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2 Soft Shell Tacos | Owner says homeless helped by Stone Soup

By John Payne Staff Reporter

In a nation that all too often has turned its back on its homeless citizens, places like Lincoln's Stone Soup are ports of refuge, bearing the weight of charity and selflessness. Here the homeless, the jobless and those deemed "useless" by society can find a cup of coffee and a warm meal, no

charge and no questions asked. Verona Grieves manages the

establishment, located at 1024 P St., which also serves as laundromat. She has occupied the adjacent apartment for more than 20 years. Last December, Stone Soup was forced to move from its 14th and B streets location after complaints from local residents, and so last January Grieves agreed to lend out her laundromat.

"This (vagrancy) is something that I've been involved with for a long time," she said, "something that I've never been able to look away from.

Grieves, 76, and friend Carol Baument founded Stone Soup one year ago, but both have been longtime volunteers in the home-

"The kitchen has always been kind of a help yourself deal," Grieves said. "We let people eat whenever they are hungry

The refrigerator is never locked, and those needing a meal can eat until they are full.

The food comes from a variety of sources. "Oversupply" donated by local restaurants such as Kentucky Fried Chicken and Valentino's provide a nice change for the kitchen's patrons, but most of the food comes from the City Mission and donations made to the Stone Soup board.

Oftentimes when a restaurant closes at 10 p.m. or 11 p.m., they will give us the food that would ordinarily be thrown away," Grieves said. "Support has been good, for the most part.

For Grieves, though, the 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. kitchen hours are only part of her service to the less fortunate. She also works at finding

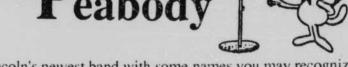
jobs and housing for her patrons. "You can't help them all," she said, "but occasionally you help to get one of them back on their feet

Grieves said many of the home less people in Lincoln earn money by donating plasma or doing Harris Labs studies

Of course, alcohol abuse often

See SOUP on 11

Mr. Peabody

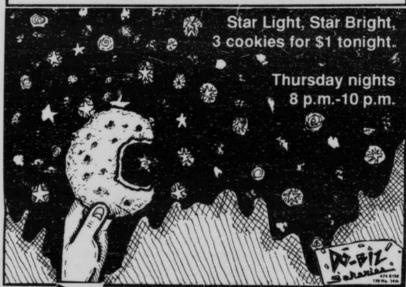


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