

Reprinted from the February Knight Lite.

I recently received an e-mail from Robert J. Ennis, Dir. of Fraternal Operations & Programs at the Supreme office regarding "Food for Families", one of the many programs in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative. The focus of his message was the **ongoing** need for a concerted effort to conduct food drives, and become involved in soup kitchens in your area. Hunger is not a seasonal thing, it is an increasing problem that will not go away, and it is up to everyone to do their part to alleviate it.

In an effort to help combat hunger, the Supreme Council has earmarked \$1,000,000 for this important program, and if at least 25% of councils in our jurisdiction become involved and report qualifying projects, the Iowa State Council will share proportionately in this fund to help enhance existing food programs underway. The money will be distributed by diocese according to size. Let's don't leave any money on the table which might help us in our efforts!

In his message, Brother Ennis indicated that from all feedback, it appears that well over 25% of local councils are already involved, but the real goal is to get everyone to increase their outreach efforts and then report the activity.

On the Iowa website there is a reporting form available, and it is requested that it be sent no later than March 1st. By reporting all activity, councils will help the state get their share of the \$1,000,000. Secondly, councils reporting Food for Families programs on the Columbian Award application will get credit for all 4 Community activities. To qualify for the Columbian Award, the activity must encourage a hands-on outreach. Last but not least, when you report your program, send along a photo of your efforts, you might just be featured in the Columbia magazine!

Cash donations to hunger programs can't be beat, but the true focus of this "Food for Families" program is a hands-on outreach. This is an excellent way to get all of your membership involved. Also, make sure you ask other fraternal and community groups, as well as congregations of other churches to help you in your activity. If we all do our part, this program can not fail!

Fraternally,
Jerry A. Wells, Community Chmn.

Footnote--- even though the March deadline has past for submitting the Columbian Award Application, I would recommend that you send it in immediately. Please use the attached reporting form for convenience.