Hope and a Smile for the Coming Year

To wrap up the year, STREETZine gave clients of The Stewpot a survey with three questions about where they turned for hope and happiness in the midst of the current climate of uncertainty.

Mohammad

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?
The goodness of fellow human beings

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?
A church, a mosque, a mandir temple, a gurdwara

What gives you a sense of community?
Friendship

Lamont

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?
A new president and a new agenda

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?
Day labor

What gives you a sense of community?
Denny’s diner and rest

Kenneth

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?
The new vaccine and God’s sustaining power of love

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?
God’s provisions

What gives you a sense of community?
Being able to reach out in a socially-distanced way and The Stewpot ministry and staff

Charles

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?
Kind people

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?
God

What gives you a sense of community?
People

Continued on page 9

What should we cover next? Fill out our survey at: https://bit.ly/2WbMRsg
A Year in Reflection: The Stewpot by the Numbers

By Nicole Kiser

This year has been unexpected, uncertain and all-around unprecedented. From west-coast wildfires and murder hornets to the election and ever-present pandemic, this year has been nothing if not action-packed. While this year has caused many to struggle, people have also reached out to help. Let’s look at The Stewpot’s year by the numbers:

4

the place The Stewpot Volunteer Fundraiser finished in for amount of gifts on North Texas Giving Day

6

months The Stewpot served lunch to those sheltering at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.

8

issues of STREETZine published digitally this year, including this one.

45

years The Stewpot has been open.

200

people experiencing homelessness sheltered in this winter’s first freeze.

1,000+

holiday goody bags delivered to The Stewpot for the Children & Youth program.

2,700

masks donated to The Stewpot within two days of their first donation request for face coverings.

8,000

pounds of food that the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas donated at the beginning of December to The Stewpot’s food distribution program.

$96,000

A "bajillion"

the approximate number of styrofoam trays donated to The Stewpot by an anonymous donor according to Rob Guild, Food Recovery Specialist at The Stewpot.

Nicole Kiser is managing editor of STREETZine.

DIAL 211

For help finding food or housing, child care, crisis counseling or substance abuse treatment.

ANONYMOUS

AVAILABLE 24/7, 365 DAYS A YEAR

2-1-1 Texas helps Texas citizens connect with state and local health and human services programs.
Street Paper Vendors

Look for Hope
Beyond the Pandemic

By Tony Inglis

As the new year approaches, the International Network of Street Papers (INSP) checked in with street paper vendors across the world to reflect on these past months and to look forward with some hope.

Austria

In Vienna, things are looking a little better for street paper vendors now compared to the initial March coronavirus lockdown. The local magazine Augustin has learned how to continue selling even as restrictions remain in place. For example, they have moved those who sold in bars, restaurants and cafes to busy spots on the streets.

As the lockdowns persist, the community reliant on street paper income has been severely hit due to sales restrictions and drops. Vendors who are refugees and asylum seekers have also been unable to go back and forth from their home country due to tighter border restrictions, and fear sanctions from local governments.

Augustin’s social workers also pointed out that social isolation of their vendors – both from their colleagues and from Augustin staff – has been a worry. “I hope my partner can get back to Austria again,” says vendor Anna, 59. “He was deported to Nigeria, and I miss him very much.”

USA

Al Mayfield, 66, continues to sell Street Spirit in Oakland. The tragedies that coronavirus brings are nothing new to Al. He lost two brothers at a young age and, after being violently robbed in 1994, fell into a coma. He survived, but had to have a plate installed in his stomach and his leg amputated. He has been shifted around homes due to circumstances outside his control and banded about homeless shelters. Through it all, there has been support, including from Street Spirit.

Most of all, he has missed church during the pandemic and hopes to be back. “Church is in my heart,” he says. Despite a life full of losses and grief, and now this global disaster, Al is an optimistic person. He is still selling street papers and living his life. “Try to grasp hold of the good stuff and be happy about it,” he says.

Canada

Roger Perreault, who sells L’Itinéraire in Montréal, has been battling breast cancer which has spread to his liver and lungs. His outlook for the diagnosis provides a lot of food for thought when making our own optimistic approaches to life right now.

“[December and January] is a time to be happy, to celebrate,” says Lawrence, a vendor of zebra, in the city of Merano. “I hope 2021 will bring back a little bit of normality and this health crisis can be overcome, offering the possibility to all people to enjoy themselves again and to open new doors. I’m convinced, there is something bigger to come and that we will have a better life soon. I’m quite optimistic about it.

“I hope though that the whole community will rise again, will be able to meet friends, that people can run their businesses, get a job or even go to the beach again. That’s what I believe will happen. What we couldn’t achieve in 2020, we’ll achieve in 2021 together.”

Italy

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Courtesy of INSP.ngo. Tony Inglis is the INSP Content and Editorial Officer. Additional editing by Katherine Haines. Thanks to all street paper staff who helped contribute to this feature. Street papers provide trustworthy independent journalism and an opportunity for society’s most vulnerable and marginalised to earn a meaningful income. The impact of the pandemic has severely affected their work. See INSP’s guide on how to support your local street paper through subscriptions and donations.
**Gee**

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

The new president of the United States of America

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

My family, friends or YouTube

What gives you a sense of community?

When I hear a randomly performed act of kindness

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**Marquiel**

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

Learning from God. It’s not like in the movies when they heal the land. From the greatest author about life, I wait to see if COVID-19 will be defeated.

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

I turn to the archive of what I have been through, knowing that I am saved. I pray to continue to do right, so that I may taste the wisdom of God. I also call friends and family. I praise the footstool of God. Every moment has something new.

What gives you a sense of community?

To know that I can study things and reveal that to others. I believe that I can better myself so that those who know me can witness my change.

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**James**

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

Austin Street, The Stewpot, Our Calling and the computer lab at Austin Street have been amazing with assistance.

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

My case manager at Austin Street. Simply smiling and saying “good day” to a stranger passing me feels good. And talking with other clients at Austin Street makes me smile. So does turning on the TV there and watching football, comedy and entertainment shows after dinner when I finally get to relax after getting up at 4 a.m.

What gives you a sense of community?

The wonderful people of Dallas are such a blessing compared with New York City’s five boroughs. People here actually give you the time of day and are less abrasive with someone needing directions or just the time of day.

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**Elliott**

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

Life and God

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

To God

What gives you a sense of community?

Prayer and my caseworkers at The Stewpot

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*Continued from page 1*
Larry

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

God, and knowing, that as long as I am living, things will get better. God don’t make mistakes. This year has happened for a reason.

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

I turn to God and people who want to do the right thing and who will help me do the right thing. I turn to someone who will not put me down but lift me up.

What gives you a sense of community?

Doing the right things, even when others are trying to turn me away from God and what is right in this life.

Brandon

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

Being with family and friends and staying COVID-19 free

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

God

What gives you a sense of community?

Being a part of something

Christopher

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

A job

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

God

What gives you a sense of community?

Town

Marco

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

It’s been hard, but everything is working out.

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

To God, my only hope

What gives you a sense of community?

That everything is working as well as it should.

Clemente

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

The dentist

What gives you a sense of community?

The Stewpot

Continued on page 7
First Presbyterian Church of Dallas
Holding Forth the Word of Life for over 150 years.
Services premiere at **11:00 a.m. Sunday**
Bible study at **11:00 a.m. Fridays**
Town Halls at **7:00 p.m. Wednesdays**
1835 Young St.
Dallas, TX 75201
214-748-8051
http://www.fpcdallas.org

We miss you!
In-Person Volunteer opportunities remain suspended at this time.
David

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

God’s promises that He will bring His kingdom to Earth and that His will be the last government that man will know. And that it will never pass away or be placed in another people’s hands.

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

God

What gives you a sense of community?

When I talk to God, He brings like-minded people and/or favorable circumstances that nourish my soul.

Hubert

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

God

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

God

What gives you a sense of community?

Anonymous

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

To my inner self and think of the goodness and happiness in the world

What gives you a sense of community?

Helping people through hard times

Kurt

We all know 2020 has been an unusually challenging year, but what gives you hope as you move to the holiday season and next year?

Waking up

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

Faith, determination, motivation

Michael

When you need a smile, especially during this pandemic, where do you turn?

Prayer

What gives you a sense of community?

Togetherness

Surveys created by the editorial board of STREETZine. Surveys printed and distributed by Betty Heckman. Responses transcribed by Bill McKenzie. Responses have been edited for clarity and length.
What is STREETZine?

STREETZine is a nonprofit newspaper published by The Stewpot of First Presbyterian Church for the benefit of people living in poverty. It includes news, particularly about issues important to those experiencing homelessness. STREETZine creates direct economic opportunity. New vendors receive ten free papers. After the first ten, vendors pay twenty-five cents for a paper to be distributed for a one-dollar or more donation. Vendors typically profit seventy-five cents from each paper. Vendors are self-employed and set their own hours. Distributing STREETZine is protected by the First Amendment.

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STREETZine Vendors are self-employed and set their own hours. They are required to wear a vendor badge at all times when distributing the paper. In order to distribute STREETZine vendors agree to comply with Dallas City Ordinances. If at any time you feel a vendor is in violation of any Dallas City Ordinance please contact us immediately with the vendor name or number at streetzine@thestewpot.org

CHAPTER 31, SECTION 31-35 of the Dallas City Code
PANHANDLING OFFENSES
Solicitation by coercion; solicitation near designated locations and facilities; solicitation anywhere in the city after sunset and before sunrise any day of the week. Exception can be made on private property with advance written permission of the owner, manager, or other person in control of the property.
A person commits an offense if he conducts a solicitation to any person placing or preparing to place money in a parking meter.
The ordinance specifically applies to solicitations at anytime within 25 feet of:
Automatic teller machines;
Exterior public pay phones;
Public transportation stops;
Self service car washes;
Self service gas pumps;
An entrance or exit of a bank, credit union or similar financial institution;
Outdoor dining areas of fixed food establishments.

What should we cover next? Fill out our survey at: https://bit.ly/2WbMRsg

Sponsor a vendor for $15.00*

Your vendor will receive sixty papers which will help him or her earn $60.00.

Please include the vendor’s name and badge number on this form.

__________________________________  ______________________
Vendor Name  Vendor #

Make checks or money orders payable to
The Stewpot and send them to:
STREETZine  1835 Young Street, Dallas, TX  75201

*If your vendor is no longer distributing papers your donation will be applied towards papers that are shared among active vendors.

[ ] Check here if you prefer that your check be returned if your vendor is no longer active.