

Neighbors Being Neighbors on Thanksgiving
By Arleen Breen

Every year on Thanksgiving Day, the Cathedral of the Incarnation's *Neighbors being Neighbors Ministry* leads volunteers in preparing and serving a traditional Thanksgiving feast on the street in Hempstead. This year they continued the custom. Trays of traditional Thanksgiving dishes: turkey, stuffing, potatoes, and vegetables, were prepared by our volunteers and then loaded on the Cathedral Bus - which became a bountiful buffet station for the day!

This special event is just one of the many events this ministry performs. They are in the community twice per week throughout the year distributing sandwiches, fruit, snacks, coffee, and hot soup during the colder season. Groups of volunteers make the sandwiches - individually and in groups. This provides fellowship for our volunteers and much needed food for our neighbors. Food insecurity is at the base of many other hardships faced by our neighbors.

The USDA defines food insecurity as "a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food." In our region, the food insecure includes the unemployed and working poor, children, seniors, veterans, the homeless, and other socio-economic and ethnic groups.

Food insecurity exacerbates other issues associated with poverty, including health problems, employment issues and the ability to concentrate at work or school. Many people right next door need to choose between eating and paying rent or purchasing necessary medications.

Neighbors being Neighbors seeks to ameliorate this issue right here in our own backyard. They also have led drives for school supplies, both here and abroad, most recently in Belize. They have worked with other organizations here on Long Island to collect warm coats, assist homeless people in navigating the shelter system and obtaining access to needed programs.

The Cathedral will be hosting a fundraising reception benefiting this vital ministry on January 8 after our Evensong Service for the Feast of the Epiphany. Tickets will be \$40 per person.

Check out our website at incarnationgc.org for information on how to volunteer and/or support the many beautiful ways in which this ministry assists our neighbors.