

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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Middletown Lions Club Serves Free Hot Meals in Keansburg

MIDDLETOWN NJ: It was bustling in St. Mark's kitchen, Carr Ave Keansburg NJ, as Middletown Lions were anticipating the arrival of the hungry seeking a cost-free hot lunch. "I bet they don't expect to get salads" said Lion and Club Director Beverly Bova Scarano speaking with Lion President Al Siano as they prepared for the meal along with a team of seven Lions. "Wow, look at that cake, two of them no less" said the club President "Lion Tony Giordano provided the cakes explained Beverly." Meanwhile, Lion Tony, the club's 1st VP, is getting the pasta prepared in the kitchen with Lion Diane Chersevani while talking about how grandma made pasta from scratch all the time. Lion Kathy Davies is setting the tables with Lion Bob Guijarro and Lion Craig Finnigan. These Lions have jobs and or businesses yet, in the middle of the holiday season they sacrifice some time for something very important-- feeding the hungry at St. Mark's Kitchen in these very difficult economic times.

PHOTOS: Lions getting ready for as many as 60 guests.

Upper Left: Lions Bob Guijarro, Tony Giordano, Diane Chersevani, Kathy Davies and Craig Finnegan.
Center Photo: Lion Beverly Bova Scarano, Lion Project Lead, Director and Chaplain.



"Lion Mustard Seed started this" said Lion Al Siano. (Referring to Beverly Bova Scarano) "Yes every Lion has a nick-name in Middletown; it's an old tradition that dates back to the club's inception in 1946". Beverly's nick-name is very appropriate said Siano." Beverly serves as

one of the club's Chaplains, and from this one mustard-seed sized idea to cook and serve a meal for those in need the project is expanding... Lion Mustard Seed has the whole club breaking in to teams and coming back at least once each month to divide the work up and serve more often.

The club also funds the purchase of the food. Other service groups take on the same task at St. Marks too. The meal that is served might be the only meal some may have all day. Today it was pasta with meat sauce, fresh Italian bread and butter and a nice tossed salad and then, Lion Tony's two cakes.

The Kitchen at St. Mark's on Carr Avenue in Keansburg is primarily a soup kitchen and emergency food pantry. Incorporated in 1994 as a non-profit 501(c)(3), the kitchen currently serves more than 1,100 meals and the food pantry distributes an average of 425 bags of groceries per month. Last year, 13,794 hot meals were served and 5,113 bags of groceries were distributed. The kitchen relies on churches, individuals and service groups like the Middletown Lions, to make a commitment to purchase, cook and serve one meal a month at lunchtime. There are hundreds of volunteers in the Middletown Area who work quietly in a meaningful way to provide one of life's most basic needs -- food because "hunger" is not just an inner-city problem. It cuts across all social and geographic boundaries.

The Middletown Lions have made a commitment to help alleviate hunger for some 50 - 60 people who come to the Kitchen at St. Mark's every day. We hope to develop 3 teams within the club who will feed those in 2009.

The Middletown Township NJ Lions Club, established in 1946 is part of Lions International. This accomplished and active club is comprised of caring men and women who serve our community and also help to meet global challenges. The Lions Club is seeking new members and welcomes your interest please visit www.MLIONS.org to learn more. We are very far-reaching as we are joined by 1.3 million members in 202 countries and geographic areas conduct vision and health screenings, build parks, support eye hospitals, award scholarships, assist youth, provide help in time of disaster and much more. Join Us, We Care, We Serve. The Middletown Lions meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn on Route 35 in Hazlet NJ, call Lions Club President Al Siano at 732-671-0589 or email president@mlions.org if you would like to join us or help in some way.