



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

**DENIAL AND OUR AGING SOCIETY**

*By: John Anding*

Youth, beauty and vitality are all attributes celebrated by our culture. And rightly so. Think of the many family gatherings, reunions or funerals where we reminisce about when we were young. But aging is inevitable, beauty fleeting and vitality eventually ebbs. Yet, we resist accepting these truths. And the images we are fed by our culture reinforce our denial. So, it's no mystery that there is great apathy toward the aged in our society and the challenges they face. The existence of social security, welfare and Medicare only make matters worse. These public programs give us a false sense that there isn't a problem. But there is. 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.] Seniors who were once able to support themselves are at risk of going hungry. These are the people we serve. A donation of \$250 will sponsor a senior family for one month, \$1500 provides support for six months. Remember that 98% of your donation goes directly to those we serve. We hope you can help us.

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

[Source: Feeding America]

***~But for the Grace of God~***

*That could be me.* Some of our seniors undoubtedly used those words in their more productive years. Now they find themselves the object of the sympathy they once expressed because of sickness or longevity. At Deus Caritas Est we affirm them and show they have not been abandoned.

***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  
or*

*Contribute on our website:*

[www.SeniorsInNeed.org](http://www.SeniorsInNeed.org)

**SENIORS IN NEED PROGRAM**

Deus Caritas Est established the Seniors in Need program in 2007 to find, befriend and feed the elderly in our community. The seniors we work with are the vulnerable among us, and not by their own design. Living on an income of \$1,200 per month or less, they are forced to choose between food and medicine. Our goals are twofold. Preserve their dignity and help meet their nutritional needs. So, with the assistance of the clergy from our local churches we identify seniors in need and then meet with and qualify them. Once qualified, we provide an annual food grant of \$3,000, delivered each month on a food card loaded with \$250 redeemable at SpartanNash food stores around the Grand Rapids area for food items only. We have partnered with SpartanNash to provide this assistance since 2007. We have served over 100 senior families in that time. But there are so many more we could help. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to Deus Caritas Est in your charitable giving this year. Every dollar raised prevents seniors from going hungry.

**"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."**

*~Mother Teresa*