



## First Seed to Feed Teen Growers Internship Launched

This summer CCS held its first Seed to Feed Teen Growers Internship. The six-week internship has allowed 9 Elkhart teens the opportunity to practice gardening and job skills like leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and communication in safe outdoor learning environments.

Every week the teens have worked in the Seed to Feed garden and greenhouse to help harvest produce for pantry guests. The teens have participated in educational sessions with Purdue Extension and learned about the importance of healthy eating and lifestyle choices. Teens had the opportunity to cook and sample food using produce they helped harvest. In addition, teens went on a variety of field trips. They visited Unity Gardens, the Elkhart Environmental Center and Wellfield Botanic Gardens. At Sherck Seeds they learned about growing and harvesting heirloom varieties of staple crops like wheat, corn, peanuts, and



rice. Every week they visit Red Oak Farm where they learn about planting and growing food in an urban backyard setting. At Red Oak they've also learned about pickling and food preservation. At Merry Lea Environmental Center, the interns learned about habitats native to Indiana, like wetlands and prairies and how plant diversity contributes to a healthy ecosystem and more successful food production. At Bullard Farm, Kurt Bullard talked to the youth about his sweet corn

farm. The interns also helped out in the Bullard Farm greenhouse and planted seeds for a fall Seed to Feed garden.

The teens have really enjoyed the program. One intern shared that she wanted to be in the internship as a sort of tribute to her grandmother who used to garden and another said he wanted to make new friends while learning new skills. They are learning a lot and will take these job and gardening skills wherever they go in life.



We are so proud of our most recent group of  
Soup Of Success graduates!

Thank you to everyone who voted Church  
Community Services the Best Local Charity in  
Elkhart County!



## Thank you, Thank you!

In July Community Services received a face lift thanks to Genesis Products. As part of their annual “G-week,” in which their professional staff meet to plan their next business year, they also take the opportunity to give back to their community.

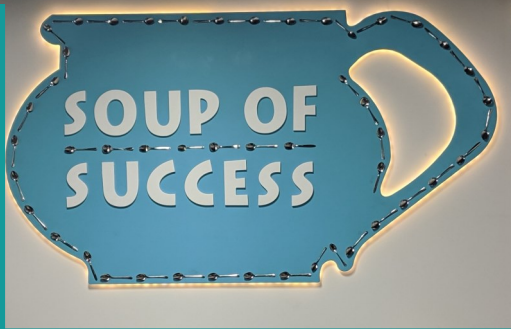
Genesis likes to partner with organizations in which their efforts can be transformational, and they certainly were for us! Three areas of the organization were transformed to better meet the needs of our clients, volunteers and customers. Genesis remodeled the waiting area of our Financial Services program, a volunteer break room, and the Soup of Success store.



Tom McArthur, executive director, said “We are so thrilled to be receiving these updates. Thanks to Genesis our guests, volunteers and shoppers will enjoy much more welcoming spaces, and that is exactly how we want everyone to feel when they enter our buildings.”



The Financial Services reception area was transformed into a much brighter space with new seating and a space for kids to play as they wait.



The Soup of Success store now has an industrial chic feel, with new shelving, tables and cashier area. The highlight is the new wall art featuring a giant Soup of Success logo!



Our volunteer hub received a fresh new look including updated table and counter tops, new lockers and a computer.

### Thank you Elkhart Rotary

This spring Church Community Services hosted a "Rotary Basket Give Away." Howard Edwards, CCS board member and member of the Elkhart Rotary Club, applied for and received a Rotary grant to lend extra support to those in need in Elkhart County. Rotary Club members and students from Memorial High School were on hand to prepare bags and distribute ingredients for complete ham dinners to 200 Elkhart families.

### Thank you Cornerstone Vineyard Church

Thank you Cornerstone Vineyard Church for your generous donation towards food for our pantry and emergency assistance for utilities!

### Tri Kappa

Thank you Tri Kappa for awarding Church Community Services with funding for wish list items we had for our food pantry!

### Special thanks to Teen Growers Sponsors



### Welch Packaging

Fellowship of Hope  
Mennonite Church  
and  
Assembly Mennonite Church



Jan Farron

Barbara and Lane Meyer-Reed

Chris and Jill Erb

Michiana Master Gardeners

## We need food!

We've hit a summer lull and our food pantry shelves are looking a little bare. We could use donations of all many things. Please see the list on the back of this newsletter for items that are particularly helpful. Thank you!



## So much fun at the Soup of Success annual picnic!



The annual picnic is always our most popular event among Soup of Success graduates and their families. Everyone gathered at Studebaker Park on July 24 and enjoyed delicious food, a photo booth, face painting, pinatas, bingo, yard games, catching up and perfect weather!

## Here's a sneak peek!



Exciting new things are happening for our Soup of Success program! We are introducing some new products, including t-shirts with positive messages, candles, and a new line of soups. Stay tuned to learn more!

## Upcoming Events



**BAD ENTERTAINMENT**

Check out this amazing dance team and make donations to their food drive for Church Community Services, August 24 at the Martins at Cobblestone.

You can bring awareness to the issue of hunger by wearing orange during September and you can take action by donating to our food pantry or organizing a food drive.

September is  
Hunger Action  
Month

## Kurt and Beth Bullard's Corn Moon Seed to Feed Fundraiser

September 14, 5-9 pm

Sports Time Family Pub and Grill  
1001 Parkway Ave, Elkhart

## Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale

Be sure to stop by our Soup of Success booth at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale held at the Elkhart County Fair Grounds September 27 and 28. We'll be in the community building.

**Sunday, October 6,  
Island Park, Elkhart**

This walk helps feed those abroad as well right here in Elkhart County by supporting our food pantry. Get your team packet by calling 574-262-2154 or emailing [mike.iavangnilio@looktrailers.com](mailto:mike.iavangnilio@looktrailers.com)



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!**

- 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 with weeding.
- 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](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

Tuesday and Friday: Closed



### **Food Pantry Hours**

Monday 11am-3pm

Wednesday 11am-3pm

Thursday 11am-3pm & 4-7pm



Food Pantry