

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.



Learn about The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. Read all the newsletters. Donate any time. www.soup-kitchen.org

The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

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



I appreciate all the food – the meals and the food you give away. I love everybody here. Thanks to all the volunteers who come here to bring food and serve us. And I thank the churches for sending them. I

always come here, every week. The food is real good.

– **Kathy Cook**



I like all the vegetables. I like cabbage, corn and potatoes. The cabbage has the head, the corn has the ears, and the potato got the eyes... HA! I retired from Superior Steel in 1983. I come here

most every day to eat and see my friends. The food is very good.

– **James Bracken**

A thank-you to the Soup Kitchen volunteers from the patrons of the Soup Kitchen

– by **Orlandis Cage**

We like to thank you all for coming to the Soup Kitchen in Benton Harbor and giving your support to all of us. We appreciate it. The communication that we all have with each other brings joy to our lives, and it brings love, and it brings understanding. We feel that.

The awesome part about you being here is that it brings harmony, even to those with differences. Many of the people here don't understand why you come here to help us. They think, "You don't know me, why do you help me?"

But you know that we all must work together, because we all must live together. I ask you, my brothers, to respect everyone, and don't mistake kindness as weakness. Treat me as I treat you, because I love you.

The people who come to help at the Soup Kitchen sometimes hesitate to be here. But the love they have in their hearts wins out, and they come here to help. Every day many of you come. I thank you for coming, and I wish you to come back. Not everybody here understands why you help us, so please keep coming back so we can teach them.

Upcoming Events in 2015

Sunday, March 29
Soup Bowl at Kelley's Bowl

Sunday, April 26
Tabor Hill Dinner

Monday, June 22
Golf Outing at Harbor Shores

THE TABOR HILL BENEFIT IS COMING!!

It's time to access your 2015 calendar! Turn the pages to April, and circle SUNDAY, the 26th!

That's the date for next year's version of the Tabor Hill Restaurant and Winery's ever-popular dinner benefit for The Soup Kitchen. Plan ahead, because recent dinner events have achieved maximum capacity.

The dinner donation is \$80 per person, with all the proceeds donated to The Soup Kitchen. The event includes your dinner choice from a special menu, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, Tabor Hill wines or cocktails, and yes, once again Tabor Hill President, Paul Landeck and his friendly staff do it all, gratis!

A unique feature of this particular event is the intimate dining at your private table, without the typical fund-raising activities, such as 50's - 50's, raffles, auctions, speeches, etc.!

It's a beautiful location, in a beautiful facility, with exquisite cuisine and award-winning wines. And, importantly, this benefit is crucial in helping The Soup Kitchen to achieve its mission of providing a warm meal every day to area people in need of such nourishment.

PLAN NOW TO JOIN US ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015 AT THE TABOR HILL RESTAURANT AND WINERY BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND 7 P.M.



THANKS FROM THOSE WHO CAN'T THANK YOU IN PERSON

On June 16, the Soup Kitchen held its annual event at Harbor Shores. The weather and the course were beautiful and the golf scores were very competitive. What a blessing and a privilege to be there that day! On behalf of hundreds in need who depend on our sponsors to make this annual fund-raising event possible, thanks to the following for making our Harbor Shores golf outing/fund-raiser successful, again. (And you can thank some of the businesses mentioned here by choosing to give them some of your business, too!)

LECO CORPORATION

THE SCHALON FOUNDATION

LOU GAST

HARBOR SHORES

BISTRO ON THE BOULEVARD

SUN COAST PACKAGING

THE GRAMS FAMILY

THELAMCO, INC.

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PRI MAR PETROLEUM

CENTER[ED] ON WELLNESS

GILLESPIE'S PHARMACY

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BILL AND JANE MAROHN

DAN AND MELISSA EMERY

MARK III RESTAURANT

GRANDE MERE INN

SCHU'S GRILL AND BAR

SHORELINE LIFESTYLE/JULI GAST

Sponsoring Organizations/Volunteers

Most groups donate the food, cook, serve, and help with light clean-up afterward each meal. The groups below either serve on a regular schedule or have served multiple times during the year.

All Nations SDA Church
Andrews Korean SDA Church
Baroda Church of God
Berrien Springs Middle School Classroom
Berrien Springs Spanish SDA Church
Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Christian Reformed Church of St Joseph
Church of the Mediator
Coloma United Methodist Church
East Main Church of Christ
Fairplain Presbyterian Church
First Church of God - St Joseph
First Congregational Church - St Joseph
First Presbyterian Church - Benton Harbor
First United Methodist Church - St Joseph
Harbor Country Progress
Hartford United Methodist
Highland Avenue SDA Church
Honor Credit Union
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church,
Hartford
Martin's Supermarkets
Maytag Commercial Laundry Group
Napier Parkview Baptist Church
New Paradise Baptist Church
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bridgman
Peace Lutheran Church
Pioneer Memorial Church
Saron Lutheran Church
Scottdale United Methodist Church
Second Baptist Church
Signature Toyota
Sister Lakes Community Church
Southwest Michigan Newcomers Club
St Augustine of Canterbury Church

St Bernard's Parish
St John's Catholic Church
St Joseph Catholic Church, Saint Joseph
St Joseph Catholic Church Youth Ministries
St Paul's Episcopal Church
Stevensville United Methodist Church
Trinity Lutheran Church - St. Joseph
Trinity Lutheran Church - Berrien Springs
Union Memorial A.M.E. Church
United Way of Southwest Michigan
Washington Avenue Church of God
Whirlpool African-American Network
Whirlpool Women's Network
Woodland Shores Baptist Church
Zion Evangelical UCC of Saint Joseph
Zion United Church of Christ – Baroda

Other Regular Volunteers:

David & Sheryl Vander Ploeg – bread pickup
John Styf – bread pickup
Mike Whittaker – bread pickup

Dozens of community service volunteers do organizing and cleaning jobs throughout the year.

Christmas Day – the Lulenski Family & Friends
Thanksgiving Day – Nancy and Pete Racine

Regular Donors:

Bob Evans Restaurant
Falak Farms
Golden Brown Bakery
Martin's Supermarkets
ThompTech.com Computer Repair
Twin City Chicks
Whirlpool Test Kitchen

**** Please accept our apologies if we have inadvertently missed your group.*

YOU – You, the members of our community, donated over 8,000 hours of your time to The Soup Kitchen last year. Hundreds of people and groups have donated food every week. We thank you for your caring and compassion. We cannot provide this vital service without you.



LIVING A LIFE OF THANKSGIVING

Just by nature of the fact you're reading this, it's safe to assume you have reasonably good eyesight. Or that you could afford glasses or contact lenses. That someone taught you how to read. That wherever you are, you presently have a roof over your head and that any light you're reading by might be paid for by money from a job. We encounter SO many blessings in the course of our lives that they are difficult to enumerate! In response, we should all be living lives of thanksgiving, but how does one do this?

Last year 1,040 individuals showed their thankfulness by serving at the Soup Kitchen. The dollar value of their labor is conservatively estimated at over \$100,000.00. We are not a government agency, using your tax dollars to do this job, and we could never afford to pay someone to do what our volunteers do. Our donors who gift their dollars to us keep our goods frozen, the stove hot, and the kitchen clean--they are irreplaceable. Those who gift food to us throughout the year help us provide thousands of meals to needful persons they will never know. Companies and individuals who keep the Soup Kitchen and its equipment in good repair at discounted rates – or FREE in some cases, are a gift from God. You all know who you are, and you are a blessing.

Our Board of Trustees thanks each of you for living lives of thanksgiving. And may you all have a blessed holiday season!

Soup Kitchen Wish List

- 1) Silicone oven mitts (4)
- 2) Dish soap
- 3) Laundry soap (HE preferred)
- 4) Ground coffee
- 5) Powdered coffee creamer
- 6) Bar towels

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, 501(c)(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.

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

