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Dr. Martin

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Pie Time

I have been a Girl Scout since I was five years old. My sister was a member before me and my mom before her. Every year around Thanksgiving our troop has baked pies for the local rescue mission and their Thanksgiving dinner. They are a church affiliated group and, although we are not members of the church ourselves, our troop meets in their facilities. Many Girl Scout troops meet in community buildings like churches, community centers, and other public spaces.

On average, every girl in the troop bakes about 2 pies. We do this together during a scheduled meeting right before Thanksgiving Day. We end up with about 10-12 pies of all flavors to donate to the shelter. It's a fun project because the meeting time would otherwise be dedicated to planning future projects but we spend it baking and listening to holiday tunes. It’s a bonding experience for us and it's accompanied with giving back to the community which makes it a great holiday tradition.

I chose to bake pies for the homeless shelter because it is something I have done in years past and I really enjoy being able to contribute to their Thanksgiving feast. This particular facility has provided 208,123 meals to people in need in the past year. I also really appreciate the programs that the shelter provides for people. As their mission statement adds:

"The programs are holistic and involve the elements of personal responsibility, self determination and an internal transformation of values and vision and a restoration of self respect. The homeless, the hungry, the sick, the addicted, the abused and the hopeless have all found a warm welcome at the Rescue Mission. Men, women and children have found a safe place and compassionate friends in their darkest moments."

There are other homeless shelters in the greater Roanoke area, about 6 that are open to the general public, though this particular shelter was chosen because of our troop's affiliation.

Roanoke Rescue Mission Ministries is a faith based organization with a board of supervisors who manage finances and approve new programs. The main source of income for this organization is the rescue mission foundation which holds an endowment for the support of the mission. The volunteer opportunities are endless throughout the year within this organization, and volunteers do not need to be affiliated with any particular religion to participate. This organization manipulates power in a way that removes power from higher levels such as the local and state government and relocates the power to the community level. The power that is manipulated within this organization includes the power to provide food, water, and shelter to those who would otherwise be without these necessities.