

## LEFSA Hosts Super Bowl Sunday

by *Patrice Athanasidy*

The Life Experience and Faith Sharing Associates (LEFSA) turned the Super Bowl into a truly super Sunday for a number of homeless people in the St. Jean Baptiste Church area of Manhattan. The brainchild of James Addison, operations manager at LEFSA, this special Super Bowl Sunday was a way for James' family to share their Super Bowl tradition with a number of those in the community who had no place to see the game. James said he and his family often gather for the Super Bowl, so this year he asked them if they would like to share their party with members of the St. Jean Baptiste community. His family happily agreed and began planning a menu. He put word out on the street and on Super Bowl Sunday, some 35 people joined in the party.

Members of the Addison family and LEFSA did all the cooking and kept the food rolling from kickoff to halftime to the final whistle. Guests feasted on chili, wings, and other typical Super Bowl fare, while enjoying

the game and conversation. One gentleman began teaching James's grandson how to play chess before the game started.

Pointing to the community feeling, James said, "It was probably one of the best times I had at the Super Bowl. I think I am going to make it an annual event." He said he could not have done it without the help of his family and Karolina May, the Director of LEFSA. He said the guests were all very grateful that LEFSA had thought of them.

Sister Karen Helfenstein described how James talked about his idea just a few weeks before and how amazing it was that it all came together so quickly. "They had between 30 and 35 guys coming. They just kept food coming. They made it such a wonderful party." She concluded, "The guys are still saying, 'thanks so much for thinking of us.'"

LEFSA runs a number of programs year round for homeless men and women. James says the main goal is always to make the people he visits with feel comfortable and safe. The first important step, he said, is treating each person with dignity and respect. ■

