

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.soupk.org

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

1-269-925-8204

SUMMER 2018 EDITION

A NEW BEGINNING



Look for answers and do something positive and do some research until you are informed enough to make a good decision. Don't let past regrets hold you back. Tidy up unfinished business so you can move forward without

doubt and uncertainty. It's up to you to make this year productive. Right now, this is a new beginning for yourself and others as well. A new chapter in your life. Just remember to put God in your heart and also in your life because He will be there when no one else is.

You know, sometimes it's best to look back before you move forward and consider recent experiences and how they can help you. Make better choices; changes must be made for the right reasons. Explore your options and use your imagination to reach your goal, and you'll find that it's a new start in your life for a new beginning.

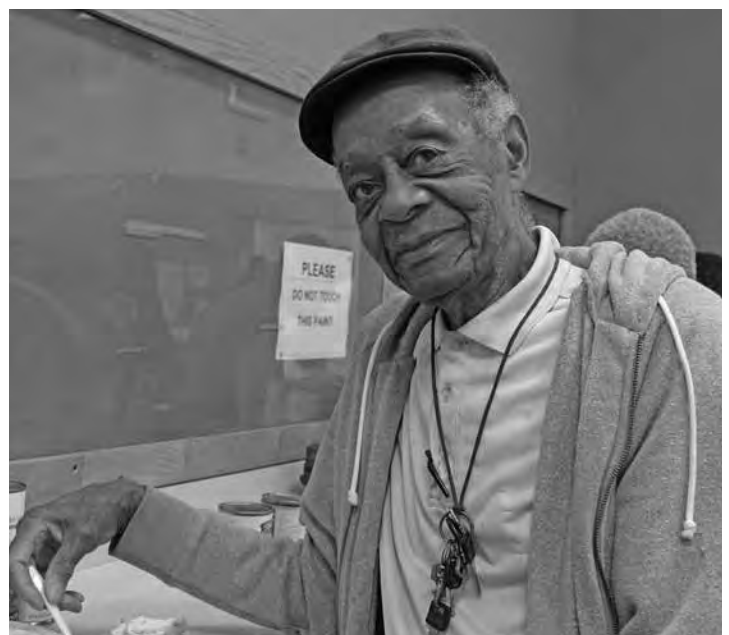
Don't let emotional matters cloud your vision or cause you to hesitate when you should be heading for the finish line. Trust in yourself and your skills and let past experiences be your guide for a brighter tomorrow.

Keep a clear head and an open mind as you move forward. Make every step count. This is your new beginning.

From the writings of Orlandis Cage



Ricky is making short work of the lunch provided by 1st Congregational of St. Joseph.



We enjoy chatting with our 97-year-old WWII vet, Joe Booth, every day.



The Just 5 Days group cleans up!



The Soup Kitchen was blessed with three full days of work from the Just 5 Days group of teens and adults from St. Collette's Catholic Church in Livonia. Just 5 Days is a Catholic summer youth mission that brings kids together to sing, pray and serve. Just 5 Days has groups carrying out these mission efforts in many states. The St. Joseph Catholic church hosted our youth workers and those in several other Just 5 Days groups in St. Joseph.

The Just 5 Days group cleaned our dining tables and chairs, edged the grass, sorted and organized the cans in the pantry(!), washed the bread racks, washed the cooler racks, and scrubbed the cooler walls. They spent the last half-day organizing and labeling all the #10 cans in the pantry. They also sorted out about 120 cans to be donated or discarded. All of that was days one and three. On day two they took over the regular Soup Kitchen activities of cooking and serving. They did a great job, and the Soup Kitchen is in much better shape.

I asked Isabella, one of the students, what she was feeling after volunteering here. She said, "I really learned to be grateful for what I have. There are people coming in here that have nothing. They are smiling and friendly, happy to have a place to come to see their friends. When I see that, it makes me realize how lucky I am to have my friends, my parents, and good church friends."



*Full house at
The Soup Kitchen.*

Bistro
ON THE BOULEVARD



A HEARTY "THANK YOU", BISTRO !

The 10th annual Soup Kitchen benefit dinner, held this year on April 29, 2018, at the Bistro on the Boulevard in St. Joseph, is being lauded by attendees as a truly exceptional event. We are thrilled to say that this opinion is shared by the Bistro's management.

The theme this year was to honor the memory of Barbara Whitwam, a founder and a guiding light for everyone ever involved in the Soup Kitchen. Barbara was universally acclaimed by everyone from those served by The Soup Kitchen to the thousands of volunteers over the years.

The Bistro is receiving top-shelf accolades from the diners/donors. They are also impressed that all the proceeds go directly to The Soup Kitchen. We thank the Boulevard President, Mark Whitwam; Executive Chef, Cheyenne Galbraith; Maitre d', Samer Badreddine; Reservations Coordinator, Kayla Betker; and each of the staffers for their professional and gracious service.

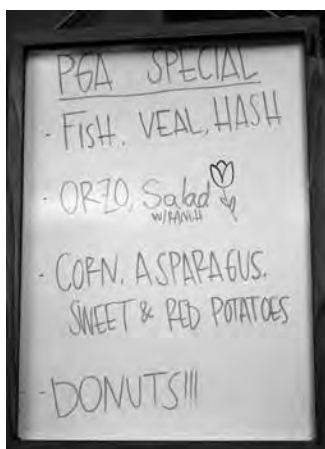
JOT DOWN THIS DATE

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019
ANNUAL DINNER BENEFIT AT THE BISTRO

2018 GOLF OUTING A SUCCESS

Our thanks to all the golfers and donors who made the 2018 Harbor Shores fundraiser a success. A beautiful June day in Michigan, a tremendous course, and great people made this another big day for helping those who will never be able to thank you all in person. So on their behalf, our thanks to these contributors:

LECO Corporation
The Schalon Foundation
Bill and Jane Marohn
The Golf Club at Harbor Shores
Lou Gast
Fred and Anita Grams
Sun Coast Packaging
The Marzke Foundation
Pri Mar Petroleum
Juli and KC Gast
Professional Hearing Services
1st Source Bank
Vail Rubber
Starks Family Funeral Homes
Pete and Kathy Whitehead
Blossomland Accounting
Les and Cindy Ashmore
Andy and Ann Takacs
Brian and Caryn McFall
The Mark III Grille and Bar
Grande Mere Inn
Bistro on the Boulevard



This is the Soup Kitchen menu board on one of the days following the Sr. PGA tournament. We received a large amount of food from the Harbor Shores kitchen. Executive Chef Kelly Matlow brought us some of his superb dishes, and we were happy to serve them. One of the big favorites in our dining room was the baked fish.

2018 SOUP BOWL PRIZES

Twenty-eight teams participated in this year's annual Soup Bowl tournament. Over 30 raffle prizes were given away.

Belmont Transfer won the Team Spirit Award. 1st place was taken by Team Ryan Fechner, 2nd place by Tosi's and 3rd place by Team Jerry Fechner.

Lunch consisted of Silver Beach pizzas, Martin's veggie trays and Bit of Swiss cookies. A big Thank You to our sponsors for that!

We hope to see you again at next year's event.



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 PROGRAMS

The Whirlpool Corporation matching gift program matches personal contributions of \$50 to \$10,000 with dollars from the Whirlpool Foundation. Full-time, salaried and hourly U.S. Whirlpool employees and retirees are eligible. Please, if you are eligible for matching gifts, please take that opportunity. Private foundations must distribute five percent of the value of their net investment assets annually. As for most things involving the IRS, it is a bit more complicated than that, but 5% is close. So you are not imposing by requesting a matching gift. You are helping to direct money that they must donate. Because of your support, the Whirlpool Foundation is always one of our top five revenue sources. The Soup Kitchen office can email you the matching gifts form.

The Thrivent Choice® program is a charitable grant program that allows members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable grant funds each year.

Eligible members invited to direct Choice Dollars can recommend where Thrivent should distribute some of its charitable funds among thousands of enrolled 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations, including The Soup Kitchen Inc. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or ask your representative for more information.

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.

In short, 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.

NEW TAX PLAN

Can You Still Write off Your Gifts to the Soup Kitchen?

Tax reform is here. As with any economic change, you may be looking at your finances and wondering how you will be impacted. With this new legislation, the tax benefits of your 2018 charitable giving may be impacted, particularly if you itemize today.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provides for several new lower tax rates, nearly doubles the standard deduction, and eliminates personal exemptions and almost all itemized deductions. Although the legislation maintains the current-law income tax charitable deduction, it will significantly reduce the number of taxpayers who itemize and effectively eliminate the income tax charitable deduction for a vast majority of Americans.

None of us knows the end results of these law changes. My very non-scientific observations are that our regular donors are continuing to support the Soup Kitchen.

WE THANK YOU. You are the reason that hundreds of our neighbors will not go hungry today.

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BOARD MEMBERS:	
Les Ashmore	Alex Schaeffer
Rob Burgess	Andy Takacs
KC Gast	Paula Vogie
Debbie Gillespie	Chris Woodruff
Sue Pscholka	
Rob Romano	

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