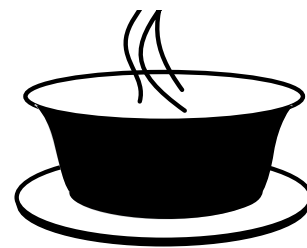


**Mission:**

**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 SOUP KITCHEN



**A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
1-269-925-8204

**WINTER 2012 EDITION**



*Volunteers load goods destined for the Soup Kitchen.*

## **THANK YOU MARTIN'S SUPER MARKETS!**

On Saturday, November 10, Martin's Super Markets joined with the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen to ask for goods to help support our ministry. Soup Kitchen volunteers advertised next to the north and west entrances of the St. Joseph store throughout that day. In turn, Martin's customers generously responded with goods and cash to help us do what we do day in and day out.

Two observations from that day--Martin's customers are very congenial and supportive. The atmosphere that day was like the old neighborhood grocery store and everybody who helped that day got the chance to talk to hundreds of smiling people. Secondly--the employees of Martin's Super Market in St. Joseph are amazing. All were very interested in our success and made every effort to help us throughout the day. Our thanks to each of Martin's customers and employees and also the volunteers who help the Soup Kitchen "get it done"!



### **Sandra**

I was bought for \$500 shortly after I was born and I grew up in a log cabin in Arkansas. I have heart trouble from having rheumatic fever. Sometimes I don't know where my next meal is coming from, and I can always come here to get a meal. And the food is real good too.



### **Manny**

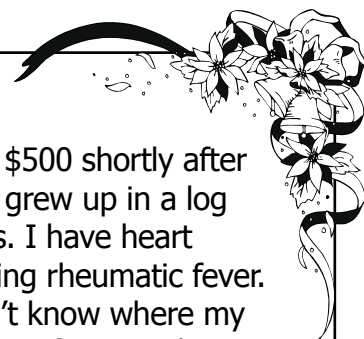
I come here every day to eat; money is tight when you don't have a job. I have been looking for a job in a warehouse or restaurant, but not having any luck. I started online school in graphic arts last month. I've done art all my life. I want to take a computer graphics class next.

The Soup Kitchen is good for the community and a real blessing for the guys that have no place to eat.



### **Ann**

I eat here most every day. I used to do home health care, but I broke my leg last winter and I can't lift people any more. It took me four months going there every day, but I finally got a real job at Batson Printing, the one across the street. I only get 20 minutes for lunch, so The Soup Kitchen gets me a tray fast so I can eat.



## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS/VOLUNTEERS

The Soup Kitchen in Benton Harbor is staffed by groups of volunteers from churches and businesses. Most groups donate the food and cook, serve, and help with light clean-up afterwards.

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

All Nations SDA Church  
Andrews Korean SDA Church  
Ann LaForest & Friends  
Baroda Church of God  
Berrien Springs Middle School Special Ed Class  
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Christian Reformed Church of St Joseph  
Coloma United Methodist Church  
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  
Muslims of Benton Harbor  
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  
Second Baptist Church  
Sister Lakes Community Church  
Southwest Michigan Newcomer's Club  
St Augustine of Canterbury Church  
St Bernard's Catholic Church  
St John's Catholic Church

St Joseph Catholic Church, Saint Joseph, MI  
St Joseph Catholic Church Youth Ministries  
St Paul's Episcopal Church  
St Peter's United Church of Christ  
Stevensville United Methodist Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church – St Joseph  
Trinity Lutheran Church - Berrien Springs  
Twin City Area Newcomers Club  
Union Memorial A.M.E. Church  
Washington Avenue Church of God  
Whirlpool Young Professionals  
Woodland Shores Baptist Church  
Word of Truth Ministry  
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 (and much more!)  
Dozens of community service volunteers – organizing, cleaning  
Christmas Day – the Lulenski Family  
Thanksgiving Day – Nancy and Pete Racine  
Weekly Donors:  
Golden Brown Bakery  
Martin's Supermarkets  
YOU – You, the members of our community, donated over 8,000 hours of your time to The Soup Kitchen Inc. last year. We thank your for your caring and compassion. We cannot provide this vital service without you.



## A YEAR AFTER THE "CRISIS FOR MICHIGAN'S POOR," POVERTY IS UP

A year ago we published a story about all of the negative factors hitting (or about to hit) the poorest of Michigan citizens. According to the League for Public Policy, this year's news is that poverty is up, income is down, but fewer Michigan citizens are uninsured.

The American Community Survey found that Michigan's poverty rate rose to 17.5 percent in 2011 up from 16.8 percent in 2010. The latest numbers show a 25 percent rise since 2007, before the latest recession, and a whopping 66 percent jump from 2001, the largest poverty increase in the country over the decade.

Sadly, the child poverty rate in Michigan increased by a staggering 34% over that 10-year period.

Michigan median household income fell dramatically, coming in at \$45,981 in 2011, almost a 20 percent drop in inflation-adjusted dollars over the decade, with income inequality continuing to grow.

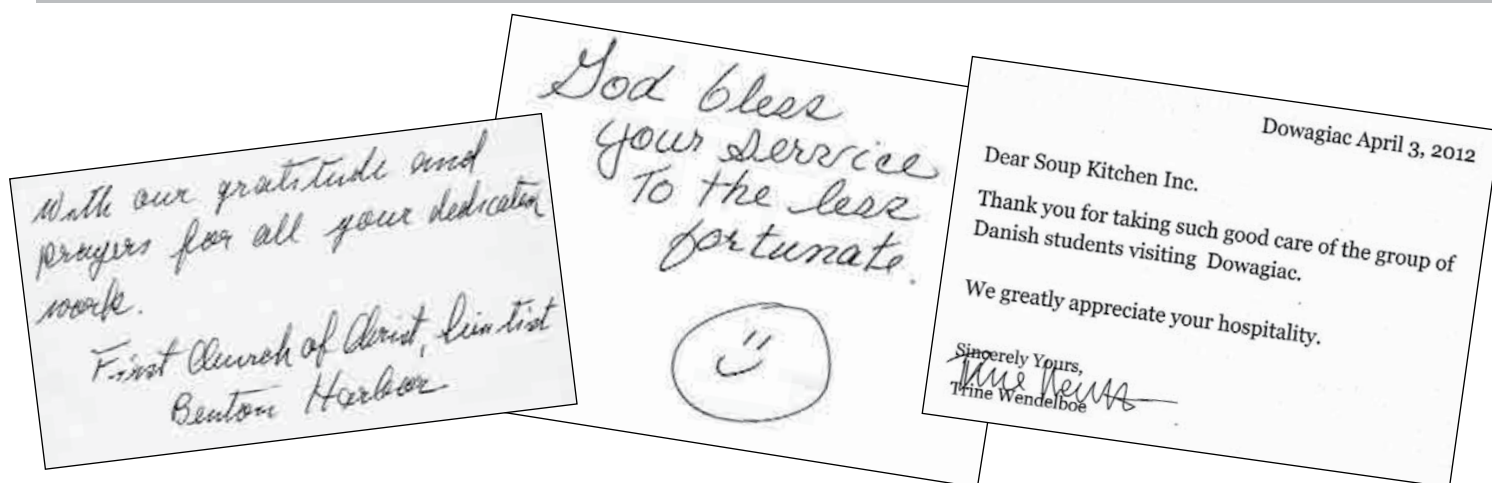
"Michigan leaders have been busy dismantling the public programs and structures designed to get families with children through tough times. These new numbers show that we are going in the wrong direction by pulling the rug out from under struggling households," said Gilda Z. Jacobs, president and CEO of the Michigan League for Human Services.

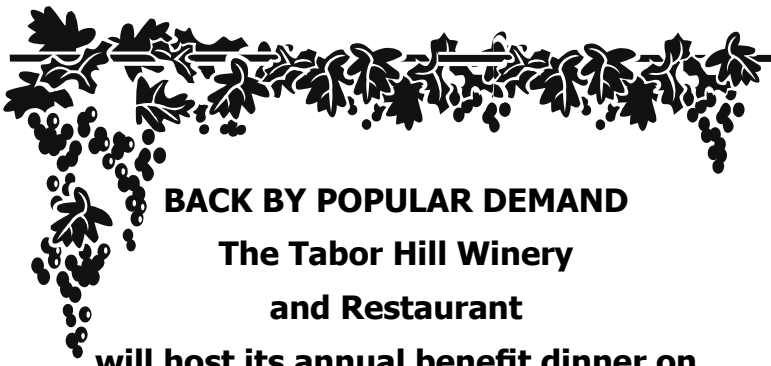
Michigan was the first state to cut unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 20 weeks. Last year, the Snyder administration instituted asset limits for federally funded food benefits. They also removed all college students from food benefits. For the first time in the last three years, the Soup Kitchen received many calls from college students looking for food assistance. The legislature also approved retroactive time limits for cash assistance going to the poorest families in the state, including families caring for disabled children. More working families will fall into poverty because the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit has been cut by 70 percent, another action taken by the Legislature in 2011.

Speaking for The Soup Kitchen and our Michigan food banks, the removal of the Michigan income tax credit is expected to significantly reduce our donations. That is yet another blow to the very poor.

In the one bright spot reported, the number of uninsured decreased over the last two years, despite a 2.1 percent drop in the number of people with private health coverage since 2009. In 2011, 11.8 percent were uninsured, down from 12.4 percent a year earlier.

— Content courtesy of Judy Putnam, Michigan League for Public Policy.





**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

**The Tabor Hill Winery  
and Restaurant**

**will host its annual benefit dinner on  
Sunday, April 28, 2013.**

**All proceeds donated to The Soup Kitchen.**

This benefit is a multi-faceted rarity. Not only are all proceeds given to The Soup Kitchen, but also: the exceptional list of menu choices is top-drawer; the \$80 per person donation includes honor-earning Tabor Hill wines, or cocktails; diners are treated to the privacy of reserved tables with a grand view of the beautiful countryside vineyards; there are none of the typical fund-raising activities such as auctions, 50-50's, raffles, or speeches; and, to top it off, Tabor Hill President Paul Landeck and his friendly staff do it all, gratis!

This event is vital to The Soup Kitchen's mission of providing a warm meal daily to those who hunger in our community. We serve about 56,000 meals each year.

Please mark your 2013 calendar now with this date: Sunday, April 28 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant.

See you there!

Co-chairs Paula Vogie, Rob Burgess,  
Anne & Andy Takacs



**Don't forget ! Plan on joining  
your friends at Tabor Hill on  
Sunday, April 28, 2013.**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

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



**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.

**Learn about the Soup Kitchen.  
Read all the newsletters. Donate any time.  
[www.soup-kitchen.org](http://www.soup-kitchen.org)**

**Upcoming Events in 2013**

- Sunday, January 27 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at the 5 O'Clock Sports Bar
- Sunday, April 14 - Soup Bowl at Kelley's Bowl
- Sunday, April 28 - Tabor Hill Dinner
- Monday, June 10 - Golf Outing at Harbor Shores