

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 2010 EDITION



Volunteer Corner

Norm McPherson has volunteered at the Soup Kitchen since 1982, his second year in St. Joseph. He began by bringing the youth group from Trinity Lutheran Church to volunteer at the Soup Kitchen. Since 1991 he has been the coordinator for the adult volunteers from Trinity who volunteer here every month.

Despite keeping busy as the Director of Family Life and Parish Education for Trinity Lutheran, Norm finds the time every month to do the planning, purchasing and coordinating Trinity's day at the Soup Kitchen. He stated that he never has any problems getting volunteers to help at the Soup Kitchen—that is easy.

I asked what he thought of the Kitchen. Norm replied, "I love the Soup Kitchen. I think it is a great missional service."

Thanks Norm for all you do for our community through your service at the Soup Kitchen....and thanks to the hundreds of other volunteers who come every month. You make the Soup Kitchen possible.

The Soup Kitchen Helps By Executive Director, Merry Stover

I think of the Soup Kitchen as a place that helps people. Whoever it is, whatever they need, we try to help.

Everybody knows we provide food daily. What a lot of people don't know is that we provide a safe place for people to congregate, a phone for the clients, help navigating social service agencies, help with transportation, and more.



I was surprised when Andy Sawyer came to the back door with a bread donation and thanked me for helping him. Andy started a company last year called Every Day Bread Co. Andy had brought a bread donation to the Soup Kitchen in the summer of 2009, a couple weeks after he started his company.

I took a look at the loaves of bread and started asking some questions—specifically, "Are you sure you want to donate bread that is still 4 days in date." Andy replied that yes, he was sure, because everything had to be perfect because his business was brand new.

Andy is a fourth generation bread maker, having learned to make bread from his great grandmother. My Every Day Bread is made in the Broad Street Café in Saint Joseph.

I continued by asking if he was looking for customers, and the answer was yes. I had recently spoken to the food and beverage manager at Lake Michigan College, who mentioned that she was looking for a local source for bread, and there you have it—connection made.

Andy said, "I never would have imagined that donating bread to the Soup Kitchen would have worked out this way. I have a contract with the college now, and am really enjoying selling my bread wholesale."



WELCOME ROB BURGESS

My first time volunteering at the Soup Kitchen about five years ago was for me a moving experience. I was the person assigned by my church group to hand the food trays to our guests as they came through the line. I still remember getting

choked up every time one of the folks came through and said "God bless you" after I had handed them their tray. I am not really sure why it touched me so deeply. But it did. In the religious tradition in which I grew up, we were taught about Francis of Assisi. St. Francis once said, "For it is in giving that we receive." I think that in the Soup Kitchen giving and receiving goes on 365 days a year.

In the short period of time that I have joined the Soup Kitchen Board, I have become increasingly impressed by the operations of the Soup Kitchen. My fellow board members are passionate and compassionate about their duties as board members. I am blessed to have been asked to join the board as Treasurer.

My first job after graduating from Grand Valley State College, (yes, it was a college not a university back in those days), was as an auditor with a Grand Rapids CPA firm. My clients included Grand Valley State, the City of Kalamazoo, Country Fresh Dairies, and many others. I have worked as an internal auditor for a large east coast retailer and as a controller for a Lansing store. My last job before moving to Berrien County was as the Budget Director for the Grand Rapids Public Schools. Since 1993, I have been Chief Financial Officer of the Lakeshore Public Schools. For the past four years, it has been my pleasure to volunteer as a tax preparer with the Berrien County earned income tax coalition. The coalition's volunteers assist poor and near poor citizens with the completion of their annual income tax returns.

My favorite part of volunteering at the Soup Kitchen is the people. I enjoy the "Street Poets" who come through the line and provide us volunteers with their words of wisdom. I enjoy watching the staff of the Soup Kitchen showing compassion for the clients by giving them warm hats or gloves, or maybe giving a child a special treat. I enjoy the blessing for the meal provided by one of my church colleagues. But most of all, I enjoy being in the Soup Kitchen with people that remind me that we are all children of God.

Rob

The Soup Kitchen It's a remarkable place.

This is something that I like to write about. It's about me coming to the Soup Kitchen.

All through the years that I've been going there, it's very pleasant atmosphere and you get an enthusiastic welcome from everyone.

You get a pleasant meal served by nice people. It means a lot to me and many others. It is a place you can come to and see people that you haven't seen in a long while.

Some of us come to the Soup to talk about problems. The Soup Kitchen is our meeting spot every day. We all get a good meal, but the most important thing of all is talking with friends.

And while I am writing this, I see and feel that there is love all around me. People may have attitudes about one another, but at the Soup Kitchen your attitude will change because there is someone who cares. So, instead of thinking negative, you start thinking positive. And most of all, you get that determination and motivation about yourself in the inside.

Love and understanding one another, that is why I am writing about coming to the Soup Kitchen. Talking to people there let's me know I'm not alone and there's someone who cares. I learn from you all every day.

It's a remarkable place.

I love you all. Peace.

Cage



MARK YOUR 2011 CALENDAR!

It's not too early to mark your calendar for Sunday, April 17, 2011 for our popular dinner benefit at Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant. It's an elegant late afternoon-evening event...with all the proceeds going directly to the Soup Kitchen. Invitations will be mailed after the first of the year. Contact the Soup Kitchen if you would like to be added to the invitation list!



Upcoming Events in 2011

Sunday, January 30 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at Shadowland Pavillion

Sunday, April 10 Soup Bowl at Kelley's Bowl

Sunday, April 17 Tabor Hill Dinner



The Soup Kitchen Golf Classic



The Soup Kitchen Golf Classic was held on Friday, September 10, a picture-perfect day at Lake Michigan Golf Hills.

The shotgun scramble began at noon with 13 teams and lots of challenges, fun and prizes.

The Mixed Division Team Winners were Sue Mennucci, Kristi Clark, Mary Thomas and Kim Small and the Men's Division Team Winners were Bill Martindale, Todd Bythrow, Josh Hathaway and Bill Hocker.

Liz Damiani won the Women's closet to the pin competition and Kevin Wheeler won the Men's.

Jean Erickson won the Women's longest drive and Mark Thomas won the Men's. Jean also won the Grand Prize of 18 holes of golf for four with carts at the new Golf Club at Harbor Shores. Tonya Martindale won the 50/50, and Cindy Orlaske-Ray won the putting contest.



We would like to thank Wayne "Gooch" and his staff at Lake Michigan Hills for their great service and the raffle prizes they contributed to our event.

We would also like to thank all our other golfers, our great volunteers Ken Clark, Sr., Jan Clark, Mike Yore, Lauren Higgins and Katie Ruggles and all our sponsors and donors who helped raise funds for the Soup Kitchen.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

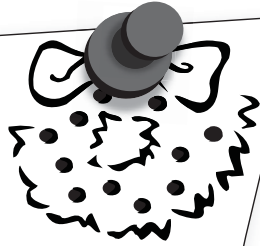


Crop Walk

We received \$2,728 from the efforts of the Crop Walk volunteers for the Soup Kitchen. Thank you all!!!

Please call or email the office if you walked last year. We have some photos we need to identify. If you will give your permission, we will publish them on our web site.

Soup Kitchen Wish List



Cleaning supplies: bleach,
dish soap, laundry soap

Fruits and vegetables – we use five
#10 cans of fruit and vegetables daily

Pay for one noon meal
\$250.00

Semi-Annual Fire Protection Services
\$273.00

Professional Immersion Blender
\$500.00

BOARD MEMBERS:

Jill Beach	Bill Sinclair
Rob Burgess	Louise Solak
Ken Clark	Andy Takacs
KC Gast	Paula Vogie
Debbie Gillespie	Barbara Whitwam
Chris Heugel	

Thinking about the Soup Kitchen? Check out the new “Need Right NOW!” page on our website at: www.soup-kitchen.org

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.

STATE OF MICHIGAN FOOD KITCHEN TAX CREDIT

Michigan residents who donate to the Soup Kitchen get a tax benefit at both the state and federal level. Consult your accountant or tax advisor for advice on how your donation may qualify.

GLEANERS FOOD BANK

Churches are automatically eligible to purchase food at an average of 16 cents per pound, including food in #10 cans, from the Southwest Gleaners Food Bank, 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 SW Gleaners Manager, Rich Glista at 269-926-2646.

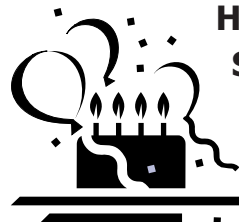
MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

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.



Happy Holidays!



Happy birthday, Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen hit its 30th birthday on March 8, 2010.

This stupendous anniversary is possible only through the help of all our volunteers and donors. As of the moment, our database (started in 2002) has a membership of over 9,500 volunteers and donors.

THANK YOU!