

# Food for Thought

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

February 2020

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## Meet volunteer, Andy Macleish

Andy Macleish has been volunteering at Community Kitchen since September 2018. He used to volunteer at the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He really enjoyed volunteering there, so when he moved with his parents, Irene and Tom, from Massachusetts to Bloomington, he wanted to do volunteer work again. His brother, Bob, and sister-in-law, Betty, recommended that he try contacting Community Kitchen.

Most people respond positively about Andy's volunteer efforts at Community Kitchen; especially Tammy, the Manager of Human Resources, and Rusty, the Head Store Manager, who both work at Kroger with Andy. Andy's positive attitude about his job at Kroger and his volunteer efforts here make him a good ambassador for both organizations.

Andy feels that it is such a good experience to be part of the Backpack Buddies team. Each week, he helps package up over 400 bags containing cereals, healthy granola bars, proteins, fruits, and other

assortments of food to help children and their families who are in need of food. In addition to the team, he learned just how nice the supervisors are to work for – especially Jason, June, Joanna, Vicki and Ashley.

Andy has been on Boston Catholic TV many times; both as an alter server, and once making an appearance on the "Going My Way" show.

Andy also has had the opportunity to take some great trips! He has been to Greece with the Alternative Leisure Company, and visited Florence, Italy with his parents and sister, Martha. The countryside and the buildings were just beautiful.



Andy ushers at St. Charles Church on Sundays, and enjoys going to the IU football games and the women's basketball games. He also likes to go to bike exercise classes. When at home, he relaxes with his much-loved three-year-old English Cocker Spaniel named Jack.

We enjoy Andy's lively personality and enthusiasm for his work with the Backpack Buddies team!

## 2019 Meal Counts

Rogers Street	44,288
Express	50,954
Feed Our Future	73,260
Head Start	52,535
Nutrition Links	3,587
Backpack Buddies	69,574
A Friend's Place	17,215
Senior Links	3,498

<b>Total</b>	<b>314,911</b>
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# Volunteer Recognition - Sunday, March 29th

Community Kitchen is able to maximize our resources and provide high levels of service with low overhead, due in large part to the many who volunteer their time at Community Kitchen. Volunteers at the Kitchen serve by helping dish up carryout meals, preparing salads or side items for dinner, preparing sack lunches & snacks for at-risk children in afterschool programs, serving cafeteria style to evening patrons, sweeping, mopping, doing dishes, helping with special



projects, packing backpacks of weekend food supplies for children, picking up community donations, serving on our board of directors, providing special activities for our patrons and many other tasks. They are our friends, our partners and our lifeblood.

In 2019, the cash value of donated time to Community Kitchen was over \$237,545!

Volunteers filled approximately 5,900 volunteer shifts! On March 29th we will gather to recognize and thank our volunteers. It is but a small token of appreciation for the many hours of service our volunteers provide in the fight against hunger every year. The celebration will be from 2-4pm on Sunday, March 29th at Community Kitchen (1515 S Rogers St). All are welcome as we highlight the year's achievements and thank volunteers. Refreshments will be provided.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Are you someone who is looking for a volunteer opportunity for yourself, your family or other group? Community Kitchen is a great place to get involved and there are several ways to do that. We have regular volunteer shifts each Monday - Saturday. Our **prep shift is from 11:30am-1:30pm**, while our **servicing shift is from 3:30-6:30pm**. Over the holiday break while people are traveling and schools are out, is a great time to get involved. Many of our regular volunteers are off to travel and we have open spots that we need to fill.



While we can't accommodate really large groups, we can schedule up to 7 or 8 volunteers per shift. In addition, if your group wants a project offsite, at your location, consider holding a food drive for Backpack Buddies or other Kitchen programs; or call and let us talk to you about how you can purchase some ingredients and assemble ready to prepare meals for Backpack Buddies. When you have your project offsite, you can use whatever number of volunteers your space will accommodate.

If you have young children and would like to volunteer together as a family, give June a call and find out more about our quarterly Family Volunteer Days. She can be reached at 812-332-0999.

## Community Kitchen 2019 Facts

- Served 314,911 meals & snacks
- 4.2% increase from 2018 (302,139 meals & snacks)
- 2019 cash meal cost was \$2.36
- 72% of patrons were children
- 10% of patrons were seniors
- 12% have experienced homelessness in the past six months
- Volunteer hours were up just about 2.5%
- We would need more than 6 additional full time employees to do what we do without volunteers

# 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:

Alpha Phi Omega	Hand in Hand a Stone Belt Project	Satori Martial Arts
Amvets Ladies Auxiliary	Harrell-Fish Inc	Serendipity Salon
Baxter	Herald-Times and Hoosier Times	Sherwood Oaks Christian Church & Youth Group
Baxter Employee Giving Campaign	Hilger Enterprises - Orkin Pest Control	Sober Joe
Bethel Lane Holiness Community Church	Holiday Inn Express	Soma Coffeehouse
BHS South Honor Society	ISU The May Agency	South Central Community Action Program
Big Red Liquors	IU Men's Basketball	St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
Bloomingfoods	IU Student Athletic Board	St. John the Apostle Catholic Church
Bloomington Fire Dept	Ivy Tech Culinary Arts	St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Bloomington Friends Meeting	Kelly Civic Leaders	St. Paul Catholic Center
Bloomington Korean Baptist Church	Korean Presbyterian Church	St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
Bloomington Pearl Foundation	Korean United Methodist Church	Stone Belt
Bloomington Township Trustee	Kroger Community Rewards	Student Accounting Society
BLSA	LIFEDesigns	The Owlery
City of Bloomington - Parks & Rec	Little Union Baptist Church	The Seven Kids Foundation, Inc
Community Foundation of St. Joseph County	Maxson Christian Ministries Fund	Transitional Services Inc.
Cross Roads United Methodist Church	May Creek Farm Inc.	Truist (United E Way)
Davoren Designs	MCCSC Community Transitions	Unionville Church of Christ
Delta Upsilon	Methodist Sports Medicine Center	Unitarian Universalist Church
Earth Energy Healing	Michael's Uptown Cafe, Inc.	United Way of Bartholomew Co.
Earth Nation	Network for Good	United Way of Monroe County
Eastview Church of the Nazarene	Next Generation Personal Training	Unity of Bloomington
Ellettsville House of Prayer	North Central Church of Christ	Van Buren Township Trustee
First Church of Christ, Scientist	Paypal Giving Fund	VOSH
Gaden KhachoeShing Monastery	Perry Township Trustee	
Gilbert Construction Inc.	Providence Place of Bloomington	
	Rainbow Bakery	

## LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you're on Facebook, please like Community Kitchen.  
You can find us at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/monroe.community.kitchen>

And you can follow us on Twitter: @Monroe\_ck or

Instagram: monroecommunitykitchen

Help us spread the word about Community Kitchen happenings and join us today!



## Kroger Community Rewards

Do you shop at Kroger? Carry one of those Kroger Plus cards? Now you can help support Community Kitchen when you shop at Kroger. Just register your Plus card at the website and 2% of your grocery purchases support Community Kitchen each time you shop.

Follow the link below to register your card today. When you get logged in and registered, just move to the Community Rewards section and select Community Kitchen of Monroe County or organization #SJ831. It's that simple. If you haven't, please do so today!

<https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>



# Backpack Buddies

We now have over 400 families from 21 different schools, involved in Backpack Buddies. That's 3,280 pounds of food each week of the school year. We welcome donations of the following foods for the program:

- Canned or pouch tuna, chicken or ham
- Peanut butter
- Meal helpers (like Hamburger/Chicken/Tuna helpers)
- Fruit cups – applesauce, mixed fruit, pears, peaches, etc.
- Instant Oatmeal – individual portions
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Boxes of breakfast cereal
  
- 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.

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## 2020 Brunch Dates

Mark your calendars now for Community Kitchen's remaining 2020 fundraising brunch dates. These brunches are three course, all inclusive meals prepared by local industry professionals from various kitchens and restaurants. Cardinal Spirits generously pairs each course with a cocktail. Reservations and menu choices are required in advance. Tickets are \$50 per person. Watch our website and Facebook page for upcoming details. 2020 brunch dates are:

**Sunday, May 17, 2020**  
**Sunday, August 9, 2020**  
**Sunday, November 15, 2020**



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Member Agency

### Kitchen Wish List

Garlic powder  
Onions  
Brown rice  
Oregano  
Basil  
Veggie soup base

Non-profit org.  
US postage  
PAID  
Bloomington, IN  
Permit No. 312