

MARCH 10, 2020

THE IMAGINE SOCIETY



Thank you to our amazing teens that participated in The Image-Inn Shelter on Saturday, March 7th!



The kitchen staff produced an amazing four course dinner including avocado salad, toasted garlic bread, and spinach quiche. They learned incredible cooking techniques from our adult chefs Gina Larucci and Paul Brown.



Our hardworking crew loaded in all the boxes and groceries, broke down the Ascension school's cafeteria, set up our dining room and set the beautiful tables.



Meanwhile another group of teens set up and sanitized the cot room, where each guest would have their own cot made with clean sheets, along with a chair and a small desk as a bedside table for their personal belongings. The teens decorated the cot rooms with cards of inspirational messages written by the younger children from the Ascension church's religious education program.

Another crew set up the "Imagine Shop" where our guests could browse and pick out new shoes, socks, tee shirts and undergarments.



Our unique "Imagine Shop" was a great success because of the fantastic interactions between the teens and the clients and of course the fact that unlike most shops, everything in ours was free!

Laurence Jolicoeur from Pro Reps Performance donated his time to give the kids a basketball clinic during their break!

The teens received a professional training session on hygiene and food safety, formal dining service and were so gracious, friendly and respectful when our 20 guests arrived.



The gentlemen were greeted at the door with silver trays of a variety of juices and sparkling water and were invited to shop for new clothing. Our teen “sales associates” helped find their sizes.

The guests were welcomed to sit at their exquisitely set tables where a teen server offered the menu options, and refilled drinks from the “bar” we had set up.

As dinner was served (from the left with the left hand), two additional teen servers followed behind offering fresh ground pepper and grated parmesan cheese.



After the men enjoyed their dinner, teen servers cleared their plates (from the right with the right hand!) they offered coffee and tea and prepared the way for an ice cream cart pushed table side, and each guest was offered a custom ice cream sundae with a choice of chocolate or vanilla ice cream, and a variety of toppings such as hot fudge, caramel, sprinkles, nuts, whipped cream and a cherry.

After dessert, a second cup of coffee or tea was offered, a silver tray of cookies and chocolates were passed and the teens joined the men at the table for a game of Jenga and friendly conversation.

As our guests retired to the cot room to settle in for a good night's sleep, our teen crew thanked them for being such lovely guests and gave them a "goodie bag" that the kids had prepared last weekend containing a toiletry kits with all the essential items, a "shelter care kit" with flip flops for showers, high protein trail mix, bottled water, sleep masks, earplugs, nasal spray and extra sanitizing wipes. Also in the bag was a little frame that the kids put together that could hold a photo of a loved one, to help our friends get through this difficult time in their lives.

As the gift bags were presented to our guests who were overwhelmed with gratitude already, the teens presented a last surprise, gift cards to McDonalds and Dunkin' Donuts and round-trip metro cards, all purchased by generous supports of The Imagine Society.

But the best gift of all was the opportunity to see the triumph of the human spirit. The joy that the teens experienced in giving and serving. They may have gotten more out of the night than the guests.





“I liked to see how everyone used their talents and skills. Whether it be cooking or socializing or playing Jenga to make a true difference”

Nellie Fitzpatrick (14)

Convent of the Sacred Heart, NYC

“It was nice to bring meals to the homeless men, and I really liked playing Jenga (the game) with them. I am happy in my life, and it’s my goal to help the homeless.”

Emery Brown (14)

The Ideal School, NYC



"It was really nice giving these people a really nice night. It also made me feel good that I was helping because I felt like I was making a difference in this world."

Joseph Fitzpatrick (16)

High School of American Studies at Lehman College, Bronx, NY



“Participating in the Image-Inn Project was a really great way for me to be in contact with the people in our society that we help every week and understand how much work is put into creating this experience. When I arrived at 3:00 I was unaware of the amount of work that was ahead of me, and the effects that my contributions as well as those of my peers would leave on these people. I was really touched by how grateful these men we helped had shown to

be, and this made me want to build a stronger relationship with them and be able to help them in the future. When you sit down and do even the simplest of things such as play games or chat with these men you realize that you have more in common than you think. Overall I think it’s very important in society for people, especially the youth, to engage in and help facilitate events such as these so that we can really be in touch with those surrounding us and understand how everything we have to offer can help. Thank you!”

**Alessia Turner (14)
The Chapin School, NYC**

“Working at the Image-Inn gave me an opportunity to expand my horizons through the conversations I had with the people we served.”

**Marre Gaffigan (15)
Marymount School of New York, NYC**





IMAGINE SOCIETY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

One of our newest teen members, Elle Ferretti-Gray (14, from Avenues the World School) had the brilliant idea to transform the extra spinach quiche filling into an amazing breakfast casserole for the guests of the shelter to eat the next morning!

