



Celebrating Our Volunteers



We had so much fun celebrating our volunteers the evening of April 9th. We enjoyed delicious pie donated by United Pies and entertainment by Brainblast Productions. We were happy to honor three volunteers this year. Mollie Krider (far left) was awarded Volunteer of the Year, Sue Pippenger was awarded Souper Woman of the Year for her work with Soup Of Success and Matthew Rody (not pictured) won our Servant's Heart Award. Our volunteers are valued more than you can imagine. Thank you for the gift of your time, your hard work, and your presence. You make things happen at CCS!

New Youth Gardening Initiative

This summer we are launching the Seed to Feed Teen Growers Program! The program will offer education, mentorship, and a meaningful paid summer job for up to 8 teens living in Elkhart.

We are so excited about the potential of this program, but we can't do it without YOUR help! The Seed to Feed gardening community has made such an impact on the lives of pantry guests. Now, together, let's make an impact on the lives of youth in our community. To learn more or sponsor an intern, go to www.churchcommunityservices.org/teen-growers



Greenhouse Harvest Mornings

The response to our greenhouse harvest time on Monday morning has been wonderful. Pantry guests are invited to help harvest, and in return they leave with an extra bag of produce. During greenhouse harvest time, pantry guests are not only enjoying harvesting peas or turnip greens, but people are connecting through swapping recipes and garden stories.

Gardening Season Almost Here

We are on the brink of the planting season for our Seed to Feed program, and we are thrilled to have a record-breaking 20 gardens lined up so far! If you would like to help in any of these gardens, or start one of your own to support Seed to Feed, please contact Chelsea at crisser@churchcommunityservices.org.

Production Gardens

- Barella Garden
- Community Corrections Garden
- Creskide Church of the Brethren Garden
- Elcona Country Club Garden
- Graber Farm
- Pleasant View Garden
- Zion Church Garden

Community Learning Gardens

- Brady Street Garden
- CCS Gardens
- Elkhart General Hospital Garden
- Goshen Health Garden
- Seeds of Faith Garden
- Southgate Crossing Children's Garden

Partner Gardens

- 4-H Fairground Farm
- Bullard Garden
- Elkhart Airport Community Garden
- French Garden
- Goshen Garden
- Shantz Garden
- Wellfield Gardens

Thank you, Thank you!



We are so grateful to Trinity Lutheran Church & School for adopting Church Community Services for their Lenten Service Project. Their goal was to raise \$5000 in cash and 300 food items, but they ended up with \$6500 and 1200 food items! We truly appreciate the ongoing support of your congregation!!



Thank you Clay Church in South Bend for your donation of Nutri-Plenty meals as part of your Pack Away Hunger initiative. Picture above of James Doster loading our truck!



Thank you to the bands Killswitch and Unsupervised and the DAV for organizing a fun night of music and dancing with proceeds benefiting our food pantry!



We are so grateful to Linton's for including us as part of their Easter Egg-straordinair! Customer's who brought food donations for our food pantry were able to get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny!



We are so grateful for the dedication of staff and students at Concord High School, and this year, elementary schools as well, for participating in the Student Hunger Drive. Thank you for your food and financial support for our food pantry!

Thank you Concord Schools!

A big thank you to Laury Allen and her Sociology course at Concord High School. Her class applied for and received a grant from Vibrant Communities to redecorate our food pantry to make it more welcoming.



Students painted the walls a refreshing shade of green and purchased decorations. Laury even donated some of her own watercolor paintings of fruits and vegetables. We love our new space!



Thank you River Oaks Church for donating Bibles to distribute in our food pantry. This is a great gift of food for the soul.

Meet some of our of Soup Of Success participants!

A couple weeks ago we asked our newest class members what impact Soup Of Success was having on them so far. This is what a couple of them had to say...



Belinda said: "I'm proud of myself. And I have never, ever said that before. I was so worried starting Soup Of Success, because I never finish anything. I would always quit right before accomplishing something I said I would do. I would always let myself down, let my kids down. But we were setting goals in the second week, so I said that I would come every day to Soup of

Success - have perfect attendance - for 4 weeks. I needed to set a short goal, because I was so anxious I wouldn't be able to do it. Today, I achieved that goal! And it feels good.

I worried that coming to Soup Of Success was selfish - what if my kids needed me to babysit? But my son said, "Mom, you did your job all those years, now it's time to do you." My daughter encourages me every day. And my kids have noticed a difference in me since I've been at SOS. They said - "You're smiling now, and it looks beautiful on you." I've been so long down in a dark hole. It feels like I'm coming up out of the hole. It sounds weird to say this, but this is what I feel - I feel taller."

Kelly said: "My whole life, I have had such a hard time opening up to people. It would take years for me to feel comfortable enough to let someone in. Not with this amazing group of women at Soup Of Success! From day one I felt welcome and comfortable. I don't know what it is, but it feels like I've known these ladies my whole life, not just a month.



Recently we each had to give a 5 minute speech to the class at SOS. I was so nervous that when I stood up and first tried to start, the words literally would not come out. I couldn't say anything at all for a minute. The class encouraged me, I finally started talking, and I ended up giving my speech about my sculpting.

Being here, talking and building these relationships is having an effect on me. I realize that at some recent social outings I have talked more than I usually do. And I accepted an invitation to go to an art show, where I didn't know anyone. I felt really nervous and awkward, but I did it.

I've never stuck with anything for this long. I usually just give up. This program keeps me wanting to come back every day. I plan on being here every day."



Job & Life Skills Training Program

Empowering women to make positive change

Are you tired of settling and want more out of life?

Consider Soup Of Success!

Next class begins on August 19

To learn more, visit www.soupofsuccess.com or attend one of our informational sessions held the last

Friday of every month at 10:00

at 907 Oakland Ave., Elkhart

For an application call 574-523-1551 or email at soupofsuccess@churchcommunityservices.org



**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE
SAT., MAY 11, 2019**

Please put non-perishable food items in a bag or box next to your mailbox by 9:00 a.m. on May 11 to be part of this amazing nationwide food drive. The food will be collected, weighed and delivered to the pantries by the end of the day. It is simple, effective and local!

Return Service Requested

We can't serve without YOU.

**Thank YOU for building
positive change!**

**Follow Church Community Services
and Soup of Success!**



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

Volunteers Needed!

- CCS could use the help of a handyman/woman to help us with maintenance projects as they arise.
- Our Seed to Feed program could use help managing the greenhouse and setting up an overhead watering system.
- Our Food Pantry needs people to deliver food to homebound individuals. Volunteers are needed the third Wednesday of each month to deliver food in their own car to approximately 6 people.
- Our Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to assist the Food Services Director as we serve our guests Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Our Food Pantry needs help in our warehouse with sorting and repackaging food and cleaning/organizing.
- Our Food Pantry needs people to drive our box trucks and vans for food pick-up.
- Our Soup Of Success program needs volunteers to help sew mittens and make shower melts any afternoon Mon-Thur.

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 at 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

