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Martha's Table Mission Statement

To help at-risk children, youth, families and individuals in our community improve their lives by providing educational programs, food, clothing and enrichment opportunities.

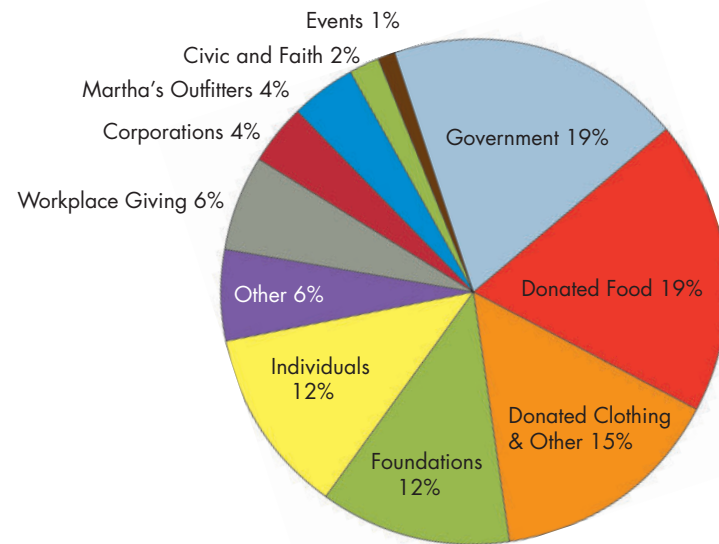


Gifts and Thanks

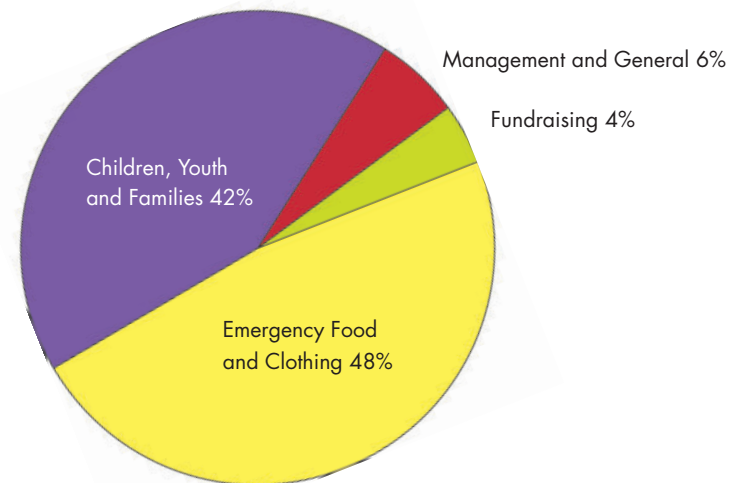
All of us at Martha's table thank the hundreds of people who with gifts of their time, talent and treasure made our work possible this past year. To support its programs. Martha's Table received \$3,769,231 in financial support and \$2,003,647 in in-kind donations in 2009. Total revenue for 2009 was \$5,772,887 and expenses were \$5,805,170.

Sources and Uses

Sources of Income



Expenses by Program



Coming Soon...

Martha's Table

EDUCATION • FOOD • OPPORTUNITY

Thanks to volunteers from the Taproot Foundation who provided their services pro bono, we will have a brand new advanced website coming soon. Visit us at www.marthastable.org to find out all the latest about our programs, our volunteer opportunities and other happenings from around the Table.



Martha's Table, Inc.

2114 14th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009 • 202-328-6608 • www.marthastable.org

2009 Annual Report



Since 1980, Martha's Table has been dedicated to finding solutions to poverty in the short term and the long term. We address emergency needs with food and clothing programs and break the long cycle of poverty with education and family strengthening programs. Each year, we provide education, food, and opportunity with: (1) Tutorial, learning, and recreational programs during the school year and the summer for approximately 300 children and youth, ages 3 months to 18 years; (2) Meals to the homeless every day of the year at numerous sites throughout the city as well as meals for senior shut-ins and community holiday meals (3) Family support services, a clothing distribution center, and information; (4) An expansive volunteer program that allows 10,000 people annually to reach out to their community; and (5) Collaborations with other organizations to best provide a wide array of services.

A Letter from Lindsey

Dear Friends of Martha's Table:

This past year has required the Martha's Table Family to draw on its creativity and resilience in incredible new ways to solve a range of very different problems. The good news is that our community of volunteers, donors, staff, families and clients has been up to the challenge thus far.

At the start of 2009 we were pretty scared. The country was facing the most serious financial crisis since the Great Depression, and here at Martha's Table we were seeing the leading edge of the pain that this crisis was causing. Suddenly we were helping twice as many people with emergency food and clothing than we had before the financial crisis hit—and then just as suddenly we were helping three times as many. Sadly that trend has continued into this year. Well into the spring of 2010, Martha's Table is still seeing about triple the number of people for emergency services than we were seeing before the financial melt down.

As we were facing the prospect of helping more people, we were also facing the possibility that we would not have resources to help them. The financial forecasts for 2009 were pretty grim. In talking to a number of experts, there was every indication that we would see decreases in grants from foundations and corporations, gifts from individuals, government contracts and just about every source of income. We had to figure out a way to overcome these obstacles. Starting in the fall of 2008, our Board of Directors and staff worked tirelessly to make plans for the year ahead. We cut our cash budget by 7% and carefully drew up a number of different budget and contingency scenarios.

After all this careful planning we found that almost all of our predictions on individual revenue line items in our budget were ... wrong. But the overall bottom line was within 1% of projections. It was a very practical and vivid lesson in the power of diversification.

Our government income for last year was almost one third less than expected. But other budget categories including donations from corporations, foundations and individuals were much better than expected. The size of the average gift from an individual fell 20%, but the number of gifts from individuals rose by 19%. Many of our current funders dug deep to help us out, and during the year a number of new supporters—individuals, corporations, and foundations made their first gifts to us. We also found different solutions such as working more with local farmers to not only reduce our costs, but also serve more nutritious food. What happened to Martha's Table in 2009 is a testament to the importance of being creative in finding new solutions—and to the wonderful generosity of our donors whose gifts both large and small ensured that we could continue operating every day of the year without cutting our level of service.

Thanks to the outpouring of support from so many, we and all of our programs have been able to weather the economic storm thus far. And then of course there were storms of another kind to contend with. The snowstorms brought very different challenges, but once again, the Martha's Table family was up to it.



Lindsey Buss (r) with Ron Allen of the Satellite Program

Martha's Table's 365 day schedule means that we have staff and volunteers here to help every Saturday, every Sunday, every holiday—even when there is two feet of snow on the ground. The past winter's storms are now just a memory, thank goodness, but during last winter when DC called for a state of emergency, schools were closed, and the federal government was shut down for almost a week, Martha's Table was able to keep its doors open during the various blizzards and their aftermath. Our community dinner before Christmas happened to fall on the same weekend as the first major snow storm of last winter. Due to the terrible road conditions that day, we cancelled our sit-down meal and modified our plan to serve carryout trays. More than 200 people trekked here for these meals in unprecedented (at that time) snow.

During this past February when more than 50 inches of snow fell in a week, staff and volunteers (including some new neighbors that volunteered with us for the first time) came in to shovel snow, prepare meals, distribute warm clothing and food, and (when safe) staff and drive the McKenna's Wagon vans. Even when the storms were at their worst, we had people who needed our help lined up at our door. We distributed food, hot tea, sweaters, gloves, hats, warm socks, long johns, and blankets from our front door to an average of 40 people each day. In addition, on most days, McKenna's Wagon went out to the three locations around DC serving approximately 40-60 people each time, and Martha's Outfitters, our clothing room stayed open on some of the worst days. We also provided meals to 54 snowed-in seniors at a live-in center a few blocks away. Thanks to help that came from neighbors and friends both old and new, Martha's Table was able to overcome these obstacles too.

And with your help we will continue to do so.

Martha's Table is now in its 30th year. This report shows what we have been able to do with your help. Each year and every day we provide education, food, and opportunity and we could not do this without you. On behalf of the children, families and individuals who depend on us 365 days a year, thank you.



Hunger and Nutrition

One of the greatest strengths of Martha's Table is our ability to work with community partners to produce the most effective and efficient results. We see this very clearly in our McKenna's Wagon and Family Food Programs. We are committed to feeding people every day of the year, and in 2009, we made great strides in being able to provide healthier food options to all the people we serve. Partnerships with the Capital Area Food Bank, local farmer's markets, farms, stores, restaurants and individuals ensured that we had a large supply of fresh ingredients for meals. The 65 gallons of soup we make every day is now made with 60% organic ingredients—up from 0% just a short time ago.

Our food program partners with many organizations that donate in-kind food to us, including large grocery stores like Giant and Safeway and restaurants like Chipotle. This helps cut our costs by providing bread and snacks for our mobile soup kitchen. We have also begun partnering with local farmer's markets, farms, and the Capital Area Food Bank to provide healthier options to our clients. We include fresh vegetables with our emergency food distribution and serve fresh fruit when it is available on the soup kitchen vans in the evenings. Our food program also distributes food to different shelters, and recently began a new partnership with Pathways to Housing that provides groceries to those who have recently left the streets for apartments of their own.

During 2009, we implemented more changes to our Food Program to focus on promoting nutrition and fighting obesity, a growing problem that plagues low-income families in the United States. We plan on changing McKenna's Wagon to modify our menu from sandwiches to meals made from scratch using fresh ingredients and adding nutritional value to the meals that we serve. In continuation of our Healthier McKenna's Wagon Initiative from the fall of 2007, we have made it a goal to find a permanent, sustainable alternative to the desserts that we currently hand out. We have begun this transition by including fresh fruits and vegetables on our mobile soup kitchen and in the grocery bags we hand out. This will allow us to have a greater impact on the health and lifestyles of those that we serve.

Last May, Martha's Table decided to plant a small garden at the back of our playground. Now our kids have the opportunity to learn first hand about healthy food. This year's crop, including tomatoes, corn, herbs, peppers and other vegetables and flowers, is just beginning to sprout.

365 DAYS Education, Food, and Opportunity

Children, Youth and Families

In our educational programs, we believe high quality is essential to combat the deficits of poverty; we prioritize academic achievement and enrichment opportunities. We currently have almost 300 children and youth enrolled across our programs. We provide children with nutritious food, having served more than 60,000 meals and snacks in 2009. We are proud to report that children and youth in our programs as well as their families flourished as they made both academic and developmental progress during the past year.

There are five distinctive elements of the Martha's Table Children and Family Learning Program that make it a model for other programs in the District. First, we offer extended hours, including full-day summer programming. Many of our parents work non-traditional hours and take classes; our longer hours (and before-school hours) provide a great support to the success of our families. Second, with Spanish and English in all our classrooms, our programs are bilingual; given our diverse community, this enhances our ability to teach and communicate with all the children and families and offer multi-cultural programs. Third, our programs provide nutritious meals and snacks at appropriate times everyday; our organization holds the tenet that eating good food provides the foundation for these children's health and energy to help them learn and play. Fourth, our classrooms provide a bright, learning-conducive environment that has been praised by many childcare professionals—it is important to us to have children begin their lives of learning in the best classrooms, regardless of their parents' income level. Fifth, we take a holistic approach to working with our families. For example, in addition to providing education and care for children outside of school, we help our families with food, baby formula, clothes, coats, diapers, school supplies, parent training and education, and referral services.

The Child Development Center (ages 3 months – 4 years) This program employs the Creative Curriculum Child Development and Learning program as promoted by the Carnegie Institute and others. With the help of this "learn through play" approach, the infants, toddlers and preschoolers who attend the program were able to explore many different aspects of their development. The educational component of the program is broad based and teaches the children about nature, reading, science, art, and computers. After working toward this goal for three years, we recently received word from the National Association for the Education of Young Children that we had achieved national accreditation. This accreditation status recognizes high quality programming and meeting thousands of criteria that ensure the children in our programs receive the best quality care. Accreditation will bring additional opportunities to our daycare and will contribute to our sustainability as an organization. In late December 2009 we also found out that we would receive a city funded pre-K classroom at Martha's Table. This new initiative will make a range of supports available to the children in our child care program including programs to increase school readiness and reduce the number of children in special education.

Elementary and Bridge Programs (ages 5-9 and 10-13) Our nationally accredited after-school programs for younger children offers them a range of academic and enrichment opportunities, including tutoring and homework assistance and field trips. In 2009 we also had our First Annual Science Fair and Career Day. To provide more individualized

2009 REPORT CARD for Martha's Table

During 2009 a team of volunteer MBAs from Compass, a group that provides pro bono consulting services to nonprofits whose work benefits the Greater Washington community helped us by reviewing many of our systems for tracking and reporting on our work. One of the results of this project was the development of our "Report Card," a concise way to track statistics about the work we do.

- 331,595 Sandwiches distributed on McKenna's Wagon and 19,575 Gallons of soup served
- 101,404 Sandwiches given to partner organizations to distribute
- 13,564 Sandwiches served to Seniors at Campbell Heights
- 1,699 Pantry Baskets of Groceries distributed
- 64,666 Meals served to Children in Martha's Table Programs
- 18,728 visits were made to Martha's Outfitters
- 69 Children (3 months-4 years old) enrolled in our Child Development Center
- 67 Children (5-9 years old) enrolled in our Elementary Program
- 20 Children (10-13 years old) enrolled in our Bridge Program
- 32 Teens (14-18 years old) enrolled in our Teen Program
- 105 Children enrolled in three Satellite Programs for children and youth; 63 at Lincoln Middle School (Jan-Aug); 21 at Shaw at Garnett Patterson (Sept-Dec); and 21 at Banneker Academic High School
- 9,467 Volunteers contributed 19,495 hours of service during 2009

In all, Martha's Table served approximately 5,000 unduplicated individuals in 2009.

attention, especially in math and reading, to the students in our Elementary and Bridge Programs, we developed a tutoring program in September 2009 that pairs consistent, dedicated volunteers with individual students. With frequent communication with the teachers, about ten tutors worked with the students on a regular basis. The progress of the children is tracked through portfolios, and the tutors work with the students to bring them up to their grade level or above. We work with the volunteers ahead of time to make sure they understand the commitment they are making to the program and the students, and the students have benefitted from additional one-on-one time.

Teen and Satellite Programs (ages 14-18) Our teens continued to thrive as well. Ensuring that the seniors in our Teen Program graduate from high school has always been an important part of our work with older youth. We are proud that, for the 12th year in a row, 100% of the teens who regularly attend our program graduated from high-school. Our teens also won city-wide recognition for their media projects by winning DCTV's 2009 Youth Film Festival for best "Edutainment" video and best PSA. As part of our Satellite Programs in DC Public Schools, in addition to a program at Banneker Academic High School we have run for 7 years, last August we began a new program for 8th and 9th graders at Shaw at Garnett Patterson Middle School. It is a testament to the relationships that we were able to foster last year at Shaw that we were called in to help the students cope in the aftermath of the recent death of their principal, Mr. Brian Betts.

We are there for kids 365 days a year.



Clothing Support

Martha's Outfitters, our in-kind distribution center and neighborhood thrift store worked with over 40 different social services agencies this past year to provide free clothing, bedding, and household items to their clients. These agencies include Bread for the City, N Street Village, So Others Might Eat, Jubilee Jobs, Rachael's Women's Center, Catholic Charities, and many others. Twice a week, Martha's Outfitters opens its doors to provide work/job interview clothing, household items for people relocating from shelters into apartments, and casual clothing and bedding for families in need. As with food, we also saw a large increase in the number of people who come to us for emergency clothing, the number of referrals increased by 33% over the past year.

Partnerships

In all, we partner with more than 100 other organizations around Washington, DC. Our partners donate food, provide volunteers, and send their clients for clothing. We partner with other youth organizations on behalf of children and youth. In

January 2009, we also partnered with DC Central Kitchen on an innovative event called Art.Food.Hope, a fundraiser held on Inauguration eve. Art.Food.Hope brought together chefs, artists and friends of both organizations for a series of intimate dinners benefitting both Martha's Table and DCCK. Generous hosts opened their homes, chefs created wonderful meals and guests had the opportunity to discuss how best to nourish the health, economy and environment through a focus on food. The first event was so successful that we partnered with DCCK again this past January. By focusing on their shared missions, nonprofits can accomplish more together.

Volunteers

Our ability to remain open every day in 2009 was made possible by the almost 10,000 volunteers who came to Martha's Table helping to make sandwiches, driving and staffing McKenna's Wagon, helping with the children, serving holiday meals, training parents, coordinating clothing, food and toy drives and walking for us in the Help the Homeless walkathon. In all volunteers contributed almost 20,000 hours of service. We are grateful for their help and we truly could not do our work without them.