



Partnership Between Church Community Services and Cultivate Culinary Feeds Hungry Children in Elkhart

We are so excited to be partnering with Cultivate Food Rescue! Cultivate is a local food rescue organization. They take leftover food, mainly from local catering companies, and freeze the food into three compartment containers for a protein, a vegetable and a starch. The packages are frozen and then delivered to community organizations that can share the food with those in need. Each week volunteer groups from River Oaks Community Church-Elkhart, Lighthouse Vineyard Church and Trinity Church on Jackson will help Church Community Services pack backpacks of rescued meals and deliver them to Mary Daly Elementary, Hawthorne Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Roosevelt STEAM Academy and Woodland Elementary. Through our partnership, 100 kids will receive six meals each so they won't go hungry over the weekend!



Volunteers from River Oaks Community Church-Elkhart and Michael Downing, Food Services Director

Soup of Success Receives Grant from American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation



Our Soup of Success program is honored to be a recipient of a grant from American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation. This grant will allow us to further the marketing and production of our new line of clean eating soups, of which the proceeds from sales support training wages for our participants. Pictured from left: Pat McGhee, Mark Hinds, Betsy Ayrea and Tom McArthur.

Positive changes for Soup of Success

Thanks to the support of many donors in 2019, Soup of Success is able to reach some of its best-practice goals and make some improvements. We are excited to once again be able to pay women attending Soup of Success a wage instead of a stipend. This will allow participants to keep their head above water while they work on improving themselves through the program.

We will also be able to provide more counseling and support to participants and graduates. Our counselor will now be able to work with the women full-time to offer a new monthly support group for all graduates, as well as extended group and individual support sessions for the most recent graduating class. These extra supports will help graduates continue to make progress towards the goals they set for themselves during the program.

And, finally, we have been able to hire graduates of the program again. Our two new temporary production assistants will help us to make more products to sell and support program participants!

We appreciate the generous support of donors. We couldn't have made these changes without you!

Thank you, Thank you!

Church Community Services was blessed with many donations of food and financial support from area businesses and churches the past few months. We are so grateful to all our donors who help us help our neighbors in need. Here are just a few!



Greenleaf Living Center



Interra Credit Union



Elkhart IMRG Chapter 1986



Fellowship of Hope

Southside Fellowship

Assembly Mennonite Church



The Chief Ice Cream

First Presbyterian Church

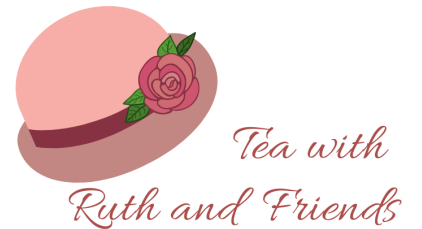


The Granite Shop



JCS Consulting DBA Marshall & Poe LLC

JWS Investments LLC



New Faces at Church Community Services



If Mary's face looks familiar, that's because it is! Mary was our Food Services Director several years ago and she says she was immediately sad she left for a different job. She has been waiting for the right job to open up at CCS so she could join us again and we are so glad she did! Mary has two adult children and two grandsons who she loves spending time with.



Julian grew up in nearby Niles, MI and spent six years in San Diego. He has experience managing restaurants, working in the security industry and as a Medical Assistant. Julian was recently widowed and has three children, Kaitlin, Xavier and Joshua. He says joining the Church Community Services family has been a blessing. "The people I have the pleasure to work with, as well as the different people I get to interact with on a daily basis here at CCS has been healing and rewarding for me."

Seed to Feed Garden Planning Underway!



We're well into garden planning season, and this year in our onsite community garden we are excited to incorporate even more Earth-friendly gardening methods like:

- Companion planting to create a diverse ecosystem that benefits plants, pollinators, wildlife, and soil
- Using no-till methods that don't disturb the soil
- Mulching with leaves, straw, and grass instead of throw away plastic mulch
- Planting mostly heirloom seeds and practicing seed saving
- Planting cover crops (like buckwheat, radish) to create good conditions for future crops

Let us know if you would like more information about incorporating these practices in your gardens!

If you've visited Church Community Services in the past couple months, you've likely been greeted by the smiling face of KeKe Bonner. Keke is working with us through a transitional work program after she suffered a serious injury at her old job. We are so happy to have her with us!



Changes to the Board

We want to thank our outgoing board members Barb Fridley, Sue Emmack, Bruno DeJesus and Jerry Hochstetler for their amazing service over the past few years. We are excited to welcome aboard Sara Garay.

Congratulations to our latest group of Soup of Success Graduates



Church Community Services
PO Box 2346
Elkhart, IN 46515

Return Service Requested

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

Raise the Roof!
April 30
An 80's themed trivia party to raise funds for a
new roof of our storage garages
Hosted by the
Elkhart Leadership Academy on behalf of Church Community Services

Save the Date!

Follow Church Community Services
and our Soup of Success program!



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 needs individuals and groups to help with starting seeds in our greenhouse. February through May, we need your help planting seeds in trays that will be transplanted into our gardens or given to pantry guests for their home gardens.
- 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 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 needs people to drive our box trucks (26 and 16-foot trucks) and vans for food pick-up. CDL required for 26-foot truck, but not necessary for other vehicles.

If you are interested contact Mary Kneller 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



Food Pantry Hours

Monday 11am-3pm

Wednesday 11am-3pm

Thursday 11am-3pm & 4-7pm



Food Pantry