



SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Celebrating Community Partnerships

We serve an ever changing community of people who struggle with many challenges limiting their ability to eat a consistent healthy and well-balanced diet to support a healthy and active life. There is no single reason our guests find their way to our meal service. We extend a warm welcome and a cooked from scratch meal to every person who walks through our doors.

Throughout the Covid Pandemic, our move, renovation of the kitchen, and licensing process your support sustained us. Because of your many generous gifts we were able to reopen to serve meals, compensate our staff fairly, and harness the energy and kindness of a caring community who serve people in need. We are so grateful for the trust and continuing support of our community - we celebrate each and everyone who is called to our mission and ministry. Thank you.

We celebrate our many volunteers who assist our cook in the preparation, service and clean up of our meals. Each guest is served their meal at their place setting by our caring volunteers who have a heart for serving.

We celebrate our partners in the community who are working to make sure everyone who hungers has access to food. The Greater Lansing Food Bank and Food Movers provide many of our ingredients. We are benefitting from our new partnership with the Meridian Farmers Market where remaining produce is donated twice a month and provides us fresh, local vegetables and fruit. The Unitarian Universalist of Lansing provides the space for our kitchen and pantry and hosts meals on Mondays and Wednesdays. Galilee Baptist Church provides a dining room for our Tuesday and Thursday meal service. We are enjoying the ease and harvest from the U/U of Lansing Community Garden, located just outside our kitchen door. A special plot is growing produce for SCK use.

We celebrate our excellent staff who work together to plan, organize, and oversee our meal service.

We celebrate a wise and experienced Board of Directors, under the leadership of Rev. Tony Patrick. This group of dedicated directors provide financial oversight, plan and participate in fundraising to make sure we have the support ingredients, equipment, and staffing.

The Heart of Southside Community Kitchen ❤️

Volunteers are the heart of our organization. There are currently 155 active volunteers who give of their time 1-2 days per month. We depend on them to assist with dining room set up, meal preparation, serving and clean up each Monday through Thursday. Some volunteers provide specialized duties as well such as pantry organization, food/bakery item pickup, knife sharpening and wrapping eating utensils. It takes a very dedicated group working together each day to do what we do. Food security is the most basic of all human rights and social justice issues and our volunteers are passionate about furthering these important causes.

Preparing for our guests' arrival begins with dining room set up. It's a task we take great pride in completing. Placemats, drink ware, disposable cutlery wrapped in a paper napkin, a basket of seasoning packets, coffee carafes and water pitchers are thoughtfully placed at each table. A small seasonal, festive centerpiece is an added touch to remind our guests how important they are and how very honored we are to serve them.

Meal preparation can look very different from day to day depending on the menu. Lead cook, Corey, arrives early each day, well before the volunteers. She loads the carts with needed ingredients, transports them from the pantry and arranges them in the kitchen according to stations. When volunteers arrive at 9:00 a.m., they are directed to a station where meal prep begins after first sanitizing work surfaces, pots and pan and utensils. Whether it's chopping vegetables for a salad, browning meat for a casserole or baking cookies for desert, it all comes together by 11:30 a.m.

Prior to serving, a moment is taken to reflect on our mission with an inclusive, thankful reflection. All are welcome. All faiths and forms of spirituality are acknowledged. Then, "Let's eat"! Guests are served a plated meal, delivered to them at their table. It takes 2-3 volunteers to plate and another 2-3 to deliver. Volunteers make it a part of their duties to greet each guest personally, welcoming them and thanking them for joining us. Our guests look forward to interacting with the volunteers. Many know each others' names and enjoy getting to know one another. The drinks/dessert cart duty is usually one that Joanne Boss, our assistant director assumes. Yes, our meals ALWAYS include dessert! Our volunteers go about their duties with care and consideration for each guest. They are the ambassadors of our mission to provide a welcoming and inviting experience for those who join us. Meeting nutritional needs is a big part of what we do. But make no mistake, ensuring that our guests feel welcomed and valued is a big part of a volunteer's duty. We strive to make sure all feel seen and heard during their time with us. We are, after all, a community.



Clean up is another important part of the volunteer experience. However, before clean up, they are always welcome to partake in the meal they helped prepare! Our commitment to being environmentally friendly includes reusable plates, cups and drinking glasses. Our commercial dishwasher is a big help, but plates must first be rinsed and several loads are required. Then the dishes must be stacked and loaded onto carts to be stored in the pantry. Tables and chairs must be sanitized as well. Then, several carts loaded with everything used for meal prep goes back down to the pantry and must be put back in its proper place.

We hope this gives you a glimpse into what is expected from a volunteer at SCK. Our director, Marcia Beer, assistant director, Joanne Boss, lead

cook, Corey Marie and Tim Beer, grime fighter, in partnership with UU Lansing and Galilee Baptist, wish to extend sincere appreciation to all of our dedicated volunteers. We thank YOU, the recipient of our newsletter as well, for your ongoing support of our mission. We could not do what we do without your continued, unwavering commitment to SCK.

Submitted by Kim Cotter, SCK Board Member



Outreach Plan

We have business size cards and postcards available to help spread the word about our free meals for people of all ages in need. Please contact us to request these items if you see people who may need a good meal. Nearly everyday I receive a call from someone in need who asks for further information about our location, serving times and how to donate food or money to support our work. We have a new hotline. Dialing **(517) 944- 1805** provides information on location and meals. Callers are also able to leave a message if more information is needed. We'll also be able to communicate any closure of the kitchen due to hazardous weather conditions.

We invite you to join with your neighbors to support our mission

We are so grateful to our community of donors who support this community meal program. Every gift is valued and is necessary to feed people who hunger in our community.

Join our growing list of sustaining donors by setting up a monthly giving plan, or make a one time on line donation by visiting our website at www.southsidecommunitykitchen.org. Alternatively, please make your check out to Southside Community Kitchen and mail to: SCK, PO Box 80844, Lansing, MI 48908

Join us, there is a place at the table for you!

- **We serve anyone who hungers a meal with dignity and respect**
- **We welcome people of all ages, abilities, and circumstances.**
- **Serving home made, nutritious meals from
11:30 am - 12:15 pm**

This is just one of the great meals we are able to serve to people in need because of your generous donations and partnerships.

Monday and Wednesday at U/U Lansing 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing 48911

Tuesday and Thursday at Galilee Baptist Church, 2511 Reo Road, Lansing 48911

“In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.”



Monthly Sustaining Donors 2022

David and Linda Aikin
Elizabeth Eberly
Sarita Overton
Sandra Pearson
Michael and Penny Swartz.

Donations made in Memory/Honor

Ann Arensmeier, Barbara Bunny Powers, Frank Carmen, Bill Hicks, Maurita Holcomb, Elizabeth Jamo, Theresa Lenhard, Nina Machtel, Gwyneth Schroeder, Jack Shimmin Renee and Robert Swanson, Mike Swartz

2022-2022 Board of Directors

President: Rev. Tony Patrick
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Laura Ray
Ex-Officio
Marcia Beer, Executive Director
JoAnne Boss, Assistant Director
Corey Marie Kitley Hassenger, Lead Cook



We say farewell to Ann Arensmeier, our Vice President and long time board member retired. We will miss Ann's thoughtful and wise voice. Ann served in many capacities on the board for over 20 years. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the SCK mission. We wish you all the best.

New Partnerships and Supporting Congregations 2021-2022 include:

Panera Doughnation Program, Panera Okemos
Giving Tree Farm
Meridian Farmers Market, Okemos
Unitarian Universalist Community Gardeners, Lansing
Asbury UMC
Christ United
Delta Presbyterian
Gunnisonville UMC
East Lansing Catholic Communities
Edgewood United Church
The People's Church
U/U of Lansing
University UMC