

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.



Learn about The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen.
Read all the newsletters.
Donate any time.
www.soupk.org

The Benton Harbor
Soup Kitchen

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION • 1-269-925-8204 • WINTER 2017 EDITION

4-12-2016

I'VE BEEN COMING IN HERE FOR TWO WEEKS. EACH TIME THE FOOD HAS BEEN ABOVE EXCELLENT. THE STAFF IS VERY KIND AND COURTEOUS - THEY SERVE AND TREAT ALL OF US THE SAME. THEY ALSO DEAL WITH ALL THE NEEDED. THEY ALSO TOLERATES A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE THAT COME DOWN HERE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE SERVICE, YOUNG CHILDREN, HOMELESS, ETC. WHAT EVERY ONE ESPECIALLY THE ADULTS NEED TO BE MORE CONSIDERATE AND RESPECTFUL TO OTHERS THAT REALLY NEED THE SERVICE.

THANKS FOR ALL OF YOU - BECAUSE YOU REALLY ARE SERVING THE COMMUNITY. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE

Owen
Claire

TO THE
SOUP KITCHEN

Chloe N.

Bradley

Sydia

LUCK N.

Jemma

SILAS N.

CLAIRE

FROM
CHRISTIAN REFORMED
SONG TIME KIDS

SOUP KITCHEN EVENTS FOR 2018

Euchre Tournament, January 28

Soup Bowl, March 18

Bistro Dinner, April 29

Golf Classic at Harbor Shores, June 11

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. If you are eligible, please make the match. 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 501c(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. 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.



New Employee Howard Carter

I am a native of Benton harbor and I graduated from Benton Harbor High School. I have volunteered for several non-profit organizations and political campaigns in the city. I was volunteering and serving on the board at Cycle-Re-Cycle when I met Merry, the Executive Director of the Soup Kitchen. I started volunteering at the Soup Kitchen last summer, and I joined the staff last August.

I enjoy helping others. My years of supporting the Benton Harbor Community and the people here have taught me that helping others grows on you, and you want to do more. I am now trying to find any way I can to support the positive things in my community because Benton Harbor is home. I am working to get everybody to realize that we have to help each other. Together we can make it better.

I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to help others, and I thank those who have blessed me to bless others.



BOARD MEMBERS:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| Les Ashmore | KC Gast | Paula Vogie |
| Sharon Austin | Debbie Gillespie | Chris Woodruff |
| Sue Bailey | Rob Romano | |
| Rob Burgess | Andy Takacs | |



Terri

It's fun to come here, but it ain't the Soup Kitchen, it's the people. This place helps everyone that comes in here. I come here to meet everybody, and it's good to

communicate with the people. The volunteers work hard to make it nice.

It's the Lord gets these church people to come in here to feed us. So we get a good meal, and sitdown, relax, and enjoy talking with people. The Soup Kitchen, they help everybody.

I'm disabled. I get Social Security, and that's a help. But it only takes one thing to go wrong and you can't make it. The Soup Kitchen helps me with food every day. I used to get \$16 a month in food stamps, and now it is \$15. Some months you just can't make it.

Why do you do this?

From the Executive Director's Desk

The volunteers called me to the window to talk with someone about a donation. I recognized Eddie. He had been in the shelter about a year and a half ago, and he came in to eat lunch every day. Eddie stood out because he was always quiet and respectful. His discomfort with the shelter made me think it was his first time in such a place.

But today Eddie was not back in the shelter. He came in to make a donation. In his words, "I'm doing a lot better now. I wanted to come back here to thank you. The food is always good here, but I didn't need to come to eat today, I came to thank you." I assured Eddie that I remembered him. Besides being quiet and polite, Eddie always thanked the volunteers for the food.

He continued, "You know, this place is really nice and welcoming. And the food is good – a lot better than the shelter. But the best thing to me is the prayer. You know, the reminder that people care and tomorrow is going to be better."

That is why I do this job. To make sure this place is here for all the Eddies who need a good meal and a friendly place to be for a little while.

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA WHITWAM . . .

The Soup Kitchen's 10th Annual Dinner Benefit will be very, very special!



On Sunday, April 29, 2018, this event will be dedicated to the remembrance of Barbara Whitwam, a founder, benefactor and a special friend of the countless number of people who enjoyed a warm meal at The Soup Kitchen since 1980. This dinner will be held at a different and prominent new venue, The Bistro on the Boulevard in the Boulevard Inn, 521 Lake Boulevard, St. Joseph, MI.

Otherwise, the 2018 version of this popular dinner event will be in the same format as in past years, with seatings from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The donation is still \$80 per person and includes your choice of an entrée, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, a selection of fine wines, beer and gratuity, and a cash bar for cocktails. All proceeds will go to The Soup Kitchen.

The unique feature of this fund-raising event is that there are no silent or live auctions, 50-50's, raffles, or speeches . . . just an exquisite dinner with friends in the elegant ambience of the Bistro.

The invitation packet will be mailed early next year to past diners and donors. The invitation packet includes a description of the event, a menu card for your choice of entrée, and the procedure for making your donation and reservation times. Since this event has reached maximum capacity in recent years, it is suggested that you make your reservation early.

This is The Soup Kitchen's major fund-raising event each year, which is vital to our serving about 50,000 warm meals annually.

Learn about The Soup Kitchen.

Read all the newsletters.

Donate any time.

www.soupk.org





The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen is made possible by the contributions of our sponsoring organizations and volunteers. Without you we would not exist.

The Soup Kitchen in Benton Harbor is staffed by volunteers from churches or businesses. Most groups donate the food for their day at the Soup Kitchen. They also cook, serve and help with light clean-up in the kitchen.

- Andrews Korean SDA Church
- Baroda Church of God
- Berrien County Council for Children
- Berrien Springs Middle School Classroom
- Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Christian Reformed Church of St Joseph
- Church of the Mediator
- Coloma United Methodist Church
- Covenant Christian 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 
- Honor Credit Union 
- Martin's Supermarkets
- Maytag Commercial Laundry Group
- Moms With A Mission
- Napier Parkview Baptist Church
- Peace Lutheran Church
- Pioneer Memorial Church
- Saron Lutheran Church
- Scottdale United Methodist Church
- Second Baptist Church
- Southwest Michigan Newcomers Club
- St Augustine of Canterbury Church
- St Bernard's Parish
- St John's Catholic Church
- St Joseph Catholic Church, Saint Joseph, MI
- St Paul's Episcopal Church
- Stevensville United Methodist Church
- Storyline Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church - St. Joseph
- Trinity Lutheran Church - Berrien Springs
- Union Memorial A.M.E. Church
- Washington Avenue Church of God

- Woodland Shores Baptist Church
- Zion Evangelical UCC of Saint Joseph
- Zion United Church of Christ - Baroda



OTHER VOLUNTEERS: 

- Dave and Sheryl Vander Ploeg - bread pickup
- John Styf - bread pickup
- Mike Whittaker - bread pickup
- Christmas Day - Lulenski Family and Friends
- Thanksgiving Day - Grande Mere Inn
- Lake Michigan College Food Service
- Several dozen community service volunteers

REGULAR DONORS:

- Bob Evans Restaurant
- Falak Farms
- The Flour Shop
- Golden Brown Bakery
- Hanson Logistics
- Hillside Farm
- Martin's Supermarkets
- Memories of India
- Panera Bread
- RB Miller Farms - peaches, cherries, blueberries
- Silver Beach Pizza
- ThompTech.com Computer Repair -- Website & Internet Services
- Twin City Chicks/Benton Harbor Bee Company
- Whirlpool Test Kitchen

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Leslie Ashmore
- Sharon Austin
- Sue Bailey, Treasurer
- Rob Burgess
- K.C. Gast, Vice President and Secretary
- Deb Gillespie, President
- Rob Romano 
- Andy Takacs 
- Paula Vogie
- Chris Woodruf 