



Together, We Can Create Hope

The 2022 Saint Thomas the Apostle
Simpson Housing Annual Appeal is Here!



Henry age 10



Henry age 22

Last week, we heard from Ben Schlitz about how volunteering with the Housewarming Ministry over the years has impacted his life. This week, Henry Bransford has a key concept to share. As he reflected on his years of serving meals at the overnight shelter, this one idea summed it up! His story is being shared by his dad, Mike Bransford, a team lead for our Meal Serving Ministry.

“My son, Henry, was in town and joined us for meal serving on Nov 3rd. Henry has volunteered at Simpson since he was in elementary school. He’s all grown up now...out of college...and getting ready to move to New York. I was grateful Henry could make it, and as we drove to Simpson, I asked him about the experience of serving at Simpson over the years. “What are your thoughts?” I asked. Henry paused – and then said matter-of-factly, “we’re all human.”

We’re all human. We all have hopes and dreams, good days and bad days, high points and low points. We all want to belong, to connect, and to matter in this world. We’re similar in so many ways, but it’s easy to forget. We’re bombarded with news each day about our differences and what divides us. The fault lines of politics, economics, race, religion, sexuality, age, appearance, culture, etc. Add a dash of fear, ignorance, and anger to the mix – and we drift further and further apart. But it’s there all along – our shared humanity.

How we see the world matters. If we start with what we share in common, we create space to trust, support, and build. I’m grateful for opportunities to serve and truly see each other – and for Henry’s simple reminder that “we’re all human.”

– Mike Bransford