



Fall 2017



# Church Community Services

*empowering positive change*

## Harvest Time is Here

Church Community Services has “harvested” four new staff members. I am the new Executive Director, attempting to fill the over-sized shoes of Rod Roberson, who is now the Director of Co-Curriculum for the Elkhart school system. Joining me is Hayley Tessier, our Development Associate, Morgan Short, our Seed-to-Feed Coordinator and Teresa Clifford, our Soup of Success Production Manager.

The 11 gardens of our Seed-to-Feed program have harvested 35,000 pounds of produce and we have “harvested” a new group of women who are now immersed in our Soup of Success program. They are busy rebuilding their lives and preparing soup, cookie and dip mixes in time for the holiday season.

Elkhart County’s economy has never been stronger and yet we still feed 5,600 people a month from our food pantry – that’s nearly 11% of Elkhart’s population. In fact, every 20 minutes we help a new family in our pantry with food to help them make ends meet. I am proud that CCS is a first line of defense for families living on the edge, as Jesus said: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Our greatest service, however, will be to help our struggling brothers and sisters lift themselves out of the day-to-day crisis of living in poverty. Our Soup of Success program is a life-changing program we offer. Future programs will emphasize the same impact. Thank you for helping us to help people survive their day-to-day struggles, and please continue to invest in us as we work to find solutions to poverty that will benefit our entire community.

Blessings,  
Tom McArthur

## New Faces



**Tom McArthur**  
Executive Director



**Morgan Short**  
Seed to Feed  
Coordinator



**Hayley Tessier, MSSW**  
Development  
Associate



**Teresa Clifford**  
Soup of Success  
Production Manager

## 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](mailto:htessier@churchcommunityservices.org)

## A Bountiful Season

Summer is a prosperous and rewarding season for the Seed to Feed community. From building relationships with others working in the gardens, to seeing the excitement displayed on our pantry guests' faces at the abundance of produce, it has been a fulfilling few months. This year we had 12 gardens bringing in produce from all over the county, providing over 35,000 pounds of produce to our guests. In order to offer produce to our guests in the winter months, Creekside Church of the Brethren, with the help of students from Merit Learning Center, processed 2,014 pounds of tomatoes for freezing. We also received about one ton of meat from animals auctioned off at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair Animal Auction! As a supplement to our garden produce, mid-September we received another shipment of watermelon, and at the end of October, we anticipate an abundance of potatoes. Looking forward, we hope to start using the greenhouse for root crops in late fall! As this year's season winds down, we will prep the fields for the winter and begin the search for new gardens to join our crew next summer.



## Food Pantry

Each month nearly 1,600 guests visit our pantry and take food back to their families, for a total of 5,600 people receiving food. Of our guests each month, 100 are people who have never come to the pantry before or have not used the pantry in the last two years.

The food pantry relies on the support of community members, groups and businesses to help us feed those in need. We have been blessed with several food drives held in our honor from groups such as the Concord Marching Band, Elkhart Clinic, Bad Entertainment, Greenleaf Living Center, Martin's Super Markets and Heritage Acceptance Corporation. We were also the grateful recipients of over 90,000 pounds of watermelon from Kerlikowski Family Farms, Inc. Thank you!

## A Busy Time For Soup of Success!

This September we welcomed our new class of participants into the Soup of Success Program, a 20 week life-skills and job training program.

Lippert Components, Inc. has had an enormous positive impact on the Soup Of Success program over the past year. The Operational Excellence department streamlined our warehouse, improving the flow of our mitten production significantly. Employees have also gathered for multiple volunteer work nights to help us with production of all of our lines. Milo Konefal, Director of Operational Excellence at LCI, just completed training his second Soup Of Success class in "Service Plus" and "Continuous Improvement – LEAN 101." The women are shown below with their certificates.

In addition, Soup of Success is turning 20! A celebration is being planned as well as two open houses to assist you with your Christmas gift giving!



## Financial Services

The most requested need for financial assistance Church Community Services sees is for rent. This was the case for Janice, a single mom who shared with us that at the same time her utilities were being shut off, the housing manager handed her an eviction notice. You see, a rule imposed by HUD (Housing and Urban Development) is that if a utility is disconnected, the renter is immediately given an eviction notice and within 48 hours they must vacate the home. Janice is working hard to make ends meet, but because she is working at minimum wage, she finds it difficult to meet her family's basic needs. She wants to get ahead and give her child a stable home environment and a chance for a

good future, but she struggles just with day-to-day living. Fortunately, we were able to partner with a local church to assist Janice with getting her utilities reconnected. In addition to the financial help we referred Janice to the Soup of Success program to help her build her resources and secure a more hopeful and stable future.

## Headlock on Hunger Helps Again!



Rick Logsdon, Jasmine Miller and their team at Texas Roadhouse



Michael Downing, our Food Services Director, with Elkhart Indian Motorcycle owners Chris and Ann Schelle

For the 9th year Texas Roadhouse in Elkhart sponsored their “Headlock on Hunger” event to raise food and funds for Church Community Services. Over the course of several weeks they gathered food and donations, and their efforts culminated on Sunday, August 6 with a WWE Wrestling event. All said, they raised over \$10,000 to support our work! In addition, Elkhart Indian Motorcycle and riders group organized a scavenger hunt that raised even more funds and much needed personal hygiene supplies. We appreciate their support!

## Soup of Success Staff Changes



After 11 years of service, Amy Brock retired on July 18. She touched the lives of hundreds of SOS women and thousands of volunteers. (Luckily for us, she still volunteers on Tuesdays!) We are pleased to welcome Teresa Clifford as the new Soup Of Success production manager. She is filling some big shoes with grace and humor. If you are interested in scheduling a volunteer work time with a group or as an individual, please contact Teresa at 574-523-1551 x111.

## Meet our new Mennonite Service Volunteer!

Jennifer Rey Villagra began her year with us in September. Her work will focus on the food pantry but she will also be helping throughout the agency. Jennifer’s first language is Spanish and we are grateful for her ability to translate for our Spanish speaking guests.

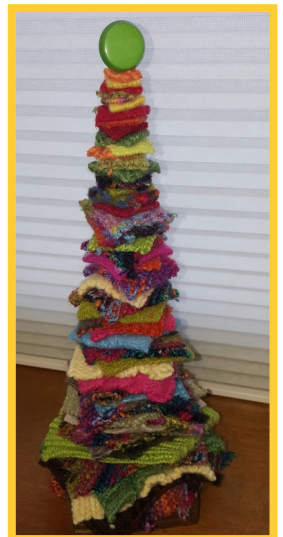


## Christmas is Coming!

It’s not too early to start thinking about the holidays! Soup of Success has a number of tasty and beautiful items that make wonderful gifts.

Besides our popular food line that includes soup, cookie and dip mixes, we also carry an upcycled textile line. We take wool sweaters and repurpose the vast majority of each one. “Mittens on a Mission” have been incredibly popular over the past few years and now we have added decorative trees (3 sizes) and positive word signs that utilize the zipper of each sweater.

For more information, or to buy gifts, visit [www.soupofofsuccess.com](http://www.soupofofsuccess.com), attend an Open House November 4 or December 2 from 9-2 or stop by our office during business hours.



You might also consider a gift that keeps giving. For those on your list who are hard to buy for, or who already have everything, why not make a donation to Church Community Services in their honor for Christmas? What better gift than to know you are helping your neighbors in need!

Church Community Services  
PO Box 2343  
907 Oakland Ave  
Elkhart, IN 46515

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

### Calendar

**October 14:** Stuff-a-Bus

**November 4:** Soup of Success Birthday Party and Open House 9-2

**December 2:** Soup of Success Open House 9-2

**December 2:** Tea With Ruth 1-4

**March 22:** Silent No More

### 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.

**amazon**smile  
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](https://smile.amazon.com).

### Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteers who can work in the following areas:

- A weekly shift in the food pantry Mon, Wed or Thursday
- Manage The Soup of Success (SOS) Store for 3-4 daytime hours weekly or help at holiday craft fairs and bazaars where we sell SOS merchandise
- Groups of 6-25 to help with Soup of Success food or textile production
- Oct thru Dec: persons who could take a shift in the Soup of Success Store
- Nov and Dec: delivery people for Soup of Success products
- March thru May: assisting in the Seed to Feed greenhouse



### You're Invited!

Soup Of Success is turning TWENTY years old and we are throwing a party!

Saturday, November 4 from 9-2 at Church Community Services. Join us for cake, chances to win prizes and much, much more!

### 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

Tuesday and Friday: Closed

