

Serving at The Hub



Kitty Glass '53, Steve Focht '70, Butch Staub '72, '90M MU Alumni Spotlight—December 2017



Kitty & Butch

"Would you like tuna salad on that to make it a tuna melt?" says Butch Staub '72, '90M, referring to a freshly made grilled cheese sandwich.

The eager response – "Absolutely!"

This level of service isn't uncommon at The Hub. In fact, it's the standard. Located in the lower level of the Millersville Community United Methodist Church on George Street, The Hub serves as a place for students to connect and relax with billiards, video games, and free Wi-Fi, as well as a fully-stocked coffee station. More importantly, The Hub also houses the Campus Cupboard food pantry, a judgement-free zone for students needing supplemental food assistance. The pantry offers students free food such as bread and milk, canned goods, fruit, boxed meals and protein-packed options like eggs and peanut butter.

Campus minister, Ed Weber and his wife, Vicki, provide oversight to both the Campus Cupboard and The Hub. While the Campus Cupboard opened its doors in 2012, a new program launched only two years ago. Weber says, "Every Thursday, volunteers serve students free lunch from 11AM – 1PM."

According to the National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness, "The lack of reliable access to sufficient quantities of affordable, nutritious food is common at colleges and universities across the country, potentially undermining the educational success of untold thousands of students." Free Lunch Thursdays is one more way Millersville University is combatting this unsettling trend. Weber says, "In the beginning, it was a bit easier to prepare and serve the meals to only 25 students." The need has grown over time, and as of this fall, nearly 100 students are showing up weekly.

Three 'Ville alumni volunteers provide lunch on the second Thursday of each month. Kitty Glass '53, Steve Focht '70 and Staub, purchase, prepare and serve more than just sandwiches. The menu often includes homemade chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, cookies, fruit and beverages. Glass began serving with Staub in 2015 following a discussion at a Millersville University Alumni Association board meeting. Focht joined the team a year later.



Butch's homemade chicken noodle soup



Steve Focht serving a hungry student.

Focht, who loves providing large cookies, says, "I help because this is a worthwhile project. The students are so appreciative, and they need to experience what alumni can do [to support them] besides giving money." Those visiting The Hub vary in age, majors and backgrounds, but they all have one thing in common – the need for affordable food during a very rigorous season in life. One junior geography major says, "As a commuter I don't buy the meal plan, and I was out of work for several months. Finances are tight at home, so before The Hub there were days I didn't eat. The Hub has changed all that."

"Here is a chance to do something for the students, and I enjoy seeing them," says Glass. The feeling is mutual. Becky Felegy, a psychology major says, "Everyone is so nice and the food is amazing! They are so compassionate. The Hub is a great place to rest after a hectic finals' week." Others remark on the sense of community and fun they experience. "We come twice a week for game nights and for French Toast Fridays," says Amanda Sample, an MU junior.

French Toast Fridays have been a tradition since 2014. The Hub is open for late night snacking on French toast and sausage on Fridays from 9 – 11:30 PM. Weber explains the ongoing need for volunteers, "There aren't as many volunteers ready to come out on a Friday night. We'd be grateful for more alumni support on these nights." Glass, now 87 years old, has been giving to MU both financially and with her time for more than five decades. She deeply believes in The Hub's mission. "As an alum, I feel that any time I can contribute to the students' wellbeing, I'll do that. And this is one way to do it," says Glass. She plans on serving lunch each month as long as the students keep coming. Staub echoed, "There's a real need within the student body, and we simply want to help in any way we can."



Even if that means adding tuna salad to a grilled cheese sandwich.

To get plugged in to The Hub, contact Ed Weber at ed.weber@gmail.com or call 717-872-6840. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Campus Cupboard and how you can contribute.

