



'Caring for God's Presence in our Midst'

JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF CAMDEN
JOHN KLEIN, *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*
856.964.9777 ext. 606

jk@josephshouseofcamden.org
20 Church Street
Camden, NJ 08105
<http://www.josephshouseofcamden.org>

March 31, 2012

Dear Friends of Joseph's House,

I write to you just hours before we open our doors for the final night of our winter 2012 Café season. Tonight is the last night for this season. I write with joy and gratitude for the countless blessings that came our way because of your involvement.

Just over 100 people volunteered their time this year. Several dozen people supplied us regularly with homemade soups and casseroles. Every Monday night beginning in December our guests enjoyed hot Chick-fil-A sandwiches because of a generous donor and a team of volunteers who provided pickup and delivery. Each Thursday a gentleman delivered rolls, bread, cakes and cookies he had picked up the night before from supermarkets in his neighborhood. Our guests particularly enjoyed the pies that sometimes came their way. For the first time, we had regular visits from nurses and social workers, as well as social service organizations that made real linkages to services for our guests. So many blessings came our way this year because you made the decision to get involved. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

But I write to you also with concern and some sadness. On Sunday April 1, 2012 as many as 45 to 50 women and men will not have a place to stay. For them, our Café was home and once again they will turn to abandoned buildings, tent city, or the streets of Camden. They will join the estimated 775 who nightly have no place to stay in Camden.

Joseph's House is committed to offering the Café and envisions an operation which is year round. We remain committed to linking our guests with available social support services and to working to create supportive housing. As friends and volunteers, I will keep you informed of our expansion efforts and trust that you will continue to support us. Much has been accomplished this winter season, but so much more remains to be done. Together we will continue to 'care for God's Presence in our midst'. So, once again, thank you for the time you spent with us, the food and supplies you donated, and all the prayers on our behalf. May our loving and generous God bless you for the good you have done.

Sincerely,

John Klein
Executive Director