

Lajna Ima'illah, Boston Chapter

Khidmate Khalq Report – Serving the homeless



On Sunday 29th January 2012 as a Khidmate Khalq initiative, Lajna Ima'illah Boston hosted a community meal at the Boston Rescue Mission Soup Kitchen, a non-profit homeless and rehabilitation shelter. Five Christian men and women founded the center in 1899, who decided to dedicate their lives to helping the poor and

homeless of inner city Boston. Today, the Boston Rescue Mission is run on an entirely volunteer basis under the directives of Reverend John Samaan and offers extensive resources to prevent and end homelessness as well as provide longitudinal rehabilitation programs against substance abuse, incarceration and homelessness.

By the grace of Allah and through the efforts of Lajna Ima'illah Boston, food was prepared to serve 150 homeless people at the Boston Rescue Mission's soup kitchen as part of their community meal program. On the day of the community meal, six lajna members arrived at the soup kitchen at 2.30pm and began preparing the main entrée of



beef chili. The beef chili was served with cheese, sour cream, bread & butter rolls, ritz crackers, pasta salad, milk and chocolate brownies. While the main entrée was made on site the pasta salad and the brownies were prepared by Lajna members in their homes and brought to the Soup Kitchen on the day. The first serving commenced at 4.30pm when 20 of the in-house residents at the Boston Rescue Mission were served a meal. During this time, one of the staff at the Boston Rescue Mission explained to Lajna members about the various rehabilitation programs offered there and kindly shared her personal experience of substance abuse, incarceration and her rehabilitation process. Alhamdulillah, lajna members were also asked why Muslim women wear the hijab and were given the opportunity to explain the philosophy behind this religious practice.



The second serving began at 5pm when 100 homeless people were served in small groups of 10 to 15 people within one-hour. Throughout the meal lajna members served the food and wore white aprons with 'Ahmadiyya Muslim Community' beautifully inscribed on them. Two Ansar, one Khuddam and one Tifl, who wore 'Muslims for

Peace' t-shirts to represent the Jama'at, also kindly assisted the Lajna volunteers. A third serving of food started at 7.30pm when the in-house staff served 20 homeless people

who were receiving a warm meal and a place to sleep at the Boston Rescue Mission for that night.

Alhamdulillah, the meal and the staff at Mission expressed their efforts of Lajna Ima'illah hosting the community food for 150 people.



many of the recipients of the Boston Rescue sincere gratitude for the Boston for successfully meal, which provided