

# Service Corner

## Alumni making a difference *by Bridget Kahermanes '66*

### Class of '79, We're Doing Fine

"Fine! Fine! We're doing fine. We're the Class of '79." Well, a group of them are doing better than fine; they are feeding bodies and souls.

Every Monday Churches Active in Northside ([CAIN](#)) hosts a community meal at a soup kitchen called Phil's Place, a free community weekly dinner that provides food, fosters a sense of belonging, and builds community. In the safe and friendly

atmosphere of Phil's Place, not only do people get a good meal, but they feel cared for, affirmed, and better able to face their



situation. To a person in a challenging situation, this support can make such a difference. Wanting to help, every third Monday of the month, a group of Rocket alumni donate, prepare, and serve the food at Phil's Place for up to 100 people.

In 2015, MiMi Chamberlin and Cathy Sheehan Graham, '79 classmates and CAIN staff, approached Polly Powers Sandmann '79 for help at Phil's Place. Polly stepped up to coordinate the effort to recruit volunteers and donors - including Mary Beth Carroll Sandmann '79 who also facilitated a connection with McNicholas students.

Polly later became ill and requested Donna Steffen Molloy '79 take over the coordination role. Donna has faithfully and gracefully done so ever since. Every month, the Class of '79, other alumni, friends, and family keep Polly's memory alive and honor her legacy of faithful service and kindness to others. They show the best of McNick by serving a wonderful

dinner and extending a warm and caring welcome to all!

Donna and her husband Dave '79 have made the monthly meal a 'mission' and created a gathering that serves a top-quality, nutritionally-balanced meal, combined with a generous portion of love and laughter.

Every December, they create a special Christmas celebration including Dave donning a Santa suit and his mother an elf outfit. They are joined by Dan & Patti Siciliano and their famous meatballs. Donna sees Phil's as a great place to serve a good meal to

*"The smiles when we serve are priceless;  
that is our reward."*

some very special people.

Katie McClure Poliak '79, another of the regulars, describes her involvement as a young child being 'voluntold' by her mother to spend time giving back and volunteering. She stated, "I can still picture delivering meals with our Mom and seeing the connection she made with people and the appreciation and joy in their eyes." She got the same feeling at CAIN; when classmates needed a group to help cover a meal, her family rallied together and jumped at the chance to help.

The Rocket Team welcomes volunteers and donors for the monthly Phil's Place meals. While the roots for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday belong to the class of '79, other Rocket classes ('82, '80, '74, '67, and '66, to name a few) have become involved over the years to lend a hand each month.

The CAIN annual Christmas party at Phil's Place was given a boost by the 'St. Nick at McNick' Alumni Association with the help of the Class of '66. Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of many Rocket alumni, beautiful gift bags are provided to all adults and children who attend the dinner.

If you would like to join the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday crew, please contact Donna Molloy at [dmolloy767@aol.com](mailto:dmolloy767@aol.com) or (513)616-5119 to be added to the monthly email. Sign up to help based on your availability to serve or if you cannot serve, you can sign up to contribute specific items. Each month, Donna emails a menu and lists what is needed. The time commitment to serve is only about 2 ½ hours.

'Voluntold'.... don't you just love that word?

*"There are numerous pantries and soup kitchens in the Tri-State who depend on the kindness of others. Many are connected to faith communities'. Make it your purpose to love God and your neighbor!"*

*MiMi*

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Let us know what you are involved in, we would love to celebrate people who are doing good works.

We would like to focus on service that you and your Rocket friends have done or will be doing but need support in your efforts to spread the word about upcoming service projects.

You can send in your story to the chair of the Alumni Service Committee, [Bridget Kahermanes '66](#).