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A writers' workshop started by journalist Ian Frazier in The Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen in New York City encourages the homeless to write about their lives and themselves -- the good times and the hard times.

Keywords


Citation

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**APA**

**CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE**

**Transcript**
The Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen Writers Workshop
CAMPBELL BROWN, anchor:
In this season of giving, some folks who don't have much for themselves are offering a true gift of inspiration. They're members of a writers workshop run by a soup kitchen here in New York, and their words could provide hope for others who have fallen on hard times. Here's NBC's Mike Kirsch.
MIKE KIRSCH reporting:
Ten years ago, a homeless man with a dark past shuffled into New York City's largest soup kitchen at the Church of the Holy Apostles for a warm meal and discovered he was born to write.
Mr. DONALD MACKEY: I would peer at the supermarket windows, watching people going about their normal shopping routines, wishing that my life was that normal again.
KIRSCH: That man was Donald Mackey, a civil rights activist in the 60s, a father of six, who, by 50, was a homeless junkie on the streets of New York with no future.
Mr. IAN FRAZIER: You give them something beyond just lunch, you know, and something that nourishes in a lasting way.
KIRSCH: Writing helped Donald Mackey get off drugs, and he's never looked back.
Mr. MACKEY: I have four copyrighted manuscripts. I'm in the process of speaking with publishers.
KIRSCH: Now he says his only battle is with occasional writer's block.
Mr. MACKEY: I'm very thankful--sometimes I don't have the words to express it.
KIRSCH: For TODAY, Mike Kirsch, NBC News, New York.