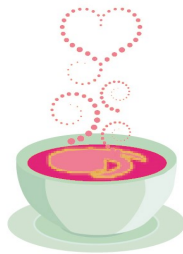


Mission:

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 • 269-925-8204 • Winter 2022 EDITION

Yes, the Dining Room is Open Again!

Some things have not changed—folks still wait patiently in line while they help the servers get their trays ready.



Most readers of this newsletter either volunteer or donate to the Soup Kitchen.

For those who do not come in to help in person, please know that dozens of our guests say “Thank You” every day.



They are grateful for the food, computers, telephones, and the two hours of shelter and safety that the Soup Kitchen provides every day of the year.

Daily Counts are Lower?

There are several reasons why fewer people are coming in to eat now. We know that at least 20 of our guests died from Covid-19 infection.

The Salvation Army’s shelter closed in the summer for repairs and has not reopened. Besides supplying a daily stream of shelter residents, it is also a significant source of referrals to the Soup Kitchen. Another factor is that people arrested now are going to jail. That was not the case during the pandemic.

Looking at the dining room now, you will notice that people no longer sit side-by-side. They sit singly at the four sides of the tables. The guests know that many people living downtown remain unvaccinated for Covid-19, so they don’t want to get too close. Despite the many vaccination clinics held here since 2019, we only fully vaccinated about 40 people, and not all of those were guests.

Looking forward to this winter, we hope it is mild for the sake of the homeless. No matter the weather or day of the year, the Soup Kitchen is open for anyone needing a warm meal and a safe place to relax for a few hours.

The Soup Kitchen has entered its 43rd year of service because of you, our volunteers and donors. Thank you.

EVENTS COMING BACK!



The Soup Kitchen's popular **Euchre Tournament** is coming back on Sunday, February 5 at the Livery in Benton Harbor. It's everyone for themselves in this contest, and there are prizes for the day's top players. There are also door prizes to be won and everyone stands an equal chance of winning one of three prizes from local restaurants. And as always, there is delicious Livery Pizza for all! For more information, watch our website www.soupk.org for start time and sign-up information or contact kcgast@yahoo.com.

Register online right now! igfn.us/form/EOBksQ



BISTRO BENEFIT DINNER

The **Bistro Dinner** to benefit the Soup Kitchen is scheduled for Sunday, April 23. Enjoy some of the best food in Southwest Michigan and support the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen at the same time. A portion of your meal will be tax deductible, and receipts will be mailed following the event. Invitations will be mailed in March, or watch our website www.soupk.org for more information. Contact kcgast@yahoo.com with any questions you might have regarding this year's seating times and menu options. If you have not attended in the past, please call the office (925-8204) to receive an invitation.



Another round of the exciting **Gillespie Soup Bowl** is scheduled for Sunday, March 26 at Striker's Bowl in Saint Joseph. \$120.00 will qualify your foursome (or fivesome) to win prizes and enjoy all the Silver Beach Pizza you'd like. There will be many, many auction items as usual and there will be some new items this year, too. Watch www.soupk.org for info regarding schedule for the day's events and sign-ups, or contact kcgast@yahoo.com for more info. The photo above is the graphic from one of our past year's team's shirts. We guarantee you will have a great time at the Gillespie Soup Bowl. Look above, even the bowling ball is smiling!

New EVENT for the WHOLE Family!



... Well, it's almost new.

We held our first **Cornhole for a Cause** tournament last June, and it was so successful that we are going to do it again.

We do not have tournament details at this time, but they will be published in the Spring newsletter and updated on our website.

The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen is made possible by the contributions of our sponsoring Organizations and Volunteers.

The Soup Kitchen is staffed daily by volunteer groups of all types. Most groups donate the food for their day at the Soup Kitchen. Volunteers contribute over \$450,000 worth of work every year.

Without you, The Soup Kitchen would not exist.

Serving Groups:

- 1st Source Bank
- Anchor Church of God
- Andrews Korean SDA Church
- Berrien Unitarian Universalist Church
- Chef's Corner
- Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Christian Reformed Church of St Joseph
- Coloma United Methodist Church
- Fairplain Presbyterian Church
- First Congregational Church, St. Joseph
- First Presbyterian Church, Benton Harbor
- First United Methodist Church, St. Joseph
- Friends of Soup Kitchen
- Harbor Country Progress
- Hartford United Methodist
- Highland Avenue SDA Church
- Michigan State Police
- Moms With A Mission
- My Mother's Soup Kitchen
- Napier Parkview Baptist Church
- Our Lady of the Lake High School
- Peace Lutheran Church
- Pioneer Memorial Church
- Saron Lutheran Church
- Scottdale United Methodist Church
- Second Baptist Church
- St. Augustine of Canterbury Church
- St. Bernard's Parish
- St. John's Catholic Church
- St. Joseph Catholic Church, Saint Joseph
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Stevensville United Methodist Church
- Storyline Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Berrien Springs
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Saint Joseph
- Woodland Shores Baptist Church
- Zion Evangelical UCC of Saint Joseph
- Zion United Church of Christ, Baroda

Other Volunteers:

- Christmas Day — Wallace Family and Friends
- Thanksgiving Day — Grande Mere Inn, food, and Community Volunteers
- Dozens of community service volunteers

Regular Donors:

- Baroda Lions Club
- Benton Harbor Bee Company
- Boulevard Hotel
- Cherry Knoll Exchange
- Dini Communications
- Falak Farms
- The Flour Shop
- Lineage Logistics
- Hillside Farm
- Memories of India
- MI Dad's Farm
- Panera Bread
- RB Miller Farms
- Silver Beach Pizza (Valpo Pizza Inc.)
- The Livery
- ThompTech Web & Computer Services
- Twin City Chicks
- Whirlpool Test Kitchen

Board of Directors

- Sharon Austin
- K.C. Gast, President and Secretary
- Ashlee Hacker
- Rob Romano, Vice President
- Alex Schaeffer, Treasurer
- Yolanda Thrash
- Chris Woodruff

Thank you, Everyone!



For All You Do...

On Sunday afternoon, September 25, our volunteers were invited to get together for some fun in downtown Benton Harbor. The Livery provided us with the setting for a great time to honor our volunteers. And a great time it was!

We had live 60s and 70s music, craft beverages, and gourmet brats—all at no charge to Soup Kitchen volunteers and their guests. We had over eighty volunteers and staff enjoy the show and each other's company. It went so well we'll likely do this again. Please note: we know that some of our volunteers don't eat meat, and NEXT TIME, we'll make some provisions for that. In the meantime, be thinking about next year and when the word goes out, put your RSVP in early. And as always, thank you for what you do. You are a blessing to all!

Why?

After a difficult day, a volunteer often asks, "Why do you do this job?" My answer is that the Soup Kitchen is the first step on the ladder to a better day, better choice, and better life.

A young man and woman came to my office to ask permission to put up posters for "Carol's Hope," a 24-hour crisis intervention facility for addicts. I was pleased to post the flyers.

I felt like I'd seen the young man before and tried to place him. I finally asked, "Don't I know you?" He answered, "Yes, Ma'am. I ate here for five years before I got clean.

That is a better answer to the question, "why."

Party for Volunteers

Photos below of some of the party goers enjoying the afternoon at The Livery.



SOUP KITCHEN DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Soup Kitchen is a non-profit, 501(c)(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 federal law.** Please consult your tax advisor for further information on the tax benefits of your generous donation.

