WHY GRATE PATROL?
897 counted, unsheltered people live in our nation’s capital.

How many more were not counted?

How do we know? This number is reported by the Community Partnership For the Prevention of Homelessness in conjunction with the DC government. **

Who counts? Each year on a night in the last week of January, as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, volunteers conduct a “point in time” survey, searching out people living in tent cities, on public transportation, in parks, city streets, and alleys, under bridges.

What does FMW do? On the first Wednesday of every month volunteers prepare and deliver meals to hungry, homeless patrons. The Salvation Army, founder of Grate Patrol, provides transportation and beverages. 23 other churches participate. 120-150 people are served every night, rain or shine.

What’s in the meal? Hot soup, turkey and cheese sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie/candy, bottled water, hot or cold beverage.

What do volunteers do? 1 volunteer shops for ingredients. 1-2 volunteers make 8 gallons of soup. 3-6 volunteers make sandwiches and assemble paper bag meals. 2-3 volunteers go out on the truck to serve the meals. FMW First Day School makes the cookies.

How much do the meals cost? $300.

Who’s organizes this effort? For the past five years it’s been Steve Brooks. Salvation Army began Grate Patrol in 1983. FMW began participating decades ago.

Why get involved? The obvious answer is hunger. Interacting first hand with people who live with so little in our community is enlightening and humbling. Other benefits, which so often outweigh the good done, include becoming involved at FMW, making new friends, and participating in the happy camaraderie that arises during preparation and delivery.