



Celebrating 50 Years of Hope

Food with a Side of Hope

For fifty years Church Community Services has been providing help and hope to those in need of food. Deb Krawiec has been a faithful volunteer in our food pantry since 2011 and she has seen firsthand the hope CCS provides. Deb says that often she knows we are offering guests hope with few words being said. "It's just the guests hugging me and thanking us for being there," she says. Many guests tell Deb that their adult kids have moved back in or they suddenly find themselves raising their grandkids. They really don't have anywhere to turn, and rely on us to be there for them. Deb shares, "so often, their attitudes are amazing! The guests are all in the same boat and they give to each other. For example, maybe they have the last box of Cheerios and the family with kids behind them doesn't get any, so they take it out of their cart and give it to them! I had



Deb Krawiec, Food Pantry Volunteer

one gentleman that didn't take as much food as he was allowed, but he didn't see anything else he needed. He was ready to bag up his groceries and he heard me talking to a mom with kids. She, on the other hand, had 2 or 3 items more than allowed, and he asked if he could take them as part of his total and then give them to her!! We said yes, of course! I love that attitude; in the face of adversity, our guests often see others as 'worse off' than they are and they want to make sure everyone has something."

Deb goes on to explain, "I've had people in tears saying that they never thought they'd find themselves in a food pantry." She feels that adults often have a harder time coming into the food pantry than the kids do. "The kids are great, they just think they're going to the 'store' to get groceries! The kids are often the reason parents will come to the
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A Victorian Tea with Ruth and Friends

For the 16th year, Ruth and friends will be hosting a Victorian Christmas Tea with proceeds benefiting our Soup of Success program. Ruth Rockwell, a retired nurse, loves all things Victorian and came up with the idea of hosting a tea as a way to give back to the Elkhart community. "There is so much need right here in Elkhart," Ruth says, "especially for women who are alone. That's why I love supporting Soup of Success, because many of the participants are women trying to make it on their own. Women need to help other women."

Attendees will be taken back in time and treated to delicious teas and a wide variety of fancy edibles. Guests can enjoy Bingo, formal portraits, and live Christmas music by the Cool Change Band & Friends, as well as youth singers from the Premier Arts Choir. Vendors will be selling a wide array of specialty products, and the popular gift baskets, featuring unique treasures, will again be on sale. There is even a special room designed for our younger guests. Weather permitting you can even go back in time with a ride in an award winning 1929 Model A Ford!

Since 2002 the event has raised over \$77,000 for the Soup of Success program. "It is such a blessing to be able to give back and do what the Bible instructs us to do, which is to help our brothers and sisters in need."

This year's event is on December 1st from 1-4 p.m. at Living Faith Fellowship, 2601 Benham Avenue in Elkhart. Entry is a suggested donation of \$5 and a non-perishable food pantry item.



Ruth Rockwell, Tea with Ruth and Friends Organizer

Seed to Feed Receives Grant, Moves Greenhouse and Brings in 1 Millionth Pound of Produce!

Seed to Feed relocated its greenhouse to be on CCS property in September! With the the guidance of two representatives from the greenhouse manufacturer, help from over 40 volunteers, and some CCS staff involvement, we were able to tear down our greenhouse and rebuild it in just 3 days! Not only did we get the greenhouse moved, but raised beds were installed and we have already begun planting seeds for the winter season. We are excited to now have access to electricity, heat and water year-round. We were able to do this with the help of donors and a grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. If you are interested in helping out in the greenhouse, please contact Morgan, mshort@churchcommunityservices.org

Seed to Feed received it's 1 millionth pound of produce since the program's inception in 2011! We are so grateful for the numerous volunteers, gardeners and farmers that have embraced this program. They all have a passion to make nutritious food accessible to those struggling in our community. Bringing in the millionth pound were volunteers from Creekside Church of the Brethren, Karen Lewallen and Ron Green. Creekside has been faithfully growing produce for us since 2014. Pastor Rosanna McFadden shared "We have grown more than vegetables in our gardens: we have planted and tended relationships which extend beyond the boundaries of our church property. "



Dwight Fish, City Council, Tom McArthur, CCS Director, Pete McCown, President Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Morgan Short, Seed to Feed Coordinator



Karen Lewallen and Ron Green from Creekside Church of The Brethren

Welcome Jen and Thank You, Gwen!

Jen is our new Volunteer Coordinator! A native of California, Jen moved to Elkhart with her husband and two young kids last October. While working as an accountant, she spent her spare hours donating her time to organizations that help fight poverty and support women in times of need. When she isn't working, she also loves reading, crafting, dancing with her kids, and playing games with her family. We are so excited to have her join us at Church Community Services!

In September, Gwen Hershberger, our volunteer coordinator, retired after 8 years of working at CCS. "Gwen has been the glue around here that keeps this place running smoothly. Everything that we do, from helping guests in our pantry to teaching women in our Soup of Success program, is done with the help of volunteers. And Gwen is the one who finds our volunteers and helps them discover how and where they each want to serve. She has a real talent for this and we and our volunteers will miss her," said Tom McArthur, executive director. Best wishes on your next great adventure, Gwen!



Jen McOwen and Gwen Hershberger

Give gifts that give back!

Aren't sure what to give someone who has everything? How about purchasing a pig in their name? For only \$125 you can buy a pig for the pantry and help feed those who are hungry!

Your gift will provide 125 lbs (that's 665 USDA servings) of ground pork to those in need in your community!

Make checks payable to CCS and note on the memo line "Pigs for the Pantry" OR

Donate online at churchcommunityservices.org by designating \$125 to "Pigs for the Pantry".



Soup of Success gift baskets support women working to transform their lives in Elkhart County! You can customize your basket with Soup of Success soup, dip or dessert mixes and other assorted treats. Ribbon imprinting with your company's name is available! We deliver locally and ship nationwide. Prices start as low as \$30. Stop in our store at 907 Oakland Ave or call 523-1551 to order today!

Soup of Success Store Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 am-4 pm Friday 9 am- 2 pm

Extended shopping hours Tuesdays Dec 4, 22 & 18
9am-7pm

Visit www.churchcommunityservices.org to learn which bazaars will feature Soup of Success products!

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pantry. When they look at their kids they see hope and a reason to keep going, and they turn to Church Community Services to sustain that hope," she says. Guests know they can get healthy food and often fresh veggies for their family through our food pantry and accompanying Seed to Feed program that provides local fresh produce and protein. "Guests come from all walks of life. Many are not the 'stereotypical' down on their luck people you might expect. Often guests look like you or me. Anyone can hit a bump on the road. There are car repairs that come up, illness or injury, any number of things. No matter what life throws at you, you still have to eat, and if we can help out once in awhile or every month, we want to be there for our neighbors. We really are the hands and feet of Jesus," Deb says.

A graphic for "Holiday Open Houses" with a light blue background. It features a large red star with the "SOUP OF SUCCESS" logo inside. To the right is a stylized Christmas tree with red stars and a red house at its base. The text "Join Us!" is written in a cursive font. Below the star, the dates "Saturdays November 3 and December 1" and the time "9 am-2 pm" are listed, along with the address "907 Oakland Avenue, Elkhart". At the bottom, it says "Shop, taste & be merry!" with small red stars.

Meijer Simply Give Campaign



From Nov 18-Dec 29, for every \$10 Simply Give donation card you purchase at the Meijer in Goshen, Meijer will also donate \$10 to CCS. A Double Match Day will take place Fri, Dec 7. During that day Meijer will double match every customer's \$10 donation card purchased. That means that day for every \$10 Simply Give card you buy, CCS will receive \$30 to spend on food for our pantry!



You are cordially invited to
*A Victorian Tea
with Ruth and Friends*

to benefit
Soup of Success

Saturday, December 1, 2018
1:00-4:00 pm
Living Faith Fellowship
2601 Benham Avenue
Elkhart, IN

\$5 suggested donation and a non-perishable food pantry item.

Special thanks to Phid and Jeff Wells and Frank and Marsha Martin for supporting our 50th birthday generously!

Church Community Services
PO Box 2346
907 Oakland Ave
Elkhart, IN 46515

Return Service Requested

We can't serve without YOU.
Thank YOU for building
positive change!

Calendar

Nov. 3: Soup of Success Open House 9-2

Nov. 3: Stuff-A-Bus at Martin's at Cobblestone

Dec. 1: Soup of Success Open House 9-2 and Victorian Tea with Ruth and Friends 1-4

Dec. 7: Meijer Simply Give Double Match Day

Food Pantry Needs

Canned soups, meat and vegetables

Cereals (hot and cold)

Crackers

Rice

Hamburger Helper-like meal helpers

Peanut butter

Jelly

Condiments

Boxed potatoes

Cash donations allow the pantry to purchase items at an unbeatable price of 18 cents a pound.

Diapers

Personal care and hygiene items

Follow Church Community Services and Soup of Success!



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Did you know that when you make purchases through Amazon, 0.5% of the price of your AmazonSmile eligible purchases can be donated to CCS? Support CCS by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Volunteers Needed!

The Soup of Success program needs volunteers to help in the Soup of Success Store for half day shifts during December. Shifts are from 9 a.m.—12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.—4 p.m.

The Seed to Feed program needs individuals to help weed and harvest in our greenhouse.

The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to assist the Food Pantry Director as we serve our guests Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We also need people to drive our box trucks and vans for food pick-up.

If you are interested contact Jen McOwen at 295-3673 ext. 112 or volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org

Go Green and Save Us Green!

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email, contact Hayley to join our list! htessier@churchcommunityservices.org

Financial Services Hours

Monday and Thursday: 9am-11:45am & 1pm-3:45pm

Wednesday: 9am-11:45am

Tuesday and Friday: Closed



Food Pantry Hours

Monday 11am-3pm

Wednesday 11am-3pm

Thursday 11am-3pm & 4-7pm



Food Pantry