

Be a Feeder of People

Management of a company asked a young executive to share with his fellow employees how he felt about participating in the company's voluntary *feed the poor* program.

He took one early-morning slot each week to ladle soup and pass out sandwiches to nearly 400 homeless and street people in his city. The young man told his associates this:

I go on Tuesdays to feed those we call poor, and in fact, they are poor in material things. Some of them are poor in many ways, and we try to help them with encouragement, advice and on occasion, a word of prayer.

But in many ways, those hungry and poor men and women have nurtured something in me – they have made me more aware of the spiritual side of my life and they have led me to be aware that we all “feed” each other in many ways every day – either good nourishment for the soul or poison.

I have a new understanding that when I go home and genuinely compliment my wife, or sit down to read a story to my daughter, or toss a ball with my son, I am feeding something inside them. I no longer see myself as part of the Tuesday-morning feeding team, but as a 24-hour-a-day feeding volunteer.

Who will you feed today?

And what will you feed them?

That young executive had unearthed some eternal truths.

Mother Teresa wrote in *A Gift for God*: “People are hungry for something more beautiful, for something greater than people around about can give. There is a great hunger for God in the world today. Everywhere there is much suffering, but there is also great hunger for God and love for each other.”

Today, as you go about your responsibilities in Life Care and Century Park, you will encounter people who are hungry – outwardly and inwardly – and not just residents and patients, but family members, visitors to your center, the checkout clerk at the supermarket or the man who picks up the garbage from your front lawn.

God has equipped you in unique ways to “feed” them with God’s Word, His love and His presence. Allow folks to see the light of Jesus’ Spirit in your face and in your actions.

He invites you to volunteer to participate in His feeding program.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:3 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter