDAYS

By SARAH LATTA

For some, escaping the cold means warming up with a delicious bowl of soup or a hearty pasta dish. This winter, Gettysburg College students are helping residents of Adams County do just this. New this year, the college joins the nationwide Campus Kitchens Project to deliver unserved food from the dining hall as well as from local restaurants to those in the community who need it most. Students combine leftover meals—like lasagna or grilled chicken—with other foods received through canned food drives and donations from local stores.

Different student groups, such as Greek life and residence halls, compete with each other throughout the year to collect the canned items. Gettysburg restaurants and food stores serve a key role in donating meals. Seasons Bakery and The Roman Inn are just two of the restaurants generously participating. Everything then comes together at South Central Community Action Programs (SCCAP) on North Stratton Street in Gettysburg. Here, students and other volunteers cook well-balanced and tasty meals before personally delivering them. The delivery is accompanied with a friendly visit, aiming to build relationships with community members and break down barriers.

So how did this program come to Gettysburg? Senior Louisa Polos, inspired by her volunteer experience at D.C. Central Kitchen, wanted to start an anti-hunger program at Gettysburg College. After Robert Egger, founder and director of D.C. Central Kitchen, spoke at Fall Convocation 2006, her vision became a reality. Gettysburg College is the 11th school in the U.S. to implement the Campus Kitchens program and the first in Pennsylvania—a big feat for a small college!

What’s great about the program is that it benefits both the people receiving the food and the volunteers who deliver it. Through talking with locals, students learn about poverty, stereotypes and how to help out in the community. Additionally, they learn a thing or two about the place they call home for four years.

Eventually, the program at SCCAP hopes to open its doors to teaching culinary skills to unemployed men and women of Adams County. Interested in helping out? Ask local restaurants to get involved, donate food or even join the students in cooking and delivering the meals. This program truly brings people together over something we all love—food! If interested, contact the Center for Public Service at 717-337-6490.

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