

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.



The Benton Harbor
Soup Kitchen

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

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION • 1-269-925-8204 • WINTER 2015 EDITION

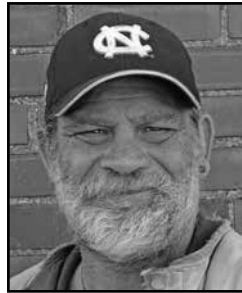


LONNIE

Like a lot of other people in Benton Harbor, the Soup Kitchen has helped me a lot. I get a good meal, you gave me bus tokens... you have been good to the people.

I used to work full-time and come to the Soup Kitchen to see my friends. Now I come here to eat, too. Obamacare made my job cut everybody to less than 30 hours because they couldn't afford to pay the benefits. I've still had some work, but not enough. I could use another job to add to the one I have.

I used to be a sous-chef in five-star restaurants and I worked for Morgan Freeman in Mississippi. I would love to find another full-time cooking job.



BRAD

If it wasn't for the Soup Kitchen, I would go hungry for sure. This isn't just a good place to eat. It is a great place to talk to people and to get out of the weather.

I live here now, but I used to live in Coloma. I am staying in the shelter until I can get my own place. I go to church every week, and I try to help out where I can.



MAGGIE

I've been coming to the Soup Kitchen since long before it moved to this location. I love the sayings and quotes on the wall in the dining room. They are so uplifting and inspiring for the people who are down and out. We should try

to keep them in our hearts.

All kinds of people come here to get help, and I want the people who come to help to know what a wonderful thing they do here. I hope the Soup Kitchen goes on forever.

LOCAL BANK FEEDS PEOPLE IN NEED

The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen recently received a large gift that will go a long way towards helping to feed people of your community in need for the remaining months of this calendar year. 1st Source Bank has clearly shown they care about our community--and everybody in it.

1st Source Bank has an interesting history and it should come as no surprise that after over 150 years, they are still working to make communities stronger. Since 1863, they've been a leader regarding what you'd hope your local bank might be. For instance, while the heartland of America panicked, 1st Source did not close their doors on that fateful date of October 29, 1929. Also, unlike many others, they did not ask for any of citizens' tax dollars in the bank bailout of the last decade. For reasons such as this, Forbes has called 1st Source one of the 100 most trusted companies in America.

Know that 1st Source is also about people...last year, 1st Source's employees gave over 25,000 hours of their time in service to places such as the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen. So on behalf of those who cannot easily tell you in person, thank you, 1st Source Bank for caring about your community and all therein!



SUE PSCHOLKA - NEW TRUSTEE



Hello. My name is Sue Pscholka, and I joined the Soup Kitchen Board this summer. I was motivated by the late Barb Whitwam who was a daily visitor and well-loved Soup Kitchen volunteer. I had heard about the mission of the Soup Kitchen, but I never

fully understood what was happening here in our community every single day. When I came in to help serve, I was amazed at all the organizations and wonderful people that quietly volunteer their time and resources to prepare a hot meal every day for those in need.

My husband Al and I live in Lincoln Township, and our daughter and son-in-law recently moved back to this area after volunteering abroad for two years. I am extremely grateful to have them back in our community. Al and I attend First Church of God in St. Joseph. I work as a Legal Secretary in Niles. I enjoy traveling, baking, and walking our dog. I recently completed a commitment that I made to myself and went back to school to earn my Bachelor's degree. Being a non-traditional, "older" student really made me reflect on not giving up and encouraging others. I intend to bring that attitude to my service at the Soup Kitchen.

I am excited and honored to be a part of this meaningful organization. As a Board Member it is my hope that I can be an asset to the Soup Kitchen and carry-out our 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."

A SEASON OF HOPE

Happy is he...whose hope is in the Lord. Psalm 146

This is a story about a hospital window--and hope. Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each day to help drain fluid from his lungs; his bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back on the other side of a curtain. The two men talked for hours on end, sharing details of their lives; without ever actually seeing each other, the two men became good friends.

Every afternoon, the man in the bed by the window would describe to his roommate all the things he could see outside. The other man began to live for those one hour periods wherein his world would be broadened by the description of everything going on in the world outside. The window overlooked a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their toy boats. Young couples walked arm-in-arm among flowers of every description. A fine view of the city's skyline was in the distance. As the man by the window described everything in great detail, the other man would close his eyes and imagine the scene. One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man couldn't hear the band, he could see it in his mind's eye.

Day and weeks passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived to find a lifeless body by the window. The man had died peacefully in his sleep. When it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved to the bed next to the window. The nurses moved him and left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first real look at the world outside. The window faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what made his deceased roommate describe all these things in such great detail, day after day. "He was blind. He didn't see anything at all. But he knew you needed encouragement. That's what he lived for."

Thank you to all who have supported the ministry of the Soup Kitchen in 2015. Your selflessness offers great hope & you are a blessing!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016

**Soup Bowl
Sunday, April 3**

**Tabor Hill Dinner
Sunday April 24**



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.

Andrews Korean SDA Church
Baroda Church of God
Berrien Springs Middle School Classroom
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
Storyline Church
Trinity Lutheran Church - St. Joseph
Trinity Lutheran Church - Berrien Springs
Twin City Newcomer's Club
Union Memorial A.M.E. Church
United Way of Southwest Michigan
Washington Avenue Church of God
Whirlpool Women's Network
Woodland Shores Baptist Church
Zion Evangelical UCC of Saint Joseph
Zion United Church of Christ – Baroda

Other Regular Volunteers:

John Styf – bread pickup
Mike Whittaker – bread pickup
Christmas Day – Lulenski Family & Friends
Dozens of community service volunteers do organizing and cleaning jobs throughout the year.
Christmas Day – the Lulenski Family & Friends
Thanksgiving Day – Nancy Racine and, in loving memory, of Pete Racine

Regular Donors:

Bob Evans Restaurant
Falak Farms
Hillside Farm
Golden Brown Bakery
Martin's Supermarkets
Memories Of India
ThompTech 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 14,800 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.

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 501c(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.

SAVE ON TAXES AND BENEFIT THE SOUP KITCHEN WITH STOCK DONATIONS

Gifts of stock and other securities are a popular way to give to charities like the Soup Kitchen. There are very favorable tax rules for donors who want to donate long-term stock (stock they have owned for more than one year) that has appreciated in value. Basically, the donor never has to pay capital gains on the appreciated stock. This can be a tremendous tax benefit and a great blessing for the Soup Kitchen.

If you want to save on taxes and benefit the needy who are served a wholesome meal daily at the Soup Kitchen, please contact or have your financial advisor or broker contact our Executive Director Merry Stover.

TABOR HILL BENEFIT DINNER 2016

Sunday April 24th is the day for the Soup Kitchen's Benefit Dinner at Tabor Hill Restaurant and Winery.

The dinner is \$80 per person. Invitations, with all details for making reservations, will be mailed in early 2016 to past year diners and donors.

As in the past, Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant donates all proceeds to The Soup Kitchen. Paul Landeck, Tabor Hill President, and his skilled and friendly staff will deliver the superior food, service, and atmosphere that only Tabor Hill can provide.

This dinner sells out every year, so please mail your reservation promptly. If you wish to be added to the mailing list, please call The Soup Kitchen at (269) 925-8204.

We hope to see you there!

Co-chairs,

Paula Vogie, Rob Burgess, Anne and Andy Takacs

17TH ANNUAL SOUP BOWL



The 17th Annual 'Soup Bowl' to benefit the Soup Kitchen will be at 2PM on Sunday, April 3, 2016, at Kelley's Bowl in St. Joe.

If you've participated before, you know this event is for a good cause and it's a lot of fun. If you haven't, please consider sending a team. We have great door prizes, 50/50s...did I mention it's a lot of fun? For some of you, it's even about the bowling!

If your group would like to enter a team (or teams), please note the deadline for registration is March 28, 2016. The cost of registration is \$30/person for a 4 person team which includes 3 games, food, a door prize ticket and shoes.

We can always use your help with making a donation or donating a door prize. For additional information, please call Debbie at (269) 313-0688.



BOARD MEMBERS:

Les Ashmore	Bernice Mason
Sue Bailey	Sue Pscholka
Jill Beach	Rob Romano
Rob Burgess	Andy Takacs
KC Gast	Paula Vogie
Debbie Gillespie	

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