



Waffle Shop's good work

Every year at the end of summer I look at my calendar to schedule a couple of organizational meetings for the upcoming fall Waffle Shop. It has become a bit of a tradition with me, this being my tenth year serving as the event's general chair.

And about that time I am reminded of the collection of *thank you* notes sent to church, notes received at the wind-down of last year's Waffle Shop activities. As you might know, about 80% of Waffle Shop proceeds are awarded to local, national, and international groups through Outreach Grants. We keep some money for church and Waffle Shop needs, like replacement waffle irons or a gift to the youth for a mission trip, but we are proud of our track record of sending most of the money we make out in grants to folks who need help doing God's work somewhere in the world.

Then I'm reminded that most of you never get a chance to read the sincere thanks offered in those *thank you* notes. Well, here's a testimonial from a participant at Good Shepherd Ministries, a Dayton concern working with

individuals with drug, alcohol, and incarceration histories. "With your help, I've got a healthy new start for a promising future and you all have shown me what true friends and fellowship is all about. Thank you for being just who you are and this is from my heart with sincere passion."

Waffle Shop's gift to Daybreak helped provide warm beds, three meals a day, and counseling for their clients. Alexis writes, "Now it's time for me to move on and grow more! I don't think I would've made it this far without my Daybreak family. Your support and caring have really made a difference in my life. Thank you!"

The Dayton Peace Museum offers their thanks for helping to pay off their building's mortgage while the local Zeta Phi Beta Sorority writes, "With your grant we will be able to purchase baby items and supply additional layettes for our young ladies and their new bundles of joy."

Waffle Shop Outreach Grants are sent to far-flung places beyond our neighborhood, as well, with *thank you's* received this year from MVERN (working with Fr. Nicholai's ministry in Sablino, Russia), Heifer International (providing struggling families with "the gift of livestock and training in its care"), and The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge for a gift to their Worldwide Programme. One of their recipients writes from Tanzania, "I would just take this opportunity of saying how invaluable the supply of the study guides is. The students really value them and are thrilled when they arrive."

All of this *good work* is helped in the world because of our parish's efforts through Waffle Shop. Do take part in Waffle Shop this year. We can always use help cleaning tables, scrubbing pots, setting up and taking down, as well as supplying Elsie's Attic, the bake sale, and the bazaar with the special items they need.

Waffle Shop is a special event in Dayton. Let's make the 82nd one extra special!

Tom Schaefer
General chair