

**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.*



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# The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen



A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION • 1-269-925-8204 • SPRING 2016 EDITION



## What Can One Person Do?

Eighth grader Iggy Laurent was not too thrilled about coming to the Soup Kitchen the first time. He would have preferred to hang out with his friends.

Making the best of it, Iggy participated in the meal prep and gained an interest in the process. He said, "Pulling a meal together with a bunch of strangers was kind of weird, but it got easier."

The ice-breaker for Iggy was seeing a boy he knew from playing basketball. Iggy went into the dining room and talked with him, and then stopped at tables and talked with some other guests.

During meal service, Iggy manned the dessert station. He had to ask every diner what dessert they wanted. He also made sure to say "Have a nice day" to each guest. Iggy said, "I might be the only person who is nice to them today."

At the end of the meal, Iggy had a very different view of the Soup Kitchen. So much so that he and his mother Julee asked what else they could to help. The Kitchen was running low on pasta, so they decided to help with that.

Iggy got permission to run a pasta drive at Upton Junior High School. The principal printed it in his blog, Iggy made posters, put collection boxes at the front door of the school, and solicited friends to help spread the word. The result was a donation of about 200 pounds of pasta to the Soup Kitchen.



## Senior Volunteer

Seniors helping at the Soup Kitchen are nothing new. Most people start volunteering when they retire.

But Kevin Pantelleria is a senior at Watervliet High School. Kevin has been an every Saturday volunteer at the Soup Kitchen

this school year. When asked about volunteering every week, Kevin said, "I'd like to come here more often, but I don't have the time."

Kevin landed at the Soup Kitchen on a suggestion from his grandmother. He had volunteered at Habitat for Humanity in the summer, and wanted to keep volunteering. His favorite thing at the Soup Kitchen is talking with the guests, connecting with them. Kevin said, "Every day is a learning experience. I get to make a nice meal, and it feels great to help."

Soup Kitchen staff can assure you that having a football player as a regular volunteer can be really helpful.

Kevin will start classes at the University of Michigan this summer, beginning his studies of mathematics and psychology. He plans to walk on to Michigan football, so he has also been spending quite a bit of time working out.

Good luck, Kevin. We will miss you!



*Berrien Springs High School Honor Society working at the Soup Kitchen.*

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER



### Leslie Ashmore

Hello, my name is Leslie Ashmore, and I joined the Soup Kitchen board last fall. I got involved with the Soup Kitchen through Whirlpool Corporation and Peace Lutheran Church. My prior experience with this type of organization was with Grace Center

of Hope, in Pontiac Michigan where I served as secretary from 2003 to 2005. I am humbled and honored to be a part of this organization. Merry and staff do a great job.

I currently serve on the St. Joseph Zoning Board of Appeals where my wife Cindy and I have lived since 2007.

After completing active and reserve duty with the U.S. Navy, I obtained a B.S. Degree in Engineering from YSU and a Master of Arts Degree in Business Adm. & Mgmt. from CMU. My work background includes 40 plus years in product development and analysis with General Tire and Rubber, General Motors, Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Ford Motor Company, and Whirlpool.

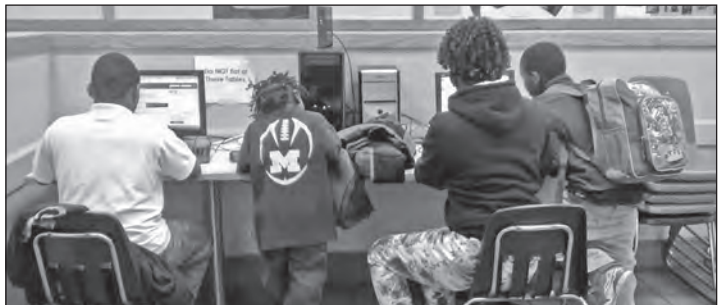
Cindy and I attend Peace Lutheran Church. My two passions are Bible study and golf. This year will be my sixteenth year as a PGA volunteer. As a board member it is my hope that I can be an asset to the Soup Kitchen.

## PARTNER IN MINISTRY

The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen is able to conduct ministry year-in and year-out because of the ministry-mindedness of many area organizations, including a great many churches. One of these churches, a longtime partner in ministry, is First Congregational Church of St. Joseph. First Congregational Church is likely on-site more than any other of our partner organizations, for which we are very grateful to Cherie Beck and her team.

First Congregational Church is now in its 162nd year of serving this community. In the previous year, they celebrated their 60th year in their "new" sanctuary at 2001 Niles Avenue (The old church building was located on the site of the Heritage Center on Main Street in downtown Saint Joseph.) In addition to the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen, First Congregational Church is involved in a number of ministries in our area and also abroad--they help underwrite an orphanage in Russia.

We thank the members of this church and look ahead to many more years of service together on behalf of some of the most needful of His people.



*Computers are put to good use at The Soup Kitchen.*



## THIS PLACE IS A BLESSING

Ebni and Martel moved their family to Benton Harbor from Chicago about three months ago, and they are eager to move into their own place next week. Four-year-old Malik is especially excited to become a big brother when they add twins to the family next month.

The family decided to leave Chicago for relief from the high cost of living in the city. Even when both parents could work, they had a difficult time making ends meet. Ebni has a sister who lives here, but otherwise they know few people in Benton Harbor. Ebni said that the people in the Soup Kitchen had been very nice to them. Malik has quite a few friends in the dining room, the kind who slip him extra desserts.

Martel is attending job skills training at Michigan Works and actively searching for a new job. The Soup Kitchen is one of the agencies helping them get on their feet. As Ebni said, "The Soup Kitchen is a true blessing."



## THINK SPRING! THINK TABOR HILL!

Yes, it's time to take action now if you plan to join your friends at this year's Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant's benefit dinner for The Soup Kitchen.

Invitations have been mailed to recent years' diners and donors for the Sunday, April 24, 2016, event, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. If you have not received your invitation, please call The Soup Kitchen at 925-8204, to request one be mailed to you. This benefit dinner has reached maximum capacity in recent years, so it's suggested that you make your reservations early.

The donation is \$80 per person and includes your choice of an entree, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, Tabor Hill award winning wines, beer, and gratuity, with cash bar for cocktails. All donated proceeds go directly to The Soup Kitchen. Tabor Hill President, Paul Landeck, and his efficient and friendly staff are pleased to make this all possible, gratis! And, don't forget that the unique characteristic of this fund-raising event is that there are no silent or live auctions, 50-50's, raffles or speeches.....just a fine dinner with friends in a comfortable ambiance.

Invitation packets include the description of the event, a menu card for your choice of entree, and the procedure for making the donation and reservation times.

The Tabor Hill benefit dinner is a major event in the year to help The Soup Kitchen provide about 50,000 warm meals annually.

We thank all past and pending diners and donors, Co-chairs, Paula Vogie, Rob Burgess, Sue Bailey, Anne and Andy Takacs

## HARBOR SHORES GOLF OUTING



### 2016 GOLF OUTING AT HARBOR SHORES JUNE 13

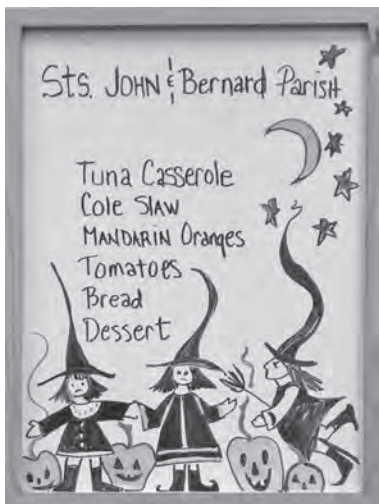
Annual Harbor Shores Golf Outing

On Monday, June 13, the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen will host its annual golf outing/fund raiser at the Golf Club at Harbor Shores. If you've golfed in this event before, you'll recognize everything — 18 holes, golf cart, dinner, and prizes for only \$140.00 per golfer. Still the best deal for area golf outings! The 18-hole scramble with shotgun start is at noon (be there early to hit some balls gratis and also for starter's orders) and dinner will begin at approximately 6:00. Please note — the bar will be open, but we'll hold off on food service until most golfers make it back to the tent so that everybody gets served.

Very shortly, an e-mail for sign-ups will be sent to all golfers of record. IF YOU THINK you're not on our list, please contact board member KC Gast at [kcgast@yahoo.com](mailto:kcgast@yahoo.com) to make sure you get a sign-up sheet by e-mail. If you don't have a foursome



of your own, we might be able to put you with someone else's. Let's hope for great weather and we'll see you soon!



*Trish Handshaw, a member of the St. John & St. Bernard's first Friday serving team, regularly lends her artistic talents to our menu board.*



### DINNER AT THE LAKE HOUSE

Mark your calendars to join us for lunch or dinner at the Lake House in St. Joe. on March 30, 2016.

They have graciously offered to donate 10% of their sales that entire day to the Soup Kitchen.

They have a great menu and there's something for everybody: <http://thelakehouserestaurant.com>

We hope to see you there and thank you for your support!

### 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.



### Thanksgiving Donation

Delaney McConnell (9) and Hannah Hyatt (10) are cousins (both my granddaughters) who were visiting for

the Thanksgiving weekend. They cooked up the idea of making and selling bracelets, including constructing the sales counter out of cardboard, signage all over my house, and price reductions on Black Friday.

When we suggested that the money should go for something that helps other people, they liked the idea of the Soup Kitchen. Being able to come down during serving hours and to present the money to you directly was a very valuable, positive experience for them. Thank you! - Barb Bannow

### 17TH ANNUAL SOUP BOWL

We are excited to announce that ALL 30 lanes for the 17th Annual 'Soup Bowl' tournament filled up in 24 hours!

The Soup Bowl will take place on Sunday, April 3, 2016 at 2 p.m. at Kelley's Bowl, 2705 Cleveland Avenue in St. Joe.

The Soup Kitchen would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their longtime partners and volunteers who have supported us and made the Soup Bowl possible all these years. We also appreciate all of our newer bowlers and donors and hope they'll be around for the next 17 years.

Didn't get a lane this year? You can still come down and cheer on your favorite team!

Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third places and the coveted traveling Team Spirit trophy will be presented to the team showing the most spirit, enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

See you on April 3!



### BOARD MEMBERS:

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

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