

# Peacemaking/Social Concerns

## Souper Bowl Sunday February 5, 2012



On Sunday, February 5, millions of Americans will tune in to watch the Super Bowl football game. People will be hosting Super Bowl parties in the warmth of their homes with abundant food and friendship, supporting their favorite team. At the same time, unfortunately, there will be people worrying about finding shelter, staying warm and a warm meal.

Fortunately on Sunday, February 5, there is another bowl the SOUPER BOWL of Caring. This bowl has transformed Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest weekend for giving and serving, by providing shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. Please support the Souper Bowl of Caring as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors. **It's a simple yet significant act of caring for others; please drop your dollars in the soup pot as you leave worship.**

## Souper Bowl History

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

That was 1990. Since then, ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary \$70 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

In 2009 Brad Smith the seminary intern accepted a call to become Senior Pastor at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina.

*Submitted by: Leslie Katusa*



## Food Banks

Sunday, February 5, is Food Bank Sunday. Barrels will be in the breezeway to receive your contributions of non-perishable food items. If you find it too difficult to shop for and carry food items to Church, you can make a monetary contribution in one of the pink food bank envelopes in the pew racks in the sanctuary. Needs are great because many people are still going to the food banks to help feed their families. All contributions of food or money received during February will go to the Agua Fria Food Bank in Avondale.

## Your Opportunity to Learn about the D.R.E.A.M. Act

**Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30pm**

**Tuesday, February 21st at 9:30am**

Church of the Palms, United Church of Christ, 14808 N. Boswell Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351

**Tuesday, March 13th at 6:30**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85374

Attend one or all three of these open forums to learn about this important issue. The DREAM Act would provide a pathway for certain qualified undocumented youth to regularize their status in the U.S. and have their rights and responsibilities recognized by society. You will learn:

- Who are these youth?
- How would they be affected?
- Is this good for our country?
- Does my church denomination have a position on the issue?
- Why should I care?

Hear firsthand accounts of experiences with "Dreamer" students and their families from our speakers who include: Mrs. Jane McNamara, ESL instructor at North High School in Phoenix; Rev. Hector and Genie Zavaleta, this year's recipients of the George Brooks Award for Social Justice given by the Presbytery of Grand Canyon; Rev. Renato Alvarez, Director of the Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank in Avondale and Director of Ministry to the Rural Poor, Presbytery of Grand Canyon.

Presented by the DREAM Act Task Force

Members of the task force are from the Church of the Palms, Faith Presbyterian Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise.