



## Paying it Forward

Maria came to the pantry about ten years ago. At that time she was pregnant and had to take an early maternity leave due to medical complications. Then her husband received the bad news that he had been laid off. Food stamps alone didn't provide enough food for their family and when her husband found a new job working at minimum wage, that wasn't enough to cover the family's expenses. Unsure what to do, Maria called 211 and learned of the Church Community Services food pantry.

"Coming to the food pantry gave me hope that we would be able to get by until things got back to normal for our family," Maria said. Maria felt welcome at the pantry, but vowed she would give back when she could. Last fall Maria came to our pantry door on several occasions with generous donations of easy to prepare foods and personal care items like toilet paper and diapers. "Food stamps doesn't cover personal care items and I remember coming to the pantry and receiving one roll of toilet paper because that was all that was available to each guest. It was nice to have, but not nearly enough to get us by for a month."

Soon after making her donation, Maria began volunteering in the food pantry. Volunteering has been a positive experience and she has made new friends while helping others. Someone doing community service in the pantry



shared that talking to Maria inspired him to do better. Maria said, "It feels wonderful to give back and reach so many people. It feels good when guests of the pantry show their appreciation and want to help others in the pantry by sharing any extra food items they are eligible for, but don't need. It's great to see people doing kind things for one another and be reminded of all of the good people in our community."

## Healthy New Soups!



From left: Tonya W., Teresa Clifford, Nikki K., Teresa B

For the past year, Charmane Skillen, Founder and CEO of S.A.L.T. Sisters (a healthy lifestyle company), has been mentoring and working with us to develop a line of healthy, clean-eating soups. After a great deal of research and testing, our Soup of Success program is pleased to announce that these new products will be available in November:

Tuscan Bean Soup

Coconut Curry Soup

Farmhouse Chicken Noodle Soup

Sun-Dried Tomato Vegetable Soup

Spicy Tortilla Soup

Hearty Potato Soup

Each soup features S.A.L.T. Sisters seasoning packets and are delicious. As always, proceeds from the sale of Soup of Success products are returned to the program so we can help more women reach their goals. We can't wait to have you try them!

# Thank you, Thank you!



Kurt and Beth Bullard organized a delicious all-you-can eat fundraiser featuring their amazing sweet corn. The event was held at Sports Time Family Bar and Grill and proceeds supported our Seed to Feed program. Thank you Kurt and Beth, Sports Time Family Bar and Grill, Dwight Fish, Jon Weaver, Ken Clayborn and everyone who came out to support Seed to Feed! (From left: Jon Weaver, Dwight Fish, Kurt Bullard)



Thank you Bad Entertainment Dance Team for hosting another food drive for our pantry last month!



STANDARD LABEL  
COMPANY, INC.

We are so grateful for the ongoing support of Standard Label! For over 20 years they have been providing us with labels for our Soup of Success soups, cookie mixes and dips. They are so generous and kind!



Thank you Centier Bank for donating a table for the Downtown Art and Soul event. Several of our Soup of Success graduates were treated to a wonderful show and they thoroughly enjoyed it!



Thank you Montana Owners Club for hosting another food drive at their rally this year!



Thank you Texas Roadhouse for hosting another annual fundraiser to support our food pantry! We appreciate everyone who participated in this year's event, A Ride to Provide!



From left: Julianne Kwasney, Lauren Farver, Ashley Miller, Dana Clark, Cherie Nusbaum, Nicole Cripe, Erin Schrader, Della Fink & Allison Teich. Not pictured: Cassidy Miller

## Growing Season Keeps Going Thanks to Greenhouse



During winter months our pantry rarely receives produce to share with guests, but thanks to the greenhouse we are able to offer cold hearty produce like turnips, lettuce, spinach, kale, beets and carrots. We also utilize the greenhouse as an educational and community cultivating tool year round, as we continue inviting pantry guests to help harvest produce for the pantry every single Monday morning of the year.

It's an amazing feat to be able to grow produce and community all year long in our heated greenhouse and it took a lot of hard work to be able to do this. Thanks to those of you who contributed your time and money last year to the greenhouse move! We still have 8 raised beds in the greenhouse looking for sponsors. For a gift of \$1000 to Seed to Feed, you can sponsor a raised bed and support this important program.

### Soup of Success Advisory Committee

Eight months ago, this group of compassionate women opened their hearts and took Soup of Success in. They have been able to give us great advice on the use of social media, website management and product development. Earlier this month they helped us host the largest fundraiser that Soup of Success has ever had! "A Night to Be Heard - Real Women. Real Stories." was a Premier Arts production and had actresses tell the real stories of six women who graduated from Soup of Success. It was an amazing evening! We are so grateful to this committee, guests and sponsors, including: Mini Delights and Succinct Creations.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BAZAARS & EVENTS FEATURING SOUP OF SUCCESS

- 11/2 **Soup of Success Store Open House** 9am-2pm
- 11/2 **Trinity Lutheran School, Elkhart** 8am-2pm
- 11/9 **River of Life Church, Elkhart** 9am-2pm
- 11/9 **Faith UMC, Goshen** 8am-2pm
- 11/9 **Beulah Missionary Church, Goshen** 8am-2pm
- 11/9 **River of Life Church, Elkhart** 9am-2pm
- 11/16 **Merry and Bright Artisan and Antique Market, Elkhart** 9am-4pm
- 11/23 **Osolo Elementary School, Elkhart** 8am-2pm
- 11/30 **Soup of Success Store Small Business Saturday** 9am-4pm
- 12/3-12/4 **St. Mary's College Holiday Fair Trade Fair**, 11am-7pm
- 12/4 **Elcona Country Club, Elkhart** 11am-3pm
- 12/7 **Tea with Ruth & Friends, Elkhart** 1pm-4pm
- 12/7 **Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, South Bend** 9am-2pm
- 12/7 **Soup of Success Holiday Open House** 9am-2pm
- 12/14 **Soup of Success Store Saturday Hours** 9am-4pm
- 12/21 **Soup of Success Store Saturday Hours** 9am-4pm



Soup of Success graduates' powerful inspirational stories of hope and courage in a monologue style performance.

**Thursday, November 14**

Doors open at 6pm for shopping and sampling of soups.

Show begins at 7pm

Sample our  
six new  
healthy soups!

Trinity on Jackson  
2715 E Jackson Blvd, Elkhart  
TLC Center in the back of the building

Tickets \$25 (must be 18-years-old or older)

Purchase tickets at [www.soupsuccess.com](http://www.soupsuccess.com). Go to "Get Involved," then "Events" and click on "Soup & Stories." or call 574-523-1551

Return Service Requested

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

**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 volunteers, individuals and groups, to help winterize our onsite garden.
- 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.
- Our Soup of Success program needs volunteers to help in the store or make shower melts and candles and wrap them any afternoon Mon-Thur.
- Our Soup of Success program is also looking for volunteers to help with weekend shows. This may include loading/unloading merchandise in cars, setting up/tearing down tables, and selling the merchandise. Must have a car large enough to haul table and merchandise.

If you are interested contact Jen McOwen at 295-3673 ext. 112  
or [volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org](mailto: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](mailto: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