

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Winds of Change

The Southside Community Kitchen experienced the winds of change in many ways over the last three years, and through it all we continued to adjust our sails to keep our mission afloat. I appreciate our outstanding Board of Directors who continue to guide the ship into future seas. Our journey has been a bit blustery with shifting winds and rough seas at times, but our ship is sea kindly and has sailed rough seas with grace and beauty. Our staff continues to work together to problem solve and create a welcoming environment and delicious wholesome meals created with love for each guest. In the past 2 1/2 years we've built a commercial kitchen, moved, bid farewell to established cooks and welcomed a new cook, embraced new partnerships, weathered the financial burdens without our important in person fundraisers. Today, for the first time since March of 2020 we are sailing on smoother seas with the wind in favorable direction and speed.

"We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails." ~ Dolly Parton



Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for our long established and generous donors. Our new donors have provided the additional necessary funding required for us to fulfill our mission of feeding every hungry person who comes to us. It takes quite a crew of staff, volunteer, partnerships, and donors to run our ship. Working together, we make real and lasting change for people who hunger for connection, who hunger for food, who long to be seen and heard. Our volunteers say over and over again how in their service they experience a sense of purpose and meaning for the sense of community found within our meal program. It's a way of giving back and using skills and talents to help others.

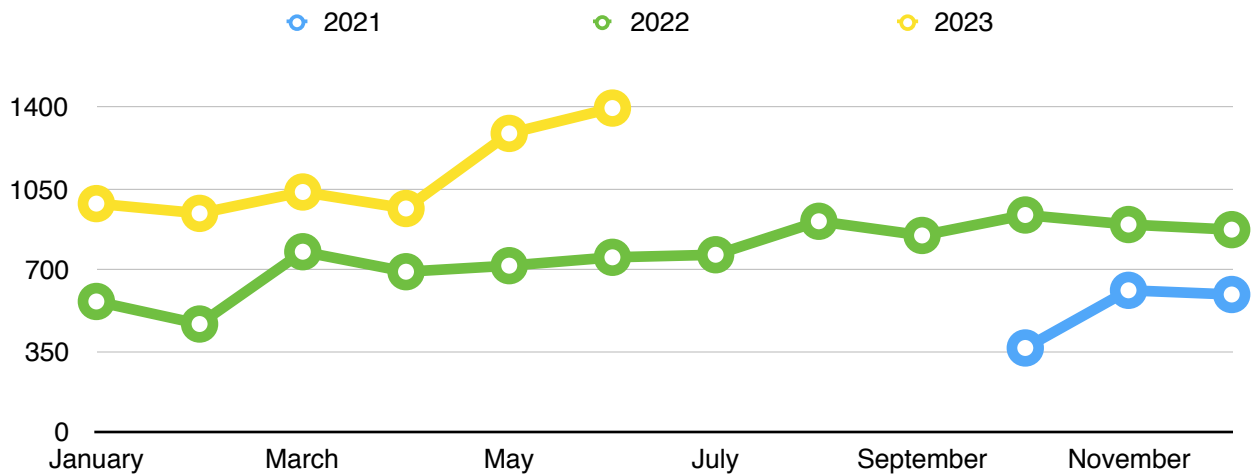
Our guests also express gratitude for the sense of belonging and attention they find at SCK. The Surgeon General of the US recently named loneliness as a public health crisis right alongside food insufficiency. Every day at Southside Community Kitchen we work to alleviate both. Our hope is each person who comes to us with a heavy burden has an opportunity to connect with other, and to enjoy nutritious meals around the table with people who care.

All of this is possible because of our neighbors who hear our story and learn about our work in the community. Many hear a call to support our small organization. We invite you to share so that others who struggle can eat.

In Gratitude for your help,

Marcia Beer, Executive Director

Meals served October 2021 to June 2023



Milestones in 2023

SCK is fortunate to have increased regular monthly donations to 11. These are caring community members who give an automatic monthly donation. Setting up an automatic monthly donation on line is an easy way to give. (See QR code on last page). You can choose the frequency and amount. Each month you'll receive an acknowledgment for your gift. It's easy for you and helps us to budget for our monthly food costs.

Ten years ago we had 168 individuals and organizations on our mailing list. Today, more than 450 individuals and organizations have donated to SCK in the last 3 years, and there are now 850 individuals and organizations on our mailing list. This is critically important as we work together to meet the increased expenses due to feeding more people and the rising cost of food and supplies.

Together We Make A Difference

In June we served 1400 meals, an increase of 85% over last year. If you've been to the grocery store lately, you already know the cost of food has increased significantly over the last two years. We are spending 30% more on the common ingredients, supplies and equipment we need to prepare and serve wholesome and nutritious meals. We need your help more than ever. Please consider giving on line today or write a check to SCK and send it to us in the envelope provided. We ask twice a year through our newsletter for your continued support. Thank you for your faithful gifts that keep us helping vulnerable people in our community.



I love to share our story and it's so important to keep broadening our partners as well as our impact. I'd love to visit with you or with a small group to spread the good news of the work we are doing in the community. Please send me an email at southsidecommunitykitchen@gmail.com to schedule a visit from Marcia or if you'd like to see us in action visit between 11am and 12:15 pm Monday or Wednesday to tour our kitchen and meet our guests and volunteers.

One Meal at a Time

Feeding 50, 75 or 140+ hungry, deserving guests of all ages, M-Th, takes a great deal of planning, budgeting and preparation. However, as the crew gathers first thing in the morning, its focus, purpose and attention turns to that particular day's menu, readying portions that nourish the hearts, minds and bodies of our community, one meal at a time.

Community defines us. Yet, it's how the individual joining us is treated that sets us apart. It is our mission, in addition to providing nourishing meals, to create an inclusive, comfortable environment. Guests are welcomed, many by name, as they enter our dining room. Newly purchased round tables encourage and invite conversations and interactions. Individual place settings let guests know that a place has been prepared, especially for them. Simple, cheerful centerpieces provide a special touch, reminding them that they are deserving and celebrated. There are no lines or requirements at SCK. Great care is taken to address each recipient as they are served, one meal at a time.



Just before the meal, there is an invitation to all to participate in a short meditation focusing on the many individuals who make up our community: lead cook, Corey, who plans the menus and directs the day's crew; the many dedicated volunteers who work to prepare, serve and clean up after; the many guests gathered together to enjoy the meal and the gift of community; and the many generous donors and supporters who provide the food, resources and funding. All are invited to join in as a short prayer of thanks is offered, one meal at a time.

As the numbers served daily continues to

increase, so does our need for resources and funding. Each year, our Board of Directors plans and hosts fundraisers such as the Breaking Bread Breakfast. Semiannual newsletters like this one, which aims to keep our generous donors advised and updated of our many accomplishments, anecdotes and budgetary needs, generates funding as well. A presence on social media platforms helps to increase our presence and engagement within our community, resulting in additional support. Each act of kindness and generosity is graciously acknowledged with a personalized note. Each gift to SCK is truly appreciated and goes a long way toward assisting us in our mission of serving our community, one meal at a time.



This quote by Margaret Mead embodies the spirit and commitment that is Southside Community Kitchen of Lansing. ***“Never doubt that a thoughtful, committed group of concerned citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*** Thank you for your continued interest in and support of SCK. Your generosity enables us to nourish our community, one donation at a time.

Kim Cotter
SCK Board of Director

Website: www.southsidecommunitykitchen.org

Thank you South Cedar Meijer Team Members for choosing SCK to receive the Meijer Team Spring Donation!



We received \$5,000 to purchase important ingredients that make up our nutritious meals. Your gift is already being turned into delicious meals for people who come to us hungry. We are grateful for your partnership and your support of our mission.



Thank you also to: Unitarian Universalist of Greater Lansing, Edgewood United Church, MSU, Meridian Farmers Market Gleaners, Holt Food Bank, and others for donating non-perishables to help stock our shelves. We appreciate your support.

Southside Community Kitchen Board of Directors 2022-2023

Directors

Anthony Patrick, President
Kim Gools, Vice President
Karen Saad, Secretary
Pamela Baker, Treasurer
Kim Cotter, Social Media
Jennifer Cronkhite
Diane Dykstra
Fred Galloway
Monica Martinez
Laura Ray

Ex-Officio/Staff

Marcia Beer, Executive Director; JoAnne Boss, Assistant Director; Corey Marie Kitley-Hassenger, Lead Cook; Timothy Beer, Custodian

If you, or an organization you know, would like to donate non-perishable food items to SCK please contact Marcia Beer, at 517 375 2977 or visit us on Monday or Wednesday between 9 and 1 at 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

The SCK Board of Directors has 3 membership positions open. We are looking for directors who are passionate about alleviating hunger, bring expertise in fiduciary responsibility, fundraising, and ideally, some experience working with non-profits who care for people in need. The Board meets the fourth Friday of the month from 12-1pm. Please contact Anthony Patrick at pray60pt@gmail.com for more information.



Summertime and the Giving is Easy

We now have a QR code. Just use your phone to access our website and donation page. All donations are processed through Network for Good a trusted, national database and donation processing company. Alternatively, please make your check out to: Southside Community Kitchen and mail to: SCK, PO Box 80844, Lansing, MI 48908

Website: www.southsidecommunitykitchen.org