



CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES

inspiring positive change

Spring/Summer 2024



Scan the QR code with your cell phone camera to donate!

Change a Life and Offer Hope

Before entering Soup of Success, my life was a mess. My kids wouldn't talk to me, I was an addict fresh out of jail, I was depressed, cried all the time, and had no self-worth. [SOS] gave me back my faith, self-worth, hope, and the drive to keep going far beyond Soup of Success. They taught me to understand and accept myself, partly by understanding and accepting me themselves. They brought me back to myself and brought me to a place where others began to take a chance on me. And now my kids and I are closer than ever. I have a long-term, full-time job. I am three years clean and sober ... I have been attending college for over six months, studying Science and Human Services, and soon to move on to a Bachelor's in addiction counseling. I have my path laid out before me. Not to mention my beautiful home where I am raising my amazing children. I honestly could not have done it without a program like Soup of Success.

The day I received the letter that I was chosen for SOS was the BEST day. I was at a crossroads in life. I've made poor choices that landed me in drug court and I took this opportunity to focus on me and building a new life! I learned that no matter what I am strong enough to face life's challenges and still live a clean and sober life. The classes we attended were amazing. I was part of the "quarantine" team ... Sue called and checked on me everyday. I graduated drug court while in the program. Without the support I got from these women I don't think I'd have ever made it! My life now is simple and great at the same time. I've been at my same job for almost 2 years. I'm dependable now! My son is my motivation. I've been clean for 5 years. Another thing I got from SOS is kindness. I've never felt such support in my life. This program really did help me change my life. I think different now. I've accomplished goals and continue to try my best to be a light in this world!

Your generous giving can change a person's life, and family—offering hope, joy, a new life—a new tomorrow!

To donate, simply scan the QR code above with your cell phone camera, or go to our website, churchcommunityservices.org and click on the DONATE button. You may also send a check to:

Church Community Services
PO Box 2346
Elkhart, IN 46515-2346



Chet Miller-Eshleman
Development Director

We are pleased to welcome Chet Miller-Eshleman as our new Development Director. Chet and his wife Holly have three grown children, Micah and Samuel, their wives, two grandsons, and youngest daughter Mary. For many years now Chet has served as a pastor and peacemaker, beginning and growing community-focused churches and non-profits in the US and overseas. He shares, “The most formative, life-shaping time in my life was working and living with homeless men and women in the streets, alleys and soup kitchens of inner-city Atlanta, Georgia—where Martin Luther King Jr. grew up. This tremendously impacted me. I encountered God in powerful ways. I experienced darkness and evil, amazing kindness and goodness, and learned that people in crisis—traumatized and struggling, are no different, but beautiful persons just like you and me—who need love, friendship, understanding, and someone to come alongside—just as we do.” Chet loves helping faith-based organizations reach out, grow and bless their communities—to make an impact and achieve their vision. He shares, “I am excited and honored to serve here at CCS. I keep hearing, and now experiencing, how this is an exceptional organization. Each day I see the impact we’re making! It’s humbling, transformative, so beautiful and needed. I encourage everyone to contribute as you can, to play a role, to be a vital part. Together, we can make great change!”

CCS
Volunteer Appreciation Event





**An evening to celebrate
all of our amazing volunteers!**

Gifts
Fun appreciation
Honoring volunteers of the year

Yummy dinner and dessert
Drawings for prizes
Games

Wednesday
April 24
At 6 PM

Trinity on Jackson Church
2715 E. Jackson Blvd. Elkhart
(Please enter through the front door)

We hope you can join us!

Please RSVP by 4/17 to
betsya@churchcommunityservices.org
or call 574.523.1551 x105

CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES PRESENTS

DÍA DEL NIÑO DAY OF THE CHILD

A fabulous day of fun for children and the family!
Día del Niño celebrates our future - our children.

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US!

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

- BOUNCE HOUSE
- FACE PAINTING
- DELICIOUS FOOD
- PIÑATAS

FOOD BOX FOR FAMILIES

- LIVE MUSIC
- DANCE TEAMS
- AND PRIZES!

*WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

907 OAKLAND AVE.
ELKHART, INDIANA





For more information, contact
Chet Miller-Eshleman
574-295-3673
cmiller-eshleman@churchcommunityservices.org

We love our wonderful volunteers!
Please join us for our annual CCS volunteer dinner as we show our appreciation and gratitude for YOU!

Bring the little ones and celebrate Día del Niño with us!
Saturday, April 27
11am - 2pm
907 Oakland Ave
Elkhart, IN



STAND-UP FOR CCS

HEADLINER - MIKE ARMSTRONG
MIKE HAS APPEARED ON HBO, COMEDY CENTRAL, FOX, AND CMT - FOREVER KNOWN AS THE EX-COP ON THE BOB & TOM SHOW

A SERIOUSLY FUNNY FUNDRAISER



FOR CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES

FEATURING

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
LAUGHS BEGIN AT 7PM

6 -7pm Cocktail Hour
w/heavy hors d'oeuvres

\$50/person and
includes 2 drink tickets



Host - Corey Mann



Michael Downing



Elise Davis



Scott Callahan

THE BRISTOL OPERA HOUSE

210 E VISTULA ST
BRISTOL, IN

SATURDAY
JUNE 1, 2024

Contact Chet Miller-Eshleman
(574) 295-3673 ext 102
cmiller-eshleman@churchcommunityservices.org

churchcommunityservices.org

Join us at the historic Bristol Opera House for an evening of crazy funny comedians headlined by Mike Armstrong! Mike has appeared on HBO, Fox, and CMT and will be forever known as the Ex-Cop on the Bob & Tom radio show.

Hosted by Corey Mann, the event also features comedians Michael Downing, Elise Davis, and Scott Callahan. Grab your friends and family! Bring a date! Enjoy a great night of good, clean fun while supporting a great cause!

For tickets, go to churchcommunityservices.org or call the Bristol Opera House at (574) 848-4116 or scan the QR code!



Meet Our New Board Members

Minda Clemens Thomas is the Training and Development Manager at Welch Packaging Group. Alongside her role on the Church Community Services Board, she actively participates in various other boards including Oasis Village, Oaklawn Foundation Board, and the Big Brothers Big Sisters Advisory Council. Additionally, she is a member of the Goshen Noon Kiwanis.



As a lifelong resident of Elkhart County, Minda finds joy in spending time with friends and family. Additionally, she finds fulfillment through her volunteer work within the community. She has a profound dedication to the mission of Church Community Services and eagerly looks forward to making her own contributions to an organization that has had a substantial impact on the community.



Jamie Richardson moved back to Elkhart about three and a half years ago after graduating from law school. She is working in Elkhart now as an attorney and is very happy to be back. In her free time, she loves taking her dog for walks, being with friends and family and if it is summer, being on the water. "I am very excited to be part of the CCS board as I believe this organization is providing amazing things for this community."

Thank You!



WHME-TV 46 and Charlie Adams stopped by to learn how we help people in need. Watch the video on our website!



Grateful for our volunteers' help and gardening knowledge during seed sorting and inventory



HomeGoods is now selling our soup mixes



THOR donated a 2023 Dodge Ram 3500 Promaster Cargo Van and then volunteered at our pantry and the Soup of Success kitchen



Elkhart Christian Academy helped us collect our first harvest from the new production greenhouse



Especialized Staffing Solutions-Elkhart, Bimbo Bakery USA, and Voyant Beauty volunteered at Seed to Feed, the pantry, and Soup of Success

Thank you to Kathy Peterson and Sue McDonald

Soup of Success would like to extend our sincere gratitude to both Sue McDonald and Kathy Peterson, who are both moving on to new chapters in their lives. We have been blessed to have Sue for the past 8 years and Kathy for the past 20 years. Together, they have provided compassion, support, self-awareness, education, and hope for the women of Soup of Success. They have helped our women believe in themselves again, figure out goals and visions, overcome obstacles, get unstuck and truly change their lives for the better. They have taught the participants how to handle conflict and how to communicate more efficiently.



Sue McDonald - Counselor



Kathy Peterson - Programming Facilitator

Kathy has constantly improved curriculum and created ways for connecting people together. She was an active trainer in our Common Ground program that educated people in understanding and relating to different economic classes and looking at righting injustices. She also created the popular “Practicing Personal Power” curriculum which has helped to empower women to discover and use their own power within themselves.

Sue has helped countless women maintain sobriety and learn to love themselves again. We are grateful to Sue who has chosen to continue to provide counseling sessions for the current classes in her retirement! Both Kathy & Sue modeled positive love, respect and kindness as well as providing support to hundreds of Soup of Success graduates! It was an honor to work with both for so long and wish them the absolute best!



On February 29, friends, family, and staff gathered at Trinity on Jackson Church to celebrate seven incredibly strong, inspirational women at their Soup of Success graduation. We are so proud of them and honored to be part of their journey!

We would like to thank the individuals, groups, businesses, and churches who make our work possible. Thank you for partnering and walking with us and the amazing women of Soup of Success!

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!

We need volunteers for the following:

- Seed to Feed needs volunteers to help harvest, wash and pack greens from our greenhouse on Monday mornings for food pantry visitors.
- Seed to Feed is looking for someone to come in weekly to help organize and input seed donations.
- Seed to Feed needs individuals or groups to help wash and organize donated garden pots in the greenhouse.
- Sorting and repackaging food and cleaning/organizing for our food pantry.
- Delivering food to homebound individuals. Volunteers are needed the third Wednesday of each month to deliver food in their own car to approximately 6 people.
- Assisting the Food Services Director as we serve our guests Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Spanish speaking bi-lingual interpreter for the food pantry.
- Drivers for 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.
- Groups to make Soup of Success Soups. Adopt one Thursday evening a month, 6-7:30 pm. Bring a group of 4-8 people to assemble bags of soup.

If you are interested, visit www.churchcommunityservices.org/vol or email volunteer@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