



Our **Autumn Brunch** is coming up on Sunday, **November 5th**. There are seats available at both 11am (\$55) and 1pm (\$65). While the menu is not completely finalized, here's what we know:

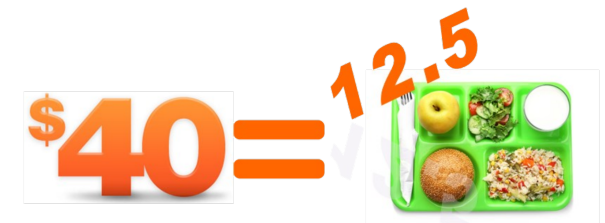
- Apps:** we'll have some and they'll be great!
- Main dishes:**
- **Pumpkin gnocchi** with roasted pork belly, apple and fennel OR
 - Housemade cinnamon swirl **French toast** with whipped brown butter and candied chestnuts OR
 - **Pumpkin Risotto** with apple and fennel (vegan & GF)

- Desserts:**
- Brown butter **apple tart** and goat cheese caramel sauce, *served with vanilla bean gelato* OR
 - Plant-based **pumpkin cheesecake** with a candied pecan butterscotch glaze, *made with a gluten-free biscotti-style crumb crust and cashew milk cream cheese (vegan & GF)*

Make reservations and menu choices at monroecommunitykitchen.com/events

Kroger Food Donation Day

Join us at the Jackson Creek Kroger on **Saturday, November 4th** from **9am-3pm**, where we will be collecting food donations at each entrance. We have volunteers who will be available with handouts, listing food items we most need. If you're able to pick up a few of those items while you shop, we will be grateful to receive those items as you leave. We appreciate Kroger for giving us the opportunity to do this!



Please consider celebrating our 40th anniversary this year, by donating an additional \$40 to provide 12.5 meals to folks in need!

- Kitchen Wish List**
- Canned, fresh or frozen veggies
 - Canned fruit
 - Elbow macaroni
 - Cooking Oil
 - Salad dressing
 - Thanksgiving food
 - Backpack Buddies food

Member Agency

PO Box 3286
Bloomington, IN 47402-3286

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Food for Thought

A newsletter published by **Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Inc.**

October 2023

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- The Rise
- United Way of South Central IN



Thanksgiving at Community Kitchen

The holiday season is right around the corner. Thanksgiving will be here before we know it and much food is needed to create a traditional Thanksgiving meal for our patrons. Each year we seek to make a festive holiday meal for folks who, often times, don't have family or friends with whom to enjoy the holiday.

At Community Kitchen, we have extra volunteer shifts to accommodate the many generous volunteers who want to be a part of our holiday meal and we serve an hour longer than normal. We've already begun scheduling volunteers and shifts will fill quickly. Also, as we all prepare for our own plans, please consider contributing special holiday food. Below is a list of the items and quantities we'll need for Thanksgiving. Help us make it a special day for all members of our community!

- 45-50 turkeys
- 200 boxes of stuffing mix
- 500 cans of green beans
- 300 cans of cream of mushroom soup
- 40 large cans of French fried onions
- 150 cans of cranberries or cranberry sauce
- 400 cans of tropical fruit or fruit cocktail
- 90 pies, including 15 sugar free pies
- 50 dozen rolls
- Other canned vegetables

Donations can be dropped off at our main location at 1515 S Rogers St from 8am - 6:30pm, Mon - Fri and 11am-6:30pm on Saturdays.

Folks need to eat every day so if we receive more than we need for Thanksgiving Day, that food will be used for meals on other days.

January - September 2023 Meal Counts			
Rogers Street	28,574	Backpack Buddies	48,640
Express	28,204	A Friend's Place	9,355
Food Truck	11,212	Senior Links	1,524
Feed Our Future	53,691	Nutrition Links	2,751
Head Start	32,792	Hotels for Homeless	155
Total		216,898	

PO Box 3286
1515 S Rogers Street
Bloomington, IN 47402-3286

Phone: (812) 332-0999
Web: monroecommunitykitchen.com
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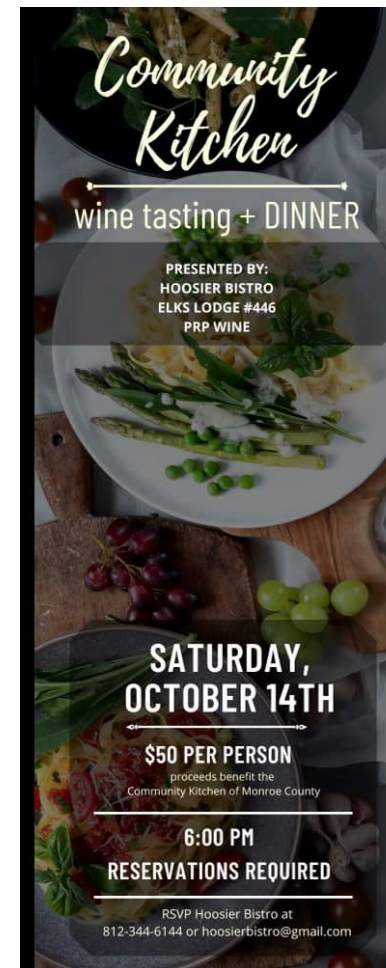
THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the following organizational and institutional supporters and we encourage you to thank them as well. The groups below have provided financial, in-kind, or volunteer support since our last newsletter:

Baxter
 Benevity Community Impact Fund
 Bethel Lane Community Church
 BHS South National Honor Society
 Bloomington Board of Realtors
 Bloomington PRIDE
 Bloomington Township Trustee
 Boston Scientific
 Butcher's Block
 Catalent
 Charter Oak Credit Union
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
 Crane
 Cross Roads United Methodist Church
 Cruisin' Classics
 Crumbl Cookies
 Farm to Family Fund
 Farmers & Mechanics
 First United Church
 Gilbert Construction Inc.

Goody & Sons Inc.
 Grandview Elementary School
 Hand in Hand a Stone Belt Project
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 Women Reaching Women Group
 SC Indiana Mortgage Bankers Association
 St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
 St. Charles School
 St. Mark's United Methodist Church
 St. Paul Catholic Center
 Stone Belt
 Tri-Parish
 Unitarian Universalist Church
 United Way of Bartholomew Co.
 United Way of South Central Indiana
 Unity of Bloomington
 Worthington Christian Church



Backpack Buddies Food List

- Canned or pouch tuna or chicken
- Peanut butter
- Meal helpers (like Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna helpers)
- Fruit cups – applesauce, mixed fruit, pears, peaches, etc.
- Instant Oatmeal – individual portions
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Easy to prepare food items – instant mashed potatoes, dried soups, beans, rice or pasta meals, etc.
- Granola/fruit/cereal bars
- Dried fruit – raisins, cranberries, cherries, etc.
- Small bread mixes – cornbread, muffin, biscuit, etc.
- Healthy snack crackers
- Small pop top cans or pouches of vegetables
- Small boxes of cereal

We are rapidly approaching **500 children** in this program. **That means we're using nearly 2 tons of food each week for this program alone!** Food donations aren't keeping up with growth in the program. If you're able to donate any of these items, they are ALWAYS helpful. Thank you!



From Poverty to Possibility.

Nearly half of local families are in, or one emergency away from, poverty—including 30% of families with children and 43% of seniors.

Every day United Way, Community Kitchen, and other partner agencies create opportunities to improve lives. Your United Way support ensures our community develops more affordable housing, a strong food security system, and accessible healthcare among other initiatives.

The United Way 2023-24 Community Fund Drive is currently raising funds for services in Monroe, Owen, Lawrence, Greene, Orange and Brown counties. Please join us!

To see how your donation is creating change visit <https://www.unitedwaysci.org/myimpact>

Social Media

Keep up to date on Kitchen events, activities, volunteer and food needs by following us on social media.

Facebook:
 @monroe.community.kitchen



Instagram:
 @monroecommunitykitchen



Holiday cookie sale to support Community Kitchen!

Purchase a dozen delicious holiday cookies to support Community Kitchen's hunger relief efforts. Each dozen includes four each of three kinds of cookies: chocolate chip, snickerdoodle and chocolate crackle. Orders will be picked up from **noon-3pm** on either **Sat, December 16th** or **Sun, December 17th**. You must choose a pick up date at checkout.

These are great for sharing with friends, as holiday gifts to clients, or just to eat yourself!

To order visit: monroecommunitykitchen.com/events

Supplies are limited so don't delay!

Family Volunteer Day - 10/22

Community Kitchen holds quarterly Family Volunteer Days to allow families with younger children the opportunity to volunteer together. The next Family Volunteer Day is on **Sunday, Oct 22nd**. Please call us at 812-332-0999 for more information or to reserve a spot for your family to come volunteer with us. We limit the spots available to make sure the project is meaningful for everyone. If you're interested, give us a call soon. We'd be happy to have you and your family join us!

