

**Mission:**

**To provide a nutritious daily meal to the hungry of the area, as well as to provide a safe and sheltered place for social gathering.**



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# The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen



A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION • 1-269-925-8204 • SPRING 2014 EDITION



*Brother David Michael*

## **Brother David Michael**

I left my home and family in the name of the Lord. For the last three and a half years I've gone from city to city, helping people and churches. In all that time, I have never had one day where I have not had food or shelter. The Lord is providing for me.

I came to Benton Harbor to learn and help others. I have volunteered at several churches and the Soup Kitchen, and now I work at The Soup Kitchen. I here I believe that everybody should go out and give to others ... helping is our reason for being here on earth.



*Priscilla Anderson and her granddaughter Demiah*

## **Priscilla Anderson**

My daughter is 25 now. I've been coming to The Soup Kitchen since she was two, so I've been coming here to eat for 23 years. I have volunteered here for over nine years, and now I work here. I brought my kids here every day when they were little, and now my little granddaughter loves to come here.

I love The Soup Kitchen. Someday I want to cook a whole meal here myself.

## **Upcoming Events in 2014**

Sunday, April 6  
Soup Bowl at Kelley's Bowl

Sunday, April 27  
Tabor Hill Dinner

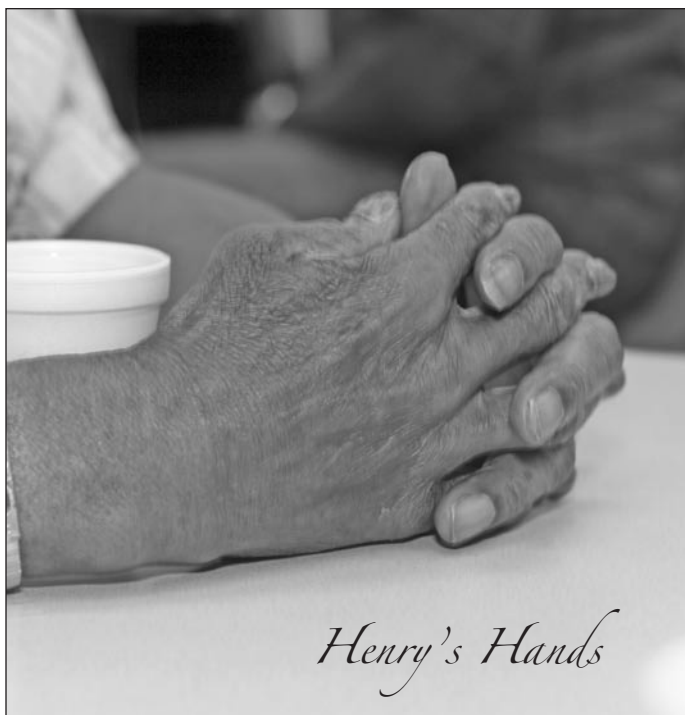
Monday, June 16  
Golf Outing at Harbor Shores

## Annual Harbor Shores Golf Outing

On Monday, June 16, the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen will host its annual golf outing/fund raiser at the Golf Club at Harbor Shores. If you've golfed in this event before, you'll recognize everything--18 holes, golf cart, dinner, and prizes for only 130.00 per golfer. There will again be 3 flights--"A" flight for women's foursomes OR for 2 men/2 women..."B" flight for all men OR 3 men/1 woman, and "C" flight for foursomes where everyone's handicap is 20 or greater. The best-ball, shotgun start is at noon and dinner will begin at approximately 6:00. Please note we're going to hold off on food service until more golfers make it back to the tent this year so we have more food for everybody!



An e-mail for sign-ups will be sent to all golfers of record at approximately the time this newsletter is issued. IF YOU THINK you're not on our list, please contact board member KC Gast at [kcgast@yahoo.com](mailto:kcgast@yahoo.com) to make sure you get a sign-up sheet. If you don't have a foursome of your own, we'll try to put you with someone else's. Let's all hope for great weather and we'll see you soon!



## The Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant Annual Benefit Dinner Sunday, April 27, 2014.



Invitations have been mailed to donors and past attendees for the 2014 version of the Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant Dinner Benefit for The Soup Kitchen, Sunday, April 27, 2014. This is the event from which all proceeds are donated to The Soup Kitchen.

The \$80 donation per person, includes dinner and offers a special list of menu choices, appetizer, dessert, Tabor Hill wines, or cocktails along with dining at private tables.

Once again, we're pleased to note that this dining event is held without any fund-raising actions, such as, raffles, 50-50's, auctions or speeches. Just show up and enjoy excellent food, drink and ambience and, the company of friends.

It is also special since Tabor Hill President, Paul Landeck and his friendly staff do it all, gratis !

The Tabor Hill Benefit is vital to The Soup Kitchen' achieving its mission of providing a warm meal every day to those who hunger in our community. About 63,500 meals a year are served.

If you do not receive an invitation in the mail, and would like to attend and/or donate, please call The Soup Kitchen at 925-8204.

An invitation includes details of the event, a menu form (which is to be filled-out and, along with your check made payable to The Soup Kitchen) then mailed to Tabor Hill in the pre-addressed return envelope. It's **IMPORTANT** that when you mail your check and menu choices, you also call Tabor Hill at 800-283-3363, to select your preferred seating time between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Because certain seating times are very popular, reservation times are allocated on a "First to call = First seated" basis for those times.

Save this date: Sunday, April 27, 2014  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Tabor Hill  
Winery & Restaurant.

Hope you can make it,  
Co-Chairs Paula Vogie, Rob Burgess,  
Anne & Andy Takacs





## Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament 2014

Our 8th annual Poker Tournament fundraiser was held Sunday, February 9, 2014 at the 5 O'clock Sports Bar in Stevensville.

Thanks to the generosity of our players, we added 37 cans of food to the pantry.

Ed Bennett of Benton Harbor was our first place winner. Jamie Hurst of Benton Harbor took second place honors and Chris Holtz from St. Joe was our third place player.

Joe Scuirello (Benton Harbor), Rene Ledesma (Coloma) and Corista Nichols (St Joe) rounded out the top finishers.

Congratulations to Chris Smith and Ed Bennett who knocked our Mystery Players Mark Thomas and Rene Ledesma out of the game to earn \$50 bounties.

Thank you to Bill, Mike, Pete and the great staff at 5 O'clock for their support.

As always we could not pull off these events without our great volunteers! Thank you to Madeline Zimmerman, Linda Barker, Nancy Gillespie Smith and Cathy Fechner; many, many thanks to our dealers: Sandra Von Koenig Martin, Nancy Von Koenig, Mary Kate Andrews, Kevin Sweeney, Jolene Von Koenig, Bob Riccio, John Kaltz and Ted Kalin.

The Soup Kitchen is grateful for the organizational skills and support of Ken and Kristi Clark and Nancy and Jeff Von Koenig, Pit Boss Extraordinaire!

We appreciate all your support!



## How it Feels to be Homeless

I want you to know how it feels to be homeless, sleeping up under a bridge, in vacant houses and doorways. How it feels to never know who is coming. In the long, sleepless night, you doze off in fear and without comfort. Street People always carry some kind of weapon, out of fear. Fear of enemies, others who want their spots, fear of fear itself.

As the long night begins, we homeless ask the Lord to look over us while we sleep. It seems like days later that the night finally ends. Thank God for daylight.

You wake up and look around, and you want water to drink and long to wash your face and body. Then the hunger sets in. You have no money, so you walk, looking for something to drink and a place to eat.

You see others on the street and ask them for some change. Some help, others are just as poor as you. You know that the stores take bottles and cans, so you start dumpster diving for those and anything else you can find. Some people see you and judge you. They have no idea of the hunger in your stomach or the threadbare clothes on your back.

The community says "get a job," but who will hire a homeless person? Hire me! Even if I sleep in doorways at night, I will show up to work. I want to work. But I'm dirty, my clothes are dirty, my ID is long gone....who will hire me?

I am not homeless because I want to be homeless. I am trying to survive this life. I'm not robbing or breaking into homes or killing anyone. I'm just trying to survive.

Homelessness is not an epidemic, or so it would seem. Not until it happens to you. Then, suddenly, the invisible people on the streets become visible. When you had money, you didn't see them either.

Homeless people look for one another, they find and share food, and they love and care for each other. Most of all, homeless people are in touch with God. They know God in a way most normal folks don't, because God is all they have. He is there to shelter them in a storm, in fear, in sickness and in the long hours of hunger and loneliness.

**—Adapted from the writings of Orlandis Cage**

## Soup Kitchen Wish List

### 1) Computer needed.

We have replaced one of our dining room computers, but need a second machine.

(The old machines are running Windows XP and are not able to be upgraded sufficiently for safety. Microsoft will stop upgrading XP in April.)

The computer needs to be able to handle Windows 7 or the latest version of Linux.

### 2) A hand truck

### 3) Powdered Coffee Creamer

### 4) \$80 to have the piano tuned

### 5) Canned fruit -- all kinds.

## BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN QUICKFACTS FROM U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

2012 Population Estimate: 156,067

Persons below poverty level: 17.4%

or about 27,150 residents of the county live in households which meet the U.S. definition of living in poverty.

According to the Berrien County Dashboard, the poverty rate in the county has increased from 15.4% in 2007 just five years earlier.

Berrien County says the poverty rate is important because "families are struggling to make ends meet, unable to provide their families basic food, clothing and medical care needs."

**As a result of your generous support,  
The Soup Kitchen is here to help  
local families in need.**

## SOUP KITCHEN PRESENTATIONS

We would be honored to present the Soup Kitchen story to your organization. Please call today to schedule a time and date.

## SOUP KITCHEN DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Soup Kitchen is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization. Our mission is to feed a nutritious meal to the hungry. Donations to the Soup Kitchen are deductible to the full extent of the federal law. Please consult your tax advisor for further information on the tax benefits of your generous donation.

## FEEDING AMERICA WEST MICHIGAN

Churches are automatically eligible to purchase food at 17 cents (or less) per pound, including food in #10 cans, from Feeding America West Michigan, 1488 E. Empire Ave., Benton Harbor. Unlike other organizations, churches are not required to be a 501 (c)(3). Please think about shopping there first.

For more information, contact Feeding America Manager, Rich Glista at 269-926-2646.

## MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

The Whirlpool Corporation has one matching gift program to help maximize employees charitable donations.

The Matching Gifts Program matches personal contributions over \$50 with dollars from the Whirlpool Foundation. Full-time, salaried and hourly U.S. Whirlpool employees and retirees are eligible.



## BOARD MEMBERS:

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Paula Vogie