

Dear family,

Happy 2012! Thank you so much for everything you did for RAM in 2011. I will be sure to include our 2011 stats in the February newsletter. For the record, in 2010, RAM served 45,884 meals, provided shelter to 2,903 unduplicated people, and gave \$186,042 in emergency aid. Unfortunately, we only expect those numbers to rise as the need for our services continues to grow.

This new year begins with the Souper Bowl on January 22 at the Taubman Museum. Tickets go on sale January 5, and they will be \$25 in advance. We have reorganized things for this year so we don't need many volunteers-- sorry! Look and listen for promotions beginning January 2. This jointly benefits both RAM and the Rescue Mission, and is sponsored by Q99, Gentry, Locke, Rakes & Moore, and SunTrust.

2012 will end on an exciting note, as well. December 7, 2012, is the 25th anniversary of the RAM House day shelter and lunch program. To honor this occasion, we will be putting together a new edition of the RAM House cookbook. The edition RAM did in 2007 was hugely popular, and people still ask about it. I, however, think we can make this one bigger and better.

Please feel free to start sending recipes or cooking hints and tips my way. We would love to have you be a part of this celebration. You can send them to me through the mail or as a Microsoft Word/PDF scan attachment to my email:

Alaina Gelbert

or

argelbert@gmail.com

824 Campbell Ave, SW
Roanoke, VA 24016

Thanks to everyone who has given me feedback over the past year. Please don't ever hesitate to let me know what you are thinking!

On that note, we have had quite a few changes in our volunteer family over 2011, so I want to go over some things. First, let me start by extending a huge, tremendous THANK YOU to all of our group coordinators. Thank you for your (and your organization's) commitment to RAM. Second, I want to explain what I mean by group coordinators. If your church/civic group/school/etc has volunteers serving at RAM, we are so grateful, but let's be realistic-- I can't keep contact with all of your members, so I rely on the group coordinators.

Each month you should receive this newsletter and the attached calendar and then you share any and all relevant information with your crew of volunteers. I need you to do this for me, both for the good of RAM and my own sanity. Please be sure to read the newsletter and calendar carefully, and contact me as soon as you can with any questions, concerns, or conflicts. I have never explicitly said it before, so I'll say it now: these duties are part of your commitment to RAM as a group coordinator. If it is too much, don't hesitate to tell me and I'll do what I can to help you out.

This month's needs: dish soap, bleach, plastic forks, plastic spoons, styrofoam plates/bowls/cups, 55 cup coffee pots, disposable salt & pepper shakers, coffee filters, hand soap, kitchen funds, and 55 gallon trash bags. (Try looking for the trash bags at home improvement stores under the label of "contractor's bags.")

Don't forget our bad weather policy: Please do not ever feel bad about staying home when the weather is nasty. Your safety is most important to us. In a worst-case inclement weather scenario, Tim and Jo-Anne live just a couple of miles from RAM, and they can handle everything while our guests make themselves sandwiches! If the weather is bad and you want to call to say you won't be in, you might be better off calling one of the other RAM numbers, as I can't do much if I'm snowed in at home in Christiansburg. You can try dialing the administrative office at 345-8850, the shelter at 343-3753, or the kitchen at 777-4099.

See you around RAM-- Alaina

345-9786

argelbert@gmail.com