



"If we all do a little, we can accomplish a great deal."

When Hunger Hits Home

By: John Anding

Hunger is everywhere. So why focus on seniors? For me it is personal. My wife and I were blessed with hard working parents, each married over 60 years and all of whom lived past 85. And though each of our fathers worked into their 70s, both our families faced financial challenges late in life. Deteriorating health and longevity worked against them. How could they pay for prescriptions and food? Issues neither had faced in their productive years, were now the questions of the day. I saw in them shadows of so many like them. People who worked hard, grew old, got sick and were suddenly faced with hunger. Sure, our parents had children that could help financially. But what about those who don't? The question wouldn't go away. So, Deus Caritas Est came into existence. And through it we find those seniors like our parents who, through no fault of their own, need a helping hand. We hope you will help us reach those who cannot help themselves.

In West Michigan, food insecurity affects 1 in 8 people.

[Source: Feeding America]

Your Dollars Go to Feed the Hungry

Deus Caritas Est is operated entirely by volunteers, so ninety-eight percent (98%) of every dollar contributed goes to feed the hungry. Your contribution of \$250 will help feed a needy senior family for one month.

A 501(C)3 FOUNDATION

~Seniors, The Invisible Poor~

A growing percentage of our population is elderly. And so too is the percentage of elderly that go hungry. The rate of hunger among seniors aged 60 and older has increased by 45% since 2001. At the current rate, the number of food-insecure seniors may grow to more than 8 million by 2050. [Source: Feeding America.] At Deus Caritas Est we begin one person at a time. And we do so with love.

Our Mission...

Since our founding in 2007, our mission has been to find, befriend and feed the elderly. For the elderly, employment opportunities are limited, full time employment rare, and pay rates low. This makes them poor, vulnerable and generally invisible.

Your Support...

We would be grateful for your support of this mission! Your tax-deductible contributions may be mailed to:

***Deus Caritas Est
P.O. Box 2871
Grand Rapids, MI 49501***

***For further information:
(616) 454-3669 or
www.deus-caritas.org***

THE SENIOR GIFT CARD PROGRAM

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." –Proverbs 31:8. This is our mission as we advocate for needy seniors whose plight gets little attention. Hunger among the elderly is real and for many they have nowhere to turn. This is where Deus Caritas Est has been able to fill the void. Over the last 12 years we have provided over 100 SpartanNash store food grants of \$3,000 to these needy elderly families. Each month they receive in the mail a food card for \$250 that can be used at any SpartanNash store for food items.

Wilma Johannsen, 72 years old and the newest addition to our Deus Caritas Est family, testifies to the impact these grants have had on her life. Single, with no children to help support her, and living on only Social Security and a meager part-time position with the AARP, she didn't know where to turn. Struggling with chronic back problems and needing to pay medical bills, she notes: "Now I don't have to worry when I go to the store. I was penny-pinching just for my daily needs."



"I don't want you to give from your abundance. Instead, I ask that you share in our work."

~Mother Teresa