



Seed to Feed Celebrates it's 10-Year Anniversary!

This year marks the 10-year-anniversary of our Seed to Feed program. Seed to Feed has grown leaps and bounds, from it's humble beginning of two community gardens, to it's now 22 gardens providing produce to both our food pantry guests and other food pantries throughout the county.

Kurt Bullard, one of the founders of Seed to Feed said, "The success of the program is a direct result of the strength and gifts of each of our coordinators. Katie, Natasha, Morgan Chelsea, and Gabby have had all the talents that were needed at each particular stage of the program. The willingness for people to walk along with the program and give of their time and resources has made it easier to be bold with the program's mission and vision."

Seed to Feed has also grown to include the Teen Growers internship for youth in Elkhart County. Teen Growers is now offered three times during the year, spring, summer and fall, so that teens have the opportunity to learn and help their community during all three parts of the gardening season. Interns gain work experience as they tend our garden and greenhouse. They learn about nutrition and gardening and are encouraged to take home fresh home fresh food to their



Spa Ministries Raised Beds



John, Spring and Summer Intern

families. Interns also gain experience practicing social and emotional skills that prepare them to become productive members of society and civic minded adults. Finally, interns are taught about agriculture and gardening as a career pathway.

This spring Teen Growers learned how to build raised beds for gardening. In April they installed their first batch of raised beds at SPA Ministries where they will grow fresh produce for their residents.



Spring 2021 Teen Growers Team

John, a rising senior at Elkhart High School, was a spring intern who enjoyed his experience so much that he decided to participate again in the summer. John said he's learned that in some communities fast food is cheaper and easier to obtain than fresh, healthy food. "I want other teens to know that by participating in Teen Growers you are really helping the community. It means a lot to families to be able to eat fresh produce." One of his favorite parts of the internship is the new friendships he's been able to make and the great conversations that have spontaneously happened while they all worked together in the garden.

First Día del niño Event a Huge Success!

On May 1 Church Community Services held it's first Día del niño (Children's Day) event. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and attended! We couldn't have done it without our amazing team of volunteers! . There were games, juggling, face painting, a bounce house, food trucks and opportunities to pick up boxes of food and sign up for ID cards. If your church or company would like to be a sponsor at Children's Day 2022, please email Yolo at ydemarco@churchcommunityservices.org.



Thank you to our volunteers!

New Faces at Church Community Services



In March we welcomed Naomi Leary, our new Volunteer Coordinator! Naomi spent the last 7 years at Camp Friedenswald as their Program Director, running fun and enriching programs for children, families and adults. She enjoys working with lots of different people and creating teams for meaningful work. Naomi is excited about helping our amazing team of volunteers feel supported. She will help find a good fit between all our programs for each volunteer, communicate about schedules and new volunteer opportunities. Naomi and her husband have an active 2-year-old and baby on the way!



Anna Osborne is our Teen Grower's Supervisor/College intern. She is a third year Environmental Science major at Goshen College from North Manchester, Indiana. She says, "This summer, I'm excited to get to know the teens better and help them be as excited about gardening and sustainability as I am! It'll be fun to give them the tools they need to grow their own food!"

Thank You to Our Generous Donors



Thank you Lighthouse Vineyard Church for helping us purchase a ladder. We can reach new heights because of your help!

Thank you to our
Teen Growers Sponsors



Jan Farron



We appreciate Linton's Enchanted Gardens collecting donations for our food pantry during their Easter Egg-Straordinaire!



Thank you River Oaks Community Church!

We appreciate the generous donation they made that allows us to upgrade some of our technology, as well as the assistance of their "FBI" Fixers, Builders and Instructors group. The "FBI" helped us fix up many things to make our pantry better for our guests!



Thank you Waypoint Community Church for sponsoring one of our Soup of Success participants. This is such an amazing, life-changing gift!



This sweet little girl, Selah Rojas Lopez (daughter of staff member Yolo Lopez-DeMarco), told her mom she has enough toys for now and she would like to share her money with those who need it more. We are touched by her generosity and giving spirit!

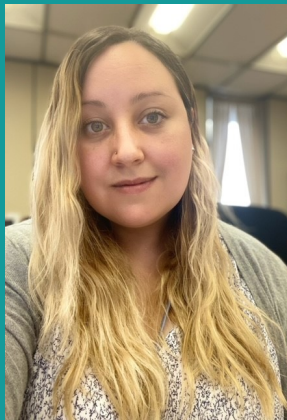
Thank you for holding food drives!

Thank you Ruth and Friends!

Thank you to Ruth and Friends for hosting an amazing yard sale in April benefiting Soup of Success, and to everyone who stopped by. The event was such a success that another is being planned for this September!



MONGER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Gimena Perez Yopez is our newest board member. Gimena was born in Mendoza, Argentina and moved to the United States when she was 16. She has extensive experience volunteering and being involved with non-profits in California and Washington State. In 2015, she and her family moved to Elkhart. Today she works as a bilingual legal assistant and data entry specialist for the Elkhart Superior Court. In her spare time she enjoys being with her husband and daughters, singing professionally and helping her Latino community access resources more easily to improve their quality of life. Welcome Gimena!

ATTENTION ELKHART COUNTY TEENS!

Are you interested in a paid internship where you learn about gardening and help your community?

To learn more and apply go to:
<http://bit.ly/teengrowers>



FALL SESSION BEGINS
AUGUST 28, 2021

We Have the Best Volunteers!



Jon Weaver, a regular volunteer and Advisory board member of Seed to Feed, has been such a blessing to us this spring. Jon has been essential with helping us with all our fertility, pest control problems. Whether it is a vole, a mole, ants or aphids he is on top of helping us gather the resources we need to solve the issue. He is always willing to help where he is needed and has spent time manning the Seed to Feed booth, planting in the greenhouse, and even connecting us with seed and plant start donors. We are so thankful to have him on our team!



Soup of Success is accepting applications for the next session beginning August 23.

Soup of Success is an intensive 20-week program that helps participants find their voices, discover their direction, establish their goals, and find ways to overcome obstacles and achieve those goals.

Call 574.523.1551 ext. 103 or email betsya@churchcommunityservices.org, to register for a time to fill out an application and interview.



Ruth and Friends Yard Sale!

Benefitting Soup of Success
September 17, 8am-4pm
Church Community Services
907 Oakland Ave., Elkhart
Amazing items, snacks and
a silent auction!



Join us for an

"I had no idea" Tour!

We often hear "I had no idea Church Community Services did this!" after giving a presentation or taking someone on a tour. We want to make this eye opening opportunity available to all. Every 1st (English) and 3rd (Spanish) Thursday of the month at 10:30 am we will be giving tours to everyone interested in learning about the amazing work being done on our campus, and you will receive a bag of one of our famous Soup of Success soups to sample at home! To register, visit: www.churchcommunityservices.org/i-had-no-idea

Using Your Skills and Talents to Help Others

Many of us have skills and knowledge that don't seem extraordinary to us, but they can make a big difference when we share them with others. Lynn Blyly, a member of Waypoint Church, is an active volunteer with our Soup of Success program. For the past several years she has used her background in accounting to teach money management classes to our Soup of Success participants. For Lynn, budgeting, balancing a check book and handling a credit card responsibly are easy, so she shares how to do those things with our participants, who never had the benefit of learning those skills in the past. "I love the idea of Soup of Success, getting to know the women, and helping them learn skills to improve and turn their lives around," Lynn says. In addition, Lynn, her family, and church members occasionally gather in the evening to help us package our soup products, which help subsidize the program. We are grateful for Lynn's help and would love to have more volunteers who want to share their skills and knowledge, or work with a team from their church or social group to help us package our popular soups. If you are interested, please contact our volunteer coordinator at 295-3673 ext. 112.



Church Community Services
PO Box 2346
Elkhart, IN 46515

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!

We need volunteers for the following:

- Gardening in our garden on the corner of Lafayette St. and Fremont St. Tuesday afternoons 3:30pm-5:30pm now through October.
- Lifting, packing, and distributing produce to our pantry guests. Help is needed Mondays 11-3.
- Assisting the Food Services Director as we serve our guests Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- 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.
- 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 pack produce. Adopt one Tuesday afternoon a month. Bring a group of 4-10 people for 2-3 hrs to harvest and pack produce.
- 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 call our Volunteer Coordinator, Naomi Leary at 295-3673 ext. 112 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