

\$25 per week & satisfaction

IT WASN'T that long ago that Annie Troy was a creative supervisor at the Young & Rubicam Inc. advertising agency, one of the big names on Madison Ave., and was pulling down \$45,000 a year.

The way she talks about it now, she makes it sound like a swell job. "I sat with my feet on my desk and waited for inspiration," she says.

Troy isn't sitting around waiting for inspiration any more. She is executive director of Emmaus House Inc., at Lexington Ave. and 124th St., East Harlem. This job pays \$25 a week.

"And I spend \$19 of it on cigarettes," she says, lighting up a filtered Marlboro in her crowded second-floor office, where a leaking radiator has left a large, ignored puddle of water under her desk.

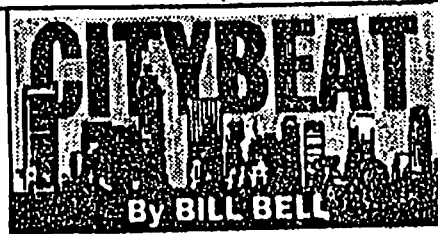
Emmaus House is a shelter for about 50 homeless men, women and (a few) children, with a lunch program for about 250 people and an AIDS counseling and housing program. It is located in what once was the Hotel Charles, which, in its wretched final days, was occupied by hookers and junkies.

Residents work for their keep. The pay, no matter what the job, is \$25 a week. Residents include a husband, wife and their baby daughter sent to Emmaus House by a subway conductor who found them living on the D train.

Troy, 35, red-haired and from Tipp City, Ohio (pop.: "5,000 and shrinking"), quit the advertising business three years ago to work for Habitat for Humanity, a not-for-profit organization that builds and rehabs housing for low-income families.

She began working at Emmaus House just over a year ago after meeting its founder, the Rev. David Kirk, a Greek rite Catholic priest who was born in Mississippi. One month later, the shelter's executive director resigned. Troy, to her surprise, was appointed the new executive director.

Now, a guy named Julio, who runs the kitchen, is asking what to cook for lunch. "Wing it," Troy tells him.



DAILY NEWS, Monday, March 7, 1988

Julio leaves to check whatever food has been donated by area bakeries, markets and shops (plus banquet leftovers from two midtown Manhattan hotels). At 11:30 a.m., he and other residents will begin serving a lunch made with whatever was on hand.

How and why Annie Troy, the yuppie with a Manhattan loft and feet-on-the-desk job, came to work for peanuts in a shelter is an unusual story, to put it mildly.

It began three years ago with the death of a friend. He died of AIDS. "I couldn't handle it by myself," Troy says. "For the first time in 12 years, I found myself going to church."

One Sunday, she was listening to a sermon in the Episcopal church of Calvary, Holy Communion & St. George, on the lower East Side, about an evangelist named Stephen Ting, a church founder and pioneer in working with New York's poor.

Troy was flabbergasted — Ting was her great-great-great-grandfather. "It was like a message from God, saying it was time I thought of others," she says.

Within days, Troy was part of a prayer group that included a homeless, elderly woman. She invited the woman to share her apartment. She also sent resumes to social service agencies and worked as a shelter volunteer. (She was hired by Habitat, where she spent 18 happy months, after offering to work as a volunteer.)

"I enjoy what I do," Troy says. "There is a lot of spirituality here, but I've learned

there aren't any saints or sinners, just humans."

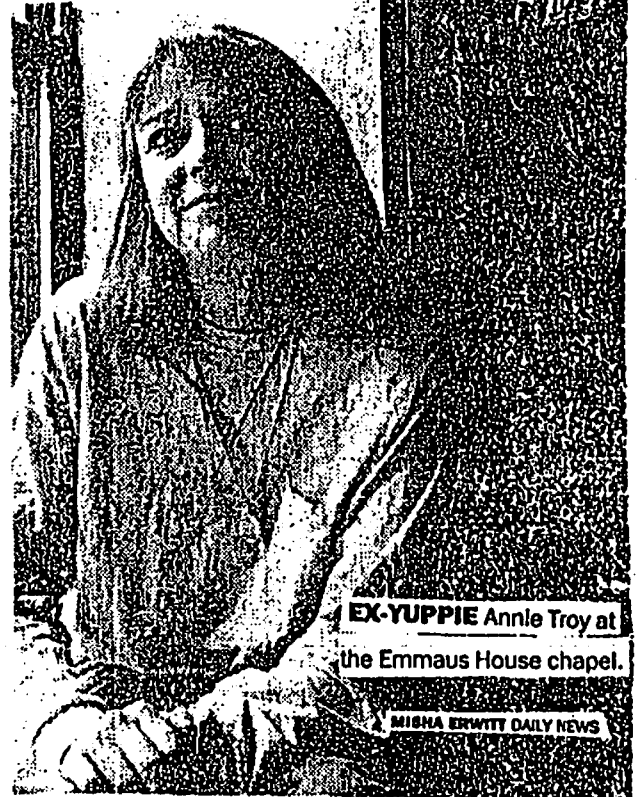
All kinds of ideas are in the air. One is to buy the abandoned city-owned building next door, possibly for use as an AIDS shelter and ministry. (There are four AIDS sufferers at Emmaus House now.)

"We can take them a plate of food and a thermometer," says Troy, "but they need more."

THEN THERE are the volunteers to supervise. A special group of 28 is arriving later this month — all from Tipp City, all recruited by Annie Troy, the hometown girl who moved to the glamor and wonders of New York City. "They'll live here and work here for a week," Troy says. "One thing they are going to do is carry bricks up five stories to fix the roof. They'll love it, I guarantee it."

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—Annie Troy



EX-YUPPIE Annie Troy at the Emmaus House chapel.

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