



# Lawyers Feed the Hungry

Jeanette Markle serves guests of the Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program

## Volunteers mark decade of service with call for stronger community support.

In the cold grey of a winter morning, Goodmans lawyer David Bronskill is cheered on the walk from the crowded subway when greeted by name by people living on Toronto's streets.

While Bronskill's practice focuses on municipal law matters, his friends are not clients. They are his guests every Sunday morning as he leads about 20 volunteers in serving a hot and healthy breakfast to hundreds of Toronto's most vulnerable citizens in the cafeteria at the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Bronskill is one of about 100 volunteers who represent the driving force behind the **Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program**, one of Toronto's only year-round community meal services, which is provided by The Law Society Foundation. Besides Sunday breakfast, meals are also served on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

This year, the Foundation marked a decade of service providing more than 1,300 meals a week to city residents living at or below the poverty line. The Foundation paid tribute to its dynamic volunteer team at a reception hosted by program founder Martin Teplitsky and the Law Society Foundation.

Teplitsky, whose friends and family are among the program's most committed donors, volunteers and supporters, says the numbers of meals served continues to rise and food costs have increased over the past year. "**Lawyers Feed the Hungry** fills a very important and urgent need as Toronto struggles to serve the homeless, the unemployed and the elderly challenged by fixed incomes."

The Law Society Foundation is a registered Canadian charity founded in 1962, whose student bursary, heritage preservation and meal programs for those in need have been inspired by the philanthropic leadership and civic activism of Ontario's legal community.

Jeanette Markle, a City of Toronto prosecutor at Old City Hall, says, from the very first visit, volunteers experience an immediate validation that the program is making a positive impact in the community. "Our guests are very appreciative and keep coming back for meals," Markle notes. "There is an urgency to their lives. They need someone to listen to them and to reassure them that they are on the right track."

"The legal community has been very generous and we are very appreciative," says volunteer program co-ordinator Bronskill. "We hope despite difficult economic times, members of the profession will continue to support the program as well as contribute their time as volunteers."

Please consider making a donation to the **Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program**. Send your cheque made payable to The Law Society Foundation to the address listed below, or contact the Foundation at [lsf@lsuc.on.ca](mailto:lsf@lsuc.on.ca)

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