

"Monday at The Street Café"

for Think Dignity

When you arrive to Mariner's Point Park, as you park your car & walk across the lawn, remind yourself of the critical distinctions between pity & dignity, between charity & justice. & there go seagulls looping through the sky. Stretch blue rubber gloves over both hands. Carry water. Carry plastic bins of supplies. Carry boxes of canned chicken. Carry insulation bags of sandwiches. Carry hot water dispenser. Set up canopy. Be sure to maneuver around low-hanging tree branches. Ensure maximum shade. Set up folding tables—one for upfront, one for assembly, one for cutting sandwiches. Wipe down tables thoroughly. Arrange & prepare each station. Set up Street Café sign & chalkboard menu. & there go seagulls again. Change gloves. Set up hot chocolate & other drinks. Lay out bags of fruit. Stack rows of canned chicken. Lay out bags of beef jerky. Change gloves. Grab knife. Cut sandwiches in half. Squeeze halves into sandwich bags. Discard of crumbs—no disrespect to seagulls. Change gloves. Take the guests' orders—note special requests. For example, no fruit means no fruit in the bag, extra fruit means extra fruit in the bag. Pack paper bags full. Hand paper bags to appropriate guest. Thank them for passing through. Invite their return. Repeat. Before packing up, offer surplus sandwiches, fruits, jerky, canned chicken to guests. One guest will say, "Those cans get heavy...Let me get some more of that beef jerky." Hook the guest up with some beef jerky. Repeat. & there go seagulls again. Defend dignity. Repeat.