

HONORS STUDENTS FEED 100 AT THE ISABELLA COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN!

By Carissa Baumgartner

On Saturday, November 1, approximately 50 CMU Honors students gathered in the basement of Barnes Hall to participate in a twelve hour hunger awareness program put on by the students of the Honors Philanthropic Society, (HPS). The event was called the S.O.S. Hunger Strike (for students objecting hunger).

When students first arrived they signed a large banner promising to not eat anything for the next 12 hours so as to simulate what it might be like to go hungry. During that 12 hour period they agreed to make sack lunches for the patrons of the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen. The soup kitchen, which feeds between 90-160 local people a day, provides one hot meal at lunchtime. The sack lunches that the Honors students made were given to the patrons at lunchtime to take home for their evening meal.

After signing the banner the students traveled down the hall to what was called the "Make-a-Bag" Room. This room was full of brown paper lunch bags, stickers, and markers. With these tools the students preformed miracles transforming the plain paper bags into colorful and inspirational pieces of art.

Once students finished decorating bags they travelled to another room where they made a motivational card to accompany the lunch. These cards were just as colorful as the lunch bags with inspirational sayings like "You are loved", and "You are beautiful".

Prizes were awarded to 5 Honors students whose creativity went above and beyond. Lacey Krefit, Bobby Wu, Dustin King, Sara Frederick, and Rachel Thomas each received a gift card to Celebration Cinema for their efforts.

After the awards had been given out it was time to start baking the two hundred and sixteen chocolate chip cookies that would be placed within each bag. You can imagine the aroma that filled Barnes Hall!

While the cookies were baking many students began the daunting task of making 100+ peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Each of these sandwiches would be packed into one of the decorated bags along with a personalized card, a bag of chips, string cheese, cheese and crackers, a piece of fresh fruit, and two freshly-baked cookies.

On Sunday morning Honors students delivered 110 lunches to the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen where the staff and patrons were over the top appreciative in terms of showing their gratitude.

Jon faber, Coordinator of the Sunday lunch Soup Kitchen Crew said, ""The sack lunches were such a hit with the soup kitchen clients. The cheerful cards and messages really made their day. Many were amazed at the care and thought that went into each individual card."

Honors Associate Director Judy Idema said, "I was so impressed with the organization of the event and the student turnout for a Saturday night. Honors students never cease to amaze me with their creativity and generosity. I was especially touched by the genuine spirit of the group that they would do their best to make these lunches special for those receiving them."

