

Brunch Update

Issue 88 - November 2016
Sufi Service Committee of Boston

Addressing the most pressing needs of our community



Bobby organizes the clothes donation.

Happenings

Every Sunday in October, a festive atmosphere welcomed volunteers who helped sort out donated clothing at Noor Oriental Runs.

We were particularly happy to see some new faces - for example, Carrie and her daughters Andrea and Daphne.

Volunteer joyfully sort the 'raw material' into children's, women's, and men's clothing by 'tops' and 'botttoms'. Shoes are securely fastened together with rubber bands to keep them from separating. We also separate out 'professional' clothing, i.e., items that would be useful for a job interview.

After the morning sorting of clothes at Noor on October 23rd, three of us went to the corner of Mass. Ave. and Albany Street in the South End to distribute free clothing.

Items were distributed to about a dozen people, who were most appreciative of our effort. It was nice to have some direct contact with the folks we were assisting. Since we'll be running into different people from week to week, there may not be quite the same opportunity to develop friendships as with our food service. On the other hand, the need of the folks on Mass. Ave. is probably more pressing than that of those in subsidized housing.

We had a chance to converse a bit with one of the locals; he mentioned that he's been doing some writing of late, and we suggested that he submit something to Spare Change News for publication. His eyes lit up at the suggestion, so perhaps we've helped launch the career of a budding author. He also mentioned that he's been suffering from ulcers on his legs due to a vascular condition. (Author's note: As someone who dutifully tries to remember my daily medications, I can only imagine the difficulty of following a medical regimen in the absence of permanent housing.)

In the future, we may set up at a consistent time and place every week so folks can find us. Perhaps it will make sense to try a few different locations for now, though, so we can determine the ideal location.



Michael mesmerizing us saxaphonically.

"Thank you for inviting us to the event. We both found the talks fascinating, especially the idea of preventing homelessness by providing food, clothing, and auto repair. It was encouraging to learn about the work in this direction undertaken by the cities of Somerville and Cambridge."



-Steve and Beverly Kleiman



Sisia is another Sufi Service Committee volunteer.

We can eliminate these problems -- we have the experience and the skill, but we lack the resources. Even though we are in the enlightened city of Cambridge in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, neither of these governments have the resources to help us solve hunger and homelessness.

The federal government does have the resources, but it puts our money in other places, like wars and the defense department. It has cut over 40 billion dollars from housing supports to poor people, beginning in 1972. Under both Democratic and Republican administrations. The changes I want to see have our government helping those who can't help themselves, including the elderly, the disabled, and children. Those are the people we work with because no one else will.

Thank you for coming today to support the Sufi Service Committee. I urge everyone to support this work or any other charity that you feel connected to. And I'd like to leave you with two thoughts that make sense to me:

"If we do not hang together, we shall surely hang separately."

- Benjamin Franklin

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

Thank you and please stay connected, stay involved.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



Victoria is in a cheerful mood at Noor

Volunteers of all background are welcome to get involved by:

- Preparing and serving meals
- Donating and organizing clothes
- Providing administrative assistance
- Making financial contributions

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