

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Group Holds Banquet to Spotlight Hunger

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Students Concerned for the Needy (SCN), a Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School service organization, sponsored the high school's first hunger banquet on March 1 to demonstrate the unequal distribution and shortage of food throughout the world.

As guests arrived at the banquet, they randomly selected a color-coded ticket that signified whether they would get a delicious full-course meal or just a bowl of rice and some beans. The ticket also stated what country each participant supposedly came from and their financial circumstances.

The three economic classes included poor, middle-class and wealthy, mirroring similar conditions in today's world, although the very poorest class of totally impoverished, or individuals starving as a result of famine, was not represented.

When people think of the worldwide problem of hunger, the most likely examples that come to mind are starving, emaciated people from Third World, underdeveloped countries. What many people don't realize is that hunger is a serious problem in every nation of the world, even in the United States.

And the problems of hunger and poverty do not just plague thousands of homeless individuals, but are also a concern for working families which rely on food stamps to make ends meet.

Because of government cutbacks on food stamps and services, many families who subsist on minimum wage go hungry every month.

Spreading this message to raise public awareness is the primary mission of SCN. The group sponsors events and programs to foster awareness and understanding of the various needs of people in surrounding communities.

These events include fundraisers, food and clothing drives, holiday family sponsorship, disaster relief, feeding the homeless, a 30-hour famine-fast and the hunger banquet.

Guests at the banquet lucky enough

to choose a ticket representing a wealthy country were waited on and dined in accommodations like those found in a four-star restaurant, which were set up in the high school cafeteria.

White tablecloths and warm rolls complemented soup, salad and a full-course dinner with apple pie for dessert.

Guests who chose green tickets filled their plates at a buffet with a typical, middle-class menu of chicken nuggets and rice.

Individuals who had the misfortune of holding blue tickets had to stand in a soup-kitchen line, waiting for their bowl of thick bean porridge with a small scoop of rice. Although more nourishing than rice alone, the porridge — with a consistency of thick sludge — left a lot to be desired, according to many of the guests.

"I feel bad for the Third-World participants," said high school student Jackie Klock, who was among those seated at the "affluent" table.

"I feel guilty being waited on while they have to stand in line waiting for their food," concurred fellow high school student Marisa Melendez, also a wealthy ticket holder.

The unfairness of the selection process could be seen on the "impoverished-class" children's faces, when only the wealthy guests were served apple pie for dessert.

"The beans and rice are really much better nourishment than people in the poorest countries typically get every day," Christina Hillman, SCN Co-President, said.

"Many people in this country subsist on substandard nutrition when their food stamps run out," stated SCN Co-President Ankur Dalal.

Master of Ceremonies and SCN's Treasurer Susanna Klassel shared with the guests some staggering statistics regarding world hunger, such as the fact that 22 people die every minute from worldwide hunger, or 32,000 people a year.

Factors such as floods, war and drought are often catastrophic for fami-

lies who already live on the edge of poverty, Susanna told the audience.

Featured speaker Tricia Nering from Fanwood, founder of Heart for Humanity, a non-profit service organization, spoke about her work with families in need in Union County.

Through Heart for Humanity, which she founded six years ago, Ms. Nering said she has helped dozens of families who were lacking basic necessities.

"We personally deliver whatever the family needs, everything from food and clothing to toys and furniture," Ms. Nering stated.

"Catastrophic events such as fire, illness or divorce have impacted some families very hard and rendered some of them incapable of providing for themselves and their children," Ms. Nering said.

"Food insecurity" is a major problem for the poor and it is epidemic, Ms. Nering stated. "I have brought bags of food to families who haven't eaten in three days, right here in Union County," she added.

Anyone wishing to volunteer time or donations to Heart for Humanity may call Ms. Nering at (908) 322-5206. Ms. Nering will pick up furniture, clothing or toys from the donor's house or individuals may make arrangements to drop donations off at her Fanwood home.

Heart for Humanity is a grass roots charity, but does not have non-profit status, so donations are not tax deductible.

Heart for Humanity also sponsors food drives at School One and McGinn Elementary Schools in Scotch Plains to collect supplies for the Scotch Plains Food Pantry.

Another speaker at the event was Dr. Sanford Fineman, President of the Yes, We Care Soup Kitchen, Inc., located at the Zion Lutheran Church in Clark. He also spoke about his volunteer efforts to help the hungry and poor.

At the Yes, We Care Soup Kitchen, volunteers help prepare food for distribution to the homeless and the working poor of Union County. The food is



Deborah Madison for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AMONG THE 'PRIVILEGED'...Guests at the recent Hunger Banquet sponsored by Students Concerned for the Needy at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School enjoy a full-course dinner, while others at the event had to stand in line for a simple meal of bean porridge and rice. The event was designed to raise public awareness of worldwide hunger and how diets differ among the various economic classes.

distributed to working class, poor neighborhoods in Elizabeth via a mobile food truck once a week.

According to Dr. Fineman, the economy is not getting any easier. Many people are being forced off of food stamps and welfare to take minimum wage jobs, which do not provide adequate financial compensation to feed large families, Dr. Fineman said.

"These families cannot rely on the government to help them out. They rely on volunteers, like us, and donations to survive," Dr. Fineman stated.

Dr. Fineman expressed the need for volunteers to help at the soup kitchen. Anyone who would like to get involved may call Dr. Fineman at (908) 688-8800.

The Coalition for Hunger Awareness, another organization with which Dr. Fineman has been involved, is an interfaith network of volunteers, soup kitchens and food banks. Their mission is to raise funds to support food banks, as well as to raise public awareness about the problems of hunger.

The Coalition additionally sponsors a walk-a-thon which raises thousands of dollars every year. The next walk will be on Sunday, May 7. Anyone interested in participating may call Luis Fleischman at the Jewish Community

Center's Jewish Federation Office in Scotch Plains at (908) 889-5335.

Another upcoming event to raise public awareness about hunger is the 30-hour Famine sponsored by SCN, which will be held on Thursday and Friday, March 9 and 10.

Over 1.6 million people in 21 countries are expected to participate by not eating for 30 hours, starting after lunch on Thursday. The fast will end with participants eating dinner on Friday evening.

The main objective of the famine event is to raise awareness of the major worldwide problem of hunger and to raise needed funds. The money raised will be distributed to organizations that help families in need.

The famine will also give participants a personal experience of what millions of people go through each day of their lives.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School teacher and SCN advisor Bob Stevens said the high school students have done an excellent job organizing the hunger banquet and the 30-hour famine.

Dr. David Heisey, Principal of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, said the school is very proud of the students' hard work and dedication to these causes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: JOYCE FELDER

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon MICHAEL A. ALFIERI, ESQ., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 187 Route 34, Matawan, New Jersey 07747, an Answer to the Complaint filed in a civil action, in which ASSOCIATES HOME EQUITY SERVICES, INC. is the Plaintiff and DAVID CORLEY, ROSEMARY PEEK, n/k/a ROSEMARY CORLEY and JOYCE FELDER, are the defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County and bearing Docket No. F-3202-00, within 35 days after MARCH 16, 2000, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex, CN-971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625 in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing on a mortgage, securing the original sum of \$82,583.57 executed by DAVID CORLEY AND ROSEMARY PEEK n/k/a ROSEMARY CORLEY, to Ford Consumer Finance Company, Inc., n/k/a ASSOCIATES HOME EQUITY SERVICES, INC., dated November 24, 1993 and recorded in the Union County Clerk's Office on December 1, 1993 in Mortgage Book 5108, at Page 344; (2) to recover possession of the premises commonly known as 655 W. Third Street, Plainfield, New Jersey.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 800-249-5000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of Venue by calling 908-353-4715, or Legal Services Office of the County of Venue by calling 908-354-4340.

YOU, JOYCE FELDER, ARE BEING JOINED AS A DEFENDANT TO THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION by virtue of the child support judgment filed in Superior Court of New Jersey, Union County on 4/2/96, against DAVID CORLEY, which bears Judgment #J-082099-1996.

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL A. ALFIERI 187 ROUTE 34 MATAWAN, NEW JERSEY 07747 732-666-7117 1T-3/16/00, The Leader Fee: \$53.04

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BOARD OF EDUCATION 302 ELM STREET WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07090

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the legal voters of the School District of the Town of Westfield, in the County of Union, New Jersey, that a Public Hearing for the proposed budget for 2000-2001 will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey, at 8:00 P.M.

The budget will be on file in the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey, for examination by the public between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. each school day, or by appointment.

Your school district has proposed programs and services in addition to the Core Curriculum Content Standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Information on this budget and the programs and services it provides is available from your local school district.

Robert A. Berman
Board Secretary

The Westfield Leader
Publication Date: March 16, 2000

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET STATEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2000-2001

ADVERTISED ENROLLMENTS UNION — WESTFIELD TOWN

| ENROLLMENT CATEGORY | OCT. 15, 1998 | OCT. 15, 1999 | OCT. 15, 2000 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | ACTUAL | ACTUAL | ESTIMATED |
| Pupils on Roll Regular Full-Time | 4905 | 5,114 | 5,264 |
| Pupils on Roll Regular Shared-Time | 26 | 23 | 23 |
| Pupils on Roll — Special Full-Time | 571 | 624 | 624 |
| Pupils on Roll — Special Shared-Time | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Private School Placements | 59 | 61 | 61 |
| Pupils Sent to Other Distrs-Spec. Ed. Prog. | 28 | 33 | 33 |
| Pupils Received | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Pupils in State Facilities | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Resident Enrollment Per State Aid Calc. - Infor. Only | | 5,800 | 6,180 |

ADVERTISED REVENUES

| BUDGET CATEGORY | ACCOUNT | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 |
|--|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | | ACTUAL | REVISED | ANTICIPATED |
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| Budgeted Fund Balance - General Fund | 10-303 | | 1,600,000 | 2,196,877 |
| Transfers from Other Funds | 10-5200 | | 45,000 | |
| Revenues from Local Sources: | | | | |
| Local Tax Levy | 10-1210 | 45,177,689 | 46,584,649 | 48,229,575 |
| Tuition | 10-1300 | 31,144 | | 13,440 |
| Transportation Fees from Individuals | 10-1410 | 2,500 | | |
| Unrestricted Miscellaneous Revenues | 10-1XXX | 923,268 | 766,711 | 701,515 |
| SUBTOTAL | | 46,134,601 | 47,351,360 | 48,944,530 |
| Revenues from State Sources: | | | | |
| Transportation Aid | 10-3120 | 386,791 | 392,832 | |
| Special Education Aid | 10-3130 | 2,359,273 | 2,835,758 | 3,378,400 |
| Bilingual Education | 10-3140 | 37,468 | 39,585 | 23,223 |
| Academic Achievement Reward Program | 10-3193 | 138,460 | 133,575 | 150,626 |
| SUBTOTAL | | 2,921,992 | 3,401,750 | 3,552,249 |
| Adjustment for Prior Year Encumbrances | | | 1,828,822 | |
| Act (Excess) Deficiency of Rev. (Over)/Under Expend. | | 118,705 | | |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND | | 49,175,298 | 54,226,932 | 54,693,656 |
| SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| Revenues from Local Sources | 20-1XXX | 196,645 | 145,729 | |
| Distance Learning Network Aid - Prior Year Carryover | 20-3213 | | 89,704 | |
| Distance Learning Network Aid | 20-3213 | 239,944 | 243,600 | 265,740 |
| Other Restricted Entitlements | 20-32XX | 216,117 | 255,657 | 255,657 |
| TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE SOURCES | | 456,061 | 588,961 | 521,397 |
| Revenues from Federal Sources: | | | | |
| P.L. 103-382 Title I | 20-4411-4414 | 19,286 | 74,397 | 74,397 |
| P.L. 103-382 Title VI | 20-4415-4416 | | 24,072 | 24,072 |
| I.D.E.A. Part B (Handicapped) | 20-4420 | 477,781 | 697,836 | 697,836 |
| Other | 20-4XXX | 128,300 | 34,386 | 34,386 |
| TOTAL REVENUES FROM FEDERAL SOURCES | | 625,367 | 830,691 | 830,691 |
| TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | 1,278,073 | 1,565,381 | 1,552,088 |
| DEBT SERVICE | | | | |
| Budget Fund Balance | 40-303 | | | 133,378 |
| Revenues from Local Sources: | | | | |
| Local Tax Levy | 40-1210 | 615,976 | 869,405 | 976,882 |
| Miscellaneous | 40-1XXX | 133,378 | 350,000 | 55,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES | | 749,354 | 1,219,405 | 1,031,882 |
| TOTAL LOCAL DEBT SERVICE | | 749,354 | 1,219,405 | 1,165,260 |
| Act (Excess) Deficiency of Rev. (Over)/Under Expend. | | -133,378 | | |
| TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND | | 615,976 | 1,219,405 | 1,165,260 |
| TOTAL REVENUES/SOURCES | | 51,069,347 | 57,011,718 | 57,211,004 |

ADVERTISED APPROPRIATIONS

| BUDGET CATEGORY | ACCOUNT | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 |
|---|----------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | | EXPENDITURES | REVISED APPROPRIATIONS | APPROPRIATIONS |
| GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE | | | | |
| Regular Programs - Instruction | 11-1XX-100-XXX | 19,725,387 | 21,222,377 | 21,916,734 |
| Special Education - Instruction | 11-2XX-100-XXX | 2,623,448 | 2,841,280 | 3,033,073 |
| Basic Skills/Remedial - Instruction | 11-230-100-XXX | 672,341 | 549,726 | 605,049 |
| Bilingual Education - Instruction | 11-240-100-XXX | 182,387 | 183,028 | 174,938 |
| School Sponsored Occurricular Activities - Instruction | 11-401-100-XXX | 217,321 | 214,782 | 231,882 |
| School Sponsored Athletics - Instruction | 11-402-100-XXX | 641,920 | 721,545 | 750,640 |
| Undistributed Expenditures: | | | | |
| Instruction | 11-000-100-XXX | 2,984,111 | 3,859,340 | 3,811,444 |
| Attendance and Social Work Services | 11-000-211-XXX | 64,828 | 99,440 | 105,028 |
| Health Services | 11-000-213-XXX | 796,239 | 816,220 | 843,462 |
| Other Support Services - Students - Related and Extraordinary | 11-000-216,217 | 776,905 | 986,896 | 893,174 |
| Other Support Services - Students - Regular | 11-000-218-XXX | 1,208,762 | 1,254,994 | 1,346,449 |
| Other Support Services - Students - Special | 11-000-219-XXX | 941,724 | 974,450 | 1,094,443 |
| Improvement of Instructional Services | 11-000-221-XXX | 710,949 | 790,702 | 1,156,124 |
| Educational Media Services - School Library | 11-000-222-XXX | 996,524 | 1,098,686 | 1,098,547 |

| Instructional Staff Training Services | 11-000-223-XXX | 63,123 | 142,217 | 152,980 |
|---|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | | |
| Support Services - School Administration <td>11-000-240-XXX</td> <td>2,649,811</td> <td>2,597,727</td> <td>2,482,458</td> | 11-000-240-XXX | 2,649,811 | 2,597,727 | 2,482,458 |
| Operation & Maintenance of Plant Services <td>11-000-26X-XXX</td> <td>3,716,145</td> <td>4,606,632</td> <td>4,612,570</td> | 11-000-26X-XXX | 3,716,145 | 4,606,632 | 4,612,570 |
| Student Transportation Services <td>11-000-270-XXX</td> <td>1,265,721</td> <td>1,478,950</td> <td>1,506,911</td> | 11-000-270-XXX | 1,265,721 | 1,478,950 | 1,506,911 |
| Business & Other Support Services <td>11-000-290-XXX</td> <td>923,234</td> <td>933,669</td> <td>985,978</td> | 11-000-290-XXX | 923,234 | 933,669 | 985,978 |
| Personal Services - Employee Benefits <td>11-XXX-XXX-2XX</td> <td>5,129,588</td> <td>5,395,020</td> <td>5,673,668</td> | 11-XXX-XXX-2XX | 5,129,588 | 5,395,020 | 5,673,668 |
| Food Services <td>11-000-310-XXX</td> <td>43,430</td> <td>50,500</td> <td>20,000</td> | 11-000-310-XXX | 43,430 | 50,500 | 20,000 |
| Total Undistributed Expenditures <td></td> <td>23,150,046</td> <td>26,246,655</td> <td>26,980,642</td> | | 23,150,046 | 26,246,655 | 26,980,642 |
| TOTAL GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE <td></td> <td>47,212,850</td> <td>51,979,393</td> <td>53,692,958</td> | | 47,212,850 | 51,979,393 | 53,692,958 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | | | | |
| Equipment <td>12-XXX-XXX-73X</td> <td>211,292</td> <td>164,683</td> <td>149,145</td> | 12-XXX-XXX-73X | 211,292 | 164,683 | 149,145 |
| Facilities Acquisition & Construction Services <td>12-000-4XX-XXX</td> <td>1,704,636</td> <td>2,030,019</td> <td>821,469</td> | 12-000-4XX-XXX | 1,704,636 | 2,030,019 | 821,469 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY <td></td> <td>1,915,928</td> <td>2,194,702</td> <td>970,614</td> | | 1,915,928 | 2,194,702 | 970,614 |
| SPECIAL SCHOOLS <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | | | | |
| Summer School: | | | | |
| Instruction <td>13-422-100-XXX</td> <td>41,813</td> <td>44,542</td> <td>29,644</td> | 13-422-100-XXX | 41,813 | 44,542 | 29,644 |
| Support Services <td>13-422-200-XXX</td> <td>4,707</td> <td>8,295</td> <td>440</td> | 13-422-200-XXX | 4,707 | 8,295 | 440 |
| Total Summer School <td></td> <td>46,520</td> <td>52,837</td> <td>30,084</td> | | 46,520 | 52,837 | 30,084 |
| TOTAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS <td></td> <td>46,520</td> <td>52,837</td> <td>30,084</td> | | 46,520 | 52,837 | 30,084 |
| GENERAL FUND GRAND TOTAL <td></td> <td>49,175,298</td> <td>54,226,932</td> <td>54,693,656</td> | | 49,175,298 | 54,226,932 | 54,693,656 |
| SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | | | | |
| Local Projects <td>20-XXX-XXX-XXX</td> <td>196,645</td> <td>145,729</td> <td></td> | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX | 196,645 | 145,729 | |
| Distance Learning Network Aid: Support Services <td>20-213-200-XXX</td> <td>151,615</td> <td>253,867</td> <td>250,790</td> | 20-213-200-XXX | 151,615 | 253,867 | 250,790 |
| Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services <td>20-213-400-XXX</td> <td>88,329</td> <td>79,437</td> <td>14,950</td> | 20-213-400-XXX | 88,329 | 79,437 | 14,950 |
| TOTAL DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK AID <td></td> <td>239,944</td> <td>333,304</td> <td>265,740</td> | | 239,944 | 333,304 | 265,740 |
| Other State Projects: <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | | | | |
| Nonpublic Textbooks <td>20-XXX-XXX-XXX</td> <td>26,787</td> <td>28,134</td> <td>28,134</td> | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX | 26,787 | 28,134 | 28,134 |
| Nonpublic Auxiliary Services <td>20-XXX-XXX-XXX</td> <td>36,279</td> <td>46,928</td> <td>46,928</td> | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX | 36,279 | 46,928 | 46,928 |
| Nonpublic Handicapped Services <td>20-XXX-XXX-XXX</td> <td>105,775</td> <td>117,148</td> <td>117,148</td> | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX | 105,775 | 117,148 | 117,148 |
| Nonpublic Nursing Services <td>20-XXX-XXX-XXX</td> <td>36,105</td> <td>38,787</td> <td>38,787</td> | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX | 36,105 | 38,787 | 38,787 |
| Other Special Projects <td>20-XXX-XXX-XXX</td> <td>11,171</td> <td>24,660</td> <td>24,660</td> | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX | 11,171 | 24,660 | 24,660 |
| Total State Projects <td></td> <td>456,061</td> <td>588,961</td> <td>521,397</td> | | 456,061 | 588,961 | 521,397 |
| Federal Projects: <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> | | | | |
| P.L. 103-382 Title I <td>20-XXX-XXX-XXX</td> <td>19,286</td> <td>74,397</td> <td>74,397</td> | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX | 19,286 | 74,397 | 74,397 |
| P.L. 103-382 Title VI <td>20-XXX-XXX-XXX</td> <td></td> | 20-XXX-XXX-XXX | | | |