

**Governor Snyder's "No Soup for You" Kitchen
Speech – Jeff Breslin, RN, MNA President
July 13, 2011**

Good afternoon. My name is Jeff Breslin. I am a registered nurse at Sparrow Hospital and also the president of the Michigan Nurses Association. I am pleased that you were able to join us for lunch at Governor Snyder's "No Soup for You" Kitchen!

As nurses, we can only take a day away from our regular duties in the hospital to care for patients on the outside, such as we're doing today. But organizations such as Advent House, the Volunteers of America and the City of Lansing Rescue Mission reach out to needy people without stopping all year long. We want to honor and support the organizations that help feed, shelter and clothe our patients every day."

Michigan's social services programs are already stretched thin. Years of budget cuts have taken their toll on public health departments, mental health programs and the pocketbooks of businesses that would have made donations otherwise.

Now we are facing a reality in Michigan where business takes precedence over people and profit replaces a desire to serve the population of our state. Our state government has voted and passed legislation that says its okay to reduce the business tax by 1.8 billion and raise taxes on the working poor and retirees by 1.7 billion. If you're barely making ends meet, how will you survive if you're paying more taxes? How will Advent House and VOA and the Rescue Mission continue to feed, clothe and shelter needy people when their budgets are already tight and more and more people need their services?

It's obvious that not enough people in the Capitol Building are thinking about what's going on out here in the streets of downtown Lansing. That's why the nurses, when they're not working in the hospitals, are starting to do events like this.

We know Advent House and VOA and the Rescue Mission aren't going to be able to do it alone going forward. If the government isn't going to help take care of you, our patients, then we're going to have to help out.

We're doing this because we feel America is ready for a Main Street Contract. We believe that every American is entitled to:

- **Jobs** at living wages to reinvest in America.
- Equal access to quality, public **education**.
- Guaranteed **healthcare** for all.
- A secure **retirement**, with the ability to retire in dignity.
- Good **housing** and protection from hunger.
- A safe, clean, and healthy **environment**.
- A just taxation system where corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share.

Thank you for coming today to "Governor Snyder's 'No Soup for You' Kitchen."