

Brunch Update

House of Sufism Charity Initiative
Addressing the most pressing needs of our
community

House of Sufism (KH)
Issue-55-Feb 2014

*"It is through service to others that one may
become a human being..."*

- Dr. Javad Nurbakhsh, "God's Feast and the School of Love," *SUFI* Issue 60.



HAPPENINGS

Feet of snow and icy roads haven't slowed us down! This month, we have continued to serve and deliver food for individuals in need throughout the Boston area. The Sunday



Brunch menu for our friends at a shelter in Boston has included pot roast with vegetables, roasted chicken, baked ziti, chicken parmesan, meatloaf, cooked vegetables, salad, fruit, eggs, coffee, and desserts. In addition,

volunteers have transported hundreds of loaves of bread and pastries from bakeries to food pantries.

We have also made efforts to find new ways to share our love through service to others. First, we have applied for a small grant from Stop & Shop to fund a service whereby we would deliver fresh fruit to shelters throughout Boston. Second, we have received in-kind donations of furniture, dishes, and home goods, which we have begun to distribute or sell to support our efforts. A third and particularly exciting opportunity is our recent invitation from Rosie's Place to cater a lunch for 150 women and children.

To learn more about events past, present, and future, check out our website at www.nimatullahisufiboston.org/charity. And of course we are always happy for more volunteers. Our friends would love to see you!

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84 Pembroke Street
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Moments



A wintry street in Boston



*A sample of the pastries we
bring to our friends*



Volunteers serving up hot food at a shelter in Boston

Reflections: the Most Pressing Needs of *Our* Communities

By thinking globally but acting locally, we can use our love to alleviate suffering in the world.

Anyone walking down the street can tell you that homelessness is a problem in and around Boston. The homeless are the poorest and most vulnerable of our neighbors. Hunger is a problem for many, but among the homeless population, the need is more dire. They have already lost their jobs, houses, and clothes. Almost all are in poor health, both emotionally and physically. Many have lost contact with their families. In 2006, there were over 6,000 individuals, including children, on the street or in a temporary shelter on any given night. A recent survey of emergency rooms in Greater Boston revealed that every year ambulances bring about 200 frozen bodies to hospitals, where many are declared dead. Since the recession, the problem has increased. How can we ignore such suffering in walking distance from our own homes?

Those of us who have visited the shelters in Boston realize the impact we can have as individuals on the lives of our neighbors. There are over 30 individuals living in the shelter where we serve Sunday brunch. But the food we provide is just one element of their care. They also receive comprehensive support, including legal, medical, and dental attention. In addition to these services, we provide them with birthday parties, holiday gifts, clothes, veteran's support, gym memberships, conversation, emotional connections, and even hospital visits when they fall ill or suffer an injury. Our work at shelters is just one facet of a local effort to alleviate global suffering, but it is an important one nonetheless.

At first glance, the reasons for which a spiritual center like House of Sufism involves itself in these social issues may not be clear. However, in our view, our volunteer work is rooted in our spiritual practice. Our ultimate goal is experiential union with God, and for us, everything exists because it manifests God's Attributes. In our charity work, we attempt to break

How to get involved

1. Volunteer! It is a time commitment of only two hours: 2-4 PM on Sundays. Help us cook and clean or just spend time with our friends!

2. Monetary donations: If you would like to make contribution to House of Sufism Charity Initiative, you can write a check (payable to KN), use any credit card, or wire money through PayPal. All your donations are tax-deductible.

If you would like to make a donation, you can mail a check to KNP and include the word "charity" in the space for a memo (our mailing address is 84 Pembroke St., Boston MA 02118), or you can send us money via PayPal (once again, our e-mail address is nimatullahisufiorder@gmail.com.) and use the link listed below.

down the boundaries between ourselves and those we serve in order to fully realize our common humanity. This act of union serves as a reflection of the Divine Unity at the root of all phenomena, and gives us a chance to experience firsthand the Love upon which all creation is based.

Donate



Additional Info:

- [Events](#)
- [Brunch Updates](#)
- [Multimedia](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Location & Directions](#)

Special Volunteer Opportunity!

On Saturday, May 10th, House of Sufism will have the pleasure of providing a meal for over 150 women and children staying at Rosie's Place. Since 1974, this Boston shelter has provided emergency and long-term assistance to families in desperate need of safety and support. Since Rosie's Place does not accept any government funds, it relies on the time, energy, and donations of loving people like yourself.

We need your help to make this special day as successful as possible. First, we need seven (7) people to volunteer as food preparers and servers. The shift is from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. While all are invited to join, women are particularly welcome due to the domestic violence and trauma that many of the shelter's guests have survived. Second, and very importantly, we need to raise \$350 in order to pay for the meal itself. We will accept monetary and in-kind donations of food to help prepare the meal.



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