

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 • SUMMER 2013 EDITION

The Soup Kitchen is known for providing a much needed hot meal for those who face hunger and want. In fact for many who visit the Soup Kitchen, this large, midday meal will be the only food they will have



for the entire day. An average of 150 meals a day are served, and the numbers approach 300 during the busy summer months. It takes a lot of dedicated employees and volunteers to make this possible seven days a week, year round.

One of the folks who is there six days a week is Alvin Favorite. He is known by his nickname, "Tic," though if you ask him he will just chuckle and say he doesn't know how he came by it. In fact Alvin smiles a lot and is an impressively happy man.

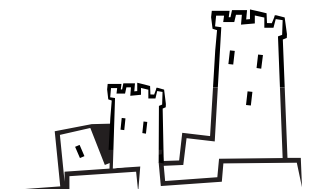
Alvin was assigned to the Soup Kitchen for community service after being incarcerated for a DUI arrest in 1987. The job was such a good fit that he was hired. Alvin has worked at The Soup Kitchen for fourteen of the last sixteen years.

When asked why he continues to work at the Soup Kitchen after all these years, he says, "because I love, love, love it!"

Because the summer months are so busy, frustration levels in the dining room can escalate. It can be dicey interacting with people who may be not just hungry, but also struggling with addictions or mental illness. Alvin will tell you that, most of the time, things run very smoothly, and that a lot of good takes place in that dining room. The Soup Kitchen has become the positive, life-saving ministry it is because of people like Alvin Favorite. Hungry? He will welcome you with his trademark smile.

Client Corner

My name is A. L. Huddleston, but everybody calls me Obama. I've been coming here a long time. I came here before I went to prison, and I come almost every day now. I usually just have coffee and see my friends. Y'all have good food, and y'all treat people nice. Thanks for talking to me, but I gotta go now – I have to be at church by 11:30.



JUNE 17 HARBOR SHORES GOLF OUTING A SUCCESS!

Our gratitude to all of you who helped make the 2013 Soup Kitchen Classic a success. Harbor Shores is an amazing place to stage this event and also a tremendous partner to the Soup Kitchen's ministry to our community. Thanks to the following people and organizations who sponsor the event and in so doing, help continue our 33-year-old ministry to the community.



LECO Corporation

The Bistro on the Boulevard

Liz and Mike Garey

Schu's Grill and Bar

Grand Mere Inn

Anita and Fred Grams

Whirlpool Corporation

The Samaritan Counseling Center

Burch, Banyon, Anderson & Banyon

Gillespie's Pharmacy

Norm McPherson

Consequential Minds/Rob Burgess

Lambrech't's

Paula Vogie

5 O'Clock Sports Bar

The Schalon Foundation

Lou Gast

Thelamco

The Mark III Restaurant

PRI-Mar Petroleum

Blossomland Accounting

Competitive Edge

Shoreline Lifestyle

Fred and Amey Upton

Jill Beach

Brammall Supply

Candice Johnson

Sunset Coast Packaging

Susan Bailey



Annually, the U.S. Post office letter carriers and volunteers from the Stevensville Post Office collect canned and non-perishable food on behalf of the less fortunate.

This year, the Stevensville Post Office collected 4,200 pounds of food in May and donated it all to the Soup Kitchen. A big thank-you to the hard working Stevensville postal carriers and the volunteers that make this possible. Thank you also to the folks in the Stevensville and Bridgman areas served by the post office who took the time to leave donations out for the carriers' collection.

Christmas in July

We hope. Actually, I hope that every time I go to the Post Office.

A regular volunteer recently asked me how we fund The Soup Kitchen. She was shocked to learn that we get only a little over \$1,200 from the federal funding for food. Three years ago it was a healthy \$6,000, but the economic changes have taken a toll on almost all government funding. She asked about grants. Since we are a local entity, it is difficult to get grants from anyone outside our immediate area.

Therefore, most of our operating funds come from you, the caring people in our many supporting communities. Our Board of Directors conducts four fundraising events that generate money, but beyond that, we count on you.

Some people are very creative with giving. We have a group of ladies who do not give their friends a birthday gift, but instead, send a gift to the Soup Kitchen. I call them the "Birthday Club." And there are several folks who have created their own "Monthly Giving" practice. Our new online giving service can make this type of giving automatic, but we have several people who have been sending a monthly check for years. And double thanks to those who include a matching gift form!

We feed the needy every day, so we hope that you remember that there is Christmas in July... because of you.

Merry Stover, Executive Director



Soup Bowl 2013

The 14th annual 'Soup Bowl' was held at Kelley's Bowl on Sunday, April 14.

93 bowlers participated.

The team from Buoy's at the Silver Beach Hotel took home the first place trophy while the US Jack team took the silver. One of the Tosi's teams (Ken, Eric, Erin and Mike) took third place.

The Cougars won Best Team Theme.

Vickie Page and her Sandbar teams claimed the Team Spirit trophy for the second time.

Jamie Pascoe won the Grand Prize, a Laz-E-Boy lounge donated by Slumberland Furniture. Matt Strzyzykowski and Pat Conrad won the 50/50's.

The Soup Kitchen would like to thank our generous donors and bowlers and the friendly staff at Kelley's Bowl.

Special thanks to our great volunteers; we couldn't do this without you! Kelli Reeves, Ken Clark, Kristi Clark, Cindy Kinney, Bree Boomer and Jeff Von Koenig.

To Volunteer

For individuals: The easiest way to volunteer is to join an existing group. Is there a group from your church or workplace?

We keep a list of volunteers who are willing to come when called. We call it the "Short Notice List" (SNL) because, sometimes, that is what

you get. When a group cancels or is short a few volunteers, we fill in from the SNL.

Kid's Groups are a bit harder. No one under the age of 12 can be in the kitchen—that's a state law. We often schedule kids groups after hours to tackle jobs like washing chairs and walls.

Please call the office to discuss volunteering.



**TABOR HILL BENEFIT
A SMASHING SUCCESS !**

Chalk up another "big win" for the Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant, The Soup Kitchen, and our many recipients of a daily warm meal.

The April 28, 2013 Dinner Benefit was at full capacity, and, once again all proceeds were donated to The Soup Kitchen. Paul Landeck, Tabor Hill President, and his staff donated their talent, time and service to make this a very special and classy event.

The absence of typical fund-raising activities, such as 50-50's, auctions, raffles and speeches ... helps elevate this event further in the eyes (and tummies) of our generous donors !

The weather cooperated, and the grand view of the beautiful vineyards from the dining rooms was an added treat. The Tabor Hill Benefit Dinner is vital to our serving more than 56,000 warm meals each year.

We Thank You, and God Bless !

Co-Chairs

Paula Vogie, Rob Burgess, Anne & Andy Takacs and Executive Director Merry Stover

Lyn Lucker

Lyn Lucker has joined the Soup Kitchen as an assistant Director. Lyn has been a volunteer since 2004, serving on Mondays with Saint John's Catholic Church. With Michiko's departure, Lyn has taken over the coordinator position for that group.



Lyn has six children and six grandchildren, so serving big meals is a way of life.

Lyn enjoys watercolor painting and looking for creative ways to recycle and repurpose products.

Welcome Lyn!

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:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Sue Bailey | Chris Heugel |
| Jill Beach | Norm McPherson |
| Rob Burgess | Andy Takacs |
| KC Gast | Paula Vogie |
| Debbie Gillespie | Merry Stover, Director |