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Community luncheon, shoe giveaway held

By ABIGAIL GIBSON

Staff Writer - MEDICAL LEADER

PIKEVILLE — Each month, the Pikeville Community Kitchen hosts a free all-you-can-eat community lunch for the public. Since the organization was established last July they have served more than 6,000 lunches. “The lunch is for anyone that wants to come,” Kathy Hamilton said. “The purpose is to fill the need in the community and bring awareness to the situation.” She said there are many people facing hardships every day for many different reasons. “It’s become a growing concern, with the cost of living increasing and for those with a limited income it is very challenging,” Hamilton said. “You hear of it every day with people having to choose between buying their medicine or groceries for the month, or whether to pay their utility bill.” She said they want a welcoming environment where community members can come and enjoy good food and be informed about programs that are available to them. Those in attendance at Pikeville Methodist Church also received a brand new pair of shoes, kindly donated by County Attorney Howard Keith Hall.

Over 100 pairs of shoes were available for those who were in need of a new pair. One individual who received shoes had not worn a new pair of shoes in four years. Another woman was overjoyed with receiving a new pair of shoes, she began to dance and laugh. “Everyone should help a little,” Hall said. “All of us wish we could do more than we do. Most people that are receiving have done some sort of giving.” Toothbrushes, toothpaste and t-shirts were also given out. Kentucky Career Center’s Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialist Jim Wright, was on hand to help veterans with their benefit forms and medical paperwork. “There are so many veterans in our area,” Hamilton said. “Times are tough and people are struggling. They have done so much for us and we want to give back to those who have sacrificed their lives for us.” Due to the increased rate in power bills, Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky, Inc. (AppalReD) Legal Aid discussed customer’s power bill rights. AppalReD specializes in tax issues, bankruptcy and other services. For additional information call 866-277-5733 or visit ardfky.org. “The lunches are amazing. It’s a blessing for them, but more of a blessing for us,” Hamilton concluded.

1 person standing and indoor

Kristie Goff, Attorney with AppalReD Legal Aid

For updates on the next free community lunch visit [The Pikeville Community Kitchen](#) on Facebook.

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