PAX Community Service

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* St Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital: The first volunteer work I ever did was as a nurse’s aide in 1966 at St Elizabeth’s Psychiatric Hospital in Washington, DC, which is now closed. I had just graduated high school and it was the summer before I started college. I worked with very ill patients, and it showed me another world of confusion and pain.
* SHARE Furniture Room: I headed up the furniture room of SHARE (approximately 1977-1982), working though St Luke’s Catholic Church and PAX, getting furniture to people in need, from people who had furniture to donate. SHARE had a large storage space at that time (the size of a garage), and I worked with a wonderful woman who helped me, Lolita Bridges. She lived in McLean and belonged to Chantilly Baptist Church, which wasn’t part of SHARE, but that didn’t matter. She and I became lifelong friends. She died in 2018. It was around 1982 when we lost our storage space, so the furniture effort stopped. It was difficult to coordinate pick-up and drop-off of large pieces of furniture or beds. Some people we found furniture for were sleeping on mattresses on the floor.
* SHARE Christmas Gifts: One year in the early days, Mrytle Hendricks and I had gathered Christmas gifts for SHARE. Myrtle and I had taken a good bit of time sorting them into boxes according to age group. Two men from religious ed at St Luke’s were there helping us load them into our cars. My daughter Elizabeth, who was toddler then and with us, took her shoes off (it was winter) and was crying. The men got frazzled and dumped the gifts all together into our trunks, never minding the sorting. When we got to the house to unload the gifts, we had to sort all the gifts again. With young children to mind, that was an undertaking.
* A Friend’s Garage Sales: My friend Lolita had little money, and she had garage sales every once in a while to make money. I would take her boxes of household items and bags of clothes I didn’t wear so she could sell them at her garage sales. She didn’t make much money on them, but it was a little help. I think she did it more for me than for herself.
* Zacchaeus Soup Kitchen: Meals: Randy and I worked with Zacchaeus Soup Kitchen with PAX members for a number of years, serving a meal, making casseroles and taking them, along with salad and dessert, to the soup kitchen once a month on a Saturday. I think Zacchaeus served 100-200 people a substantial noon meal every day. PAX members would take turns storing the casseroles that other members would bring to their house during the week before PAX’s assigned meal. Then on the Saturday we were to serve, someone would pick up the very large number of casseroles and take them down to the church in DC that hosted the meals. Other PAX members would meet the drivers at Zacchaeus, bringing salad makings and dessert (packaged cupcakes or Twinkies).
* Zacchaeus Soup Kitchen: Randy’s Leadership: Randy ran the soup kitchen effort for PAX for around five years. This was a whole PAX Community effort. So many people were involved. I can’t even begin to name all the PAX members who took part in this effort. Along with us were all the Siebentritts, Ahearnes, Hendrickses, Schellenbergs, MacCarthys, Galianis, Spaluldings, Bissons, Chambers, Campbells, Urbanczyks, Scotts, Degnons, Browns, Keenans, Tunicks, Delkers, Marie Dennis, Leslie Kaplan, McIntoshes, Melleys, Elaine Wolfe, Schehls, Chomeaus, Rossos, Harry Schnibbe, and Heblers. I know I am leaving some of the old timers’ names out, and probably some of the newer people who helped there as well. I’m sorry for that.
* Zacchaeus Soup Kitchen: Sandwiches: PAX members made sandwiches for Zacchaeus once a month. Randy and I both did this. Again, PAX members would make two or so loaves of sandwiches (baloney and mustard or peanut butter and jelly) and deliver them to one person’s house. Then Myrtle Hendricks and Margaret Schellenberg would pick up all the sandwiches and take them to Zacchaeus Soup Kitchen on a Monday. Zacchaeus would give them out to people who were homeless when they came in for their meal, then the people could keep the sandwiches for whenever they wanted them. We did that for a number of years, no telling how many. Again, this was aPAX effort involving a lot of people.
* McLean Orchestra: I served on the board of the McLean Orchestra, 2007-2011, working with them for about six years.
* AAUW (American Association of University Women): I was board member 2019-2023, working on the AAUW Funds Awards for two years, then on Programs for two years. In 2024 I will be working with High School STEM Awards for McLean High School students.