

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 2015 EDITION

OMAR & OMARION



Omarion: I like to eat here. I come about every day.

Omar (Omarion's Dad): It's good to know that different churches come and volunteer. They feed us good food — no fatty food. Sometimes I get a loaf of bread to take home. Lately we were given asparagus too. I appreciate the help — food is high.

EMPLOYEE FEATURE



I've been coming here to eat for four years on and off. After I lost my job, we lost our house and our kids had to stay with my inlaws. We really hit rock bottom; we were living in a tent for two years. A lot of the time, the Soup Kitchen meal was the only one we had for the day.

Then my wife and I both found jobs and worked to get another house, and we were getting better. I rented out a couple of rooms to help pay the rent, and one tenant sold drugs to an undercover cop. That was part of why I went to jail for about a year. After I got out, we came back to the Soup Kitchen to eat. By that time we had some real friends here. I was really grateful to be able to come here and get a nice meal. Because the Soup Kitchen helped me, I started volunteering. I volunteer to cook here, and I really love it. I bring my wife and my friends to help me when I get to be the chef.

Recently I started working at the Soup Kitchen, and I am really grateful for that. It really helps. I am always looking for more work. I get Social Security disability, but it sure doesn't pay the bills. They keep reducing the amount of my check.

I am really grateful for what the Soup Kitchen has done for me. My whole family is grateful. I want all the people who help The Soup Kitchen to know that.



Pastor Jim McConnell leads the parade of pizzas when the Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship serves at the Soup Kitchen.



BERNICE MASON - NEW TRUSTEE



Hello, my name is Bernice Mason. I am employed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church as a Nursery Director and at First Church of God also as a Nursery Director in St. Joseph, MI. My other job is volunteering at Trinity Lutheran Church & school as a Social

Community Outreach worker. I am a former Lake Michigan College employee of over 20 years, so lifelong learning has always been a priority to me and my family. Supporting my community has always been very important to me, and because of this strong desire to help others I have been a soup kitchen volunteer worker for over 30 years, and a board member since March 2014. Michigan's great Southwest is blessed to have so many great volunteer workers who give their time to serve God's people, and I am thankful to be one of them.

Soup Kitchen Wish List

1) **Coffee, coffee, coffee.** We have used the last of our Leco donation (from Christmas) and are now buying coffee. We use a minimum of three cups of ground coffee per day. If you don't want to shop, a donation of \$20 will furnish coffee for one week!

2) We can also use coffee creamer and dry milk. We make our own creamer by mixing the two; adding dry milk adds nutrition to the creamer.

3) We buy an array of cleaning products on a regular basis. For instance, we are currently out of Windex and Mold Armor. Please call the office (925-8204) to find out what we need at the moment.



HARBOR SHORES GOLF OUTING



THANKS

Once again this year, a great number of organizations and individuals offered to support our 2015 Soup Kitchen Golf Classic held at the beautiful Golf Club at Harbor Shores (note that Harbor Shores not only hosts the annual event, they are also a financial supporter of the Soup Kitchen's efforts!) If you have the opportunity to patronize these businesses or to thank these individuals for what they do, please do so:

LECO CORPORATION

THE SCHALON FOUNDATION

LOU GAST

THE GOLF CLUB AT HARBOR SHORES

PRI MAR PETROLEUM, INC.

EDGEWATER RESOURCES LLC

THE GRAMS FAMILY

SUN COAST PACKAGING

**1ST SOURCE PERSONAL ASSET
MANAGEMENT**

PROFESSIONAL HEARING SERVICES

UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

GRANDE MERE INN

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE AL AND SUE
PSCHOLKA**

BURCH AND BANYON ATTORNEYS AT LAW

VAIL RUBBER CORPORATION

MARK III RESTAURANT

THE BOULEVARD INN AND BISTRO

BEACH FINANCIAL SERVICES

GILLESPIE'S PHARMACY

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE

THELAMCO INC

BRAMMALL SUPPLY COMPANY

BLOSSOMLAND ACCOUNTING

JANE AND BILL MAROHN

SUE BAILEY

ANNE AND ANDY TAKACS

JULI AND KC GAST



SOUP BOWL 2015

The 16th annual 'Soup Bowl' was held at Kelley's Bowl on Sunday, March 29. We filled all 30 lanes and 140 bowlers participated.

The team from U.S. Jack, (Ray Clark, Tom Conrad, Bob Conrad, Pat Conrad and Ron Lambrecht) took home the first place trophy while Team Jen/ Papa Vino's took the silver and Ron, Megan, Phil, Josh and Dennis from Advantage Plumbing took the bronze.

First-time participants Belmont Transfer (Joey Whitacre, Brian Whitacre, Rich Servillias, Todd Christie and Rich Dine) claimed the Team Spirit trophy. They were LOUD!

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

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers; we couldn't do this without you! Kelli Reeves and her Aunts Judy, Karen and Lori; Ken and Kristi Clark, Maddie Zimmerman, Nancy and Jeff Von Koenig, the team from Honor Credit Union and the Soup Kitchen staff.

See you all next year!



First Place goes to the team from U.S. Jack (Ray Clark, Tom Conrad, Bob Conrad, Pat Conrad and Ron Lambrecht)



Team Spirit trophy goes to Belmont Transfer (Joey Whitacre, Brian Whitacre, Rich Servillias, Todd Christie and Rich Dine)



The "First Ever Tosi's Minestrone Soup 5K" Family Fun, Bike, Run or Walk was hosted by Tosi's Restaurant in Stevensville, MI on May 9th. There were bikers, runners, walkers and families with strollers or wagons participating. The Tosi's chefs treated everyone with mini egg quiches, pastries, fruit and healthy grains at the end of the 5K; and like everything at Tosi's, they were delicious! Restaurant staff volunteered their time to keep everyone on the route and our own trustee, KC Gast, passed out water at the mid-point. We sincerely thank the Tosi owners, Dan McCrery - General Manager, chefs, staff, patrons and participants for a fun event that raised over \$2,300 to support The Soup Kitchen.

THANK YOU STEVENSVILLE POSTAL CARRIERS!

On May 9, the Stevensville Postal Carriers once again led a community food drive, collecting canned and boxed goods from individuals all over the Stevensville area. Over the years, the Stevensville Postal Carriers have collected [literally] TONS of food, for persons they might never meet, and who cannot necessarily thank the carriers in person. This is the Soup Kitchen's largest annual food drive, and it provides portions of meals to a great many of our guests throughout the year. We are grateful for the efforts of so many people at the Stevensville Post Office; so on behalf of those who cannot tell you this in person, THANK 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 GOES "ALL OUT" FOR THE SOUP KITCHEN

The Tabor Hill Winery and Restaurant went to its maximum capacity on Sunday, April 26 for The Soup Kitchen dinner benefit . . . serving 185 diners. All proceeds were donated to The Soup Kitchen, in addition to cash contributions from about 20 people who couldn't make it to the dinner.

Paul Landeck, Tabor Hill President, and his professional staff not only created the select meals, greeted and seated each donor, served the meals efficiently with a smile, but they did it all gratis !

Even the weather cooperated to enhance the beautiful scenery of vineyards and rolling hills. The diners were openly complimentary and impressed with the attractive ambiance of the dining rooms, and the intimacy of the event, in part because there were none of the typical fund-raising activities such as auctions, raffles, 50-50's or speeches. All this in addition to excellent hors d'oeuvres, a fine meal of your choice, dessert and award-winning Tabor Hill wines or cocktails . . . while seated with your friends at your private table.

Once again, and we can't emphasize this enough, we extend our warmest thanks to Paul Landeck and his people for what is undoubtedly our major fund-raising effort of the year. This lovely dinner makes a very significant contribution towards the 50,000 meals we provide to our hungry neighbors every day of the year.



BOARD MEMBERS:

Sue Bailey	Bernice Mason
Jill Beach	Norm McPherson
Rob Burgess	Sue Pscholka
KC Gast	Rob Romano
Debbie Gillespie	Andy Takacs
Chris Heugel	Paula Vogie

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