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News of Interest from the Office of Public Information

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Helping Hands Feed the Homeless

On Thanksgiving Day 15 members of the Department of Correction joined by a retired chief and Federal Correction Officers served Thanksgiving Dinners to 420 homeless people in Brooklyn and Harlem as part of a program called Helping Hands. For most of the volunteers, who work at VCBC, EMTC and BKDC, this was their second year, but it was the tenth year for C.O. Ray Lastra, the founder of the program. "We want to reach out to people who are on the benches, eating out the garbage cans, people who society forgot," said Ray. "We are just people feeding people." This year Helping Hands partnered with a new soul food restaurant Katie O's in Brooklyn which donated over 150 dinners. The Thanksgiving meals were served in Brooklyn on Atlantic Avenue and in Harlem on 126th Street and Lexington Avenue. On Christmas Day, Helping Hands will be back in action distributing 500 toys and 500 meals at the Family Shelter on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn.

