

Food for Thought

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

July 2020

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Friend's Place
Hoosier Hills Food Bank
IU Health - Positive Link
MCCSC
Perry Township
RBBSCC
Stone Belt
The Rise
United Way of Monroe County

What's happening around here

Here at Community Kitchen, we have thus far continued to operate all programs and during our normal hours, throughout the pandemic. As you likely know, we first called off all of our volunteers in March when the Stay at Home order came down. Starting in early June, we called some of those folks back and are using up to 4 volunteers/shift right now, just about half of our normal crew of volunteers. We have continued to have extra staff working, in lieu of the missing volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering and are comfortable with coming back now, please give June a call and get on the schedule. All volunteers and staff are wearing masks and gloves in the kitchen. Patrons are encouraged to wear masks, and are required to maintain social distance. We have handed out masks to patrons previously, and will again in the next few weeks, ensuring that all of our patrons have the opportunity to protect themselves and others around them.

Midway through our summer programs, things are humming along. We have fewer volunteers and a few extra staff. We have adapted the way volunteers help us distribute food to children in low-income neighborhoods so that we maintain as much safety as possible. We have modified the Backpack Buddies Program so that it could continue through the summer months. We are averaging about 200 lunches/weekday to children in low-income areas, and about 150 backpacks to those families each week.

We are still serving dinner from both locations six days/week. While typically we would have inside dining at our main location, we have been doing carryout only, since March. From each location, patrons can receive a warm and a cold, reheatable carryout meal. While we are anxious to be able to safely open the dining room again so that our folks can eat inside the air conditioning, we don't feel like that is possible quite yet. So, we will continue to serve carryout style until that safety seems more manageable. We prefer that patrons wear masks but we have not required them. We know that many of the folks we serve have difficulty maintaining and cleaning a mask. We will offer them masks any and every time that we can.

We continue to serve at-risk children and seniors. Though youth programs were closed for a period of time and even now are open at greatly reduced numbers, we continue to provide meals and snacks where requested. We know that families are struggling and we want to help anywhere we can. We provided food to new Meals on Wheels routes to get low-income seniors who cannot afford the fees for Meals on Wheels, on new no-fee routes, until Meals on Wheels could absorb those clients onto existing routes. No seniors should be on a waiting list for necessary food assistance.

We have continued to reach out to feed our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. We have continued to provide dinner to residents of Friend's Place, as is our regular work. In addition, we have provided daily lunches and dinners to the individuals in the local Isolation Shelter, for folks who need to quarantine or isolate but don't have homes of their own within which to do that. In addition, we have provided dinner on one or two days/week to folks being sheltered by Hotels for the Homeless. We have served anywhere from 20-50 individuals at a time in that program.

Community support has made all of this possible. We are grateful for the donations during the pandemic. Those donations have allowed us to have the extra staff working to keep programs running. Those donations have provided food when food donations came to a screeching halt. Those donations have allowed us to reach out and serve new individuals and populations during the pandemic. Thank you!

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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:

Abbvie	Gaden Khachoe Shing Monastery	Rainbow Bakery
Accident Fund	GE Appliance Giving Campaign	Rally's Hamburgers
Amazon Smile	Ginkgo Fund	ROC Rentals
Arby's Foundation Grants	Girl Scouts Troop #03134	Roly Poly
Arden Place	Grace Food Pantry	Sherwood Oaks Christian Church
Bethel Lane Holiness Community Church	Hand in Hand a Stone Belt Project	Simply Primitive
Bloomington Township Trustee	Hilger Enterprises - Orkin Pest Control	South Central Community Action Program
Boston Scientific Foundation	Hrisomalos & Coghlan, DDS	St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
Boy Scouts Troop #121	Hyde Park Fund	St. John the Apostle Catholic Church
BPO Elks #446	Ireland Home-Based Services LLC	St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Church Mutual Insurance Company Foundation	JustGive	St. Paul Catholic Center
Congregation Beth Shalom	Kappa Kappa Kappa - Alpha Chapter	St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
Cook Inc.	Kirkwood Gardens	Susan Yeley Homes
Cross Roads United Methodist Church	Kroger	The Glick Fund
Dermatology Center of Southern Indiana	Little Union Baptist Church	Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center
Dolan Ridge Community Church	MAC Aids Fund	Unionville Church of Christ
Duke Energy	Network for Good	Unitarian Universalist Church
Duke Energy Foundation	Old National Bank	United Way of Bartholomew Co.
Ellettsville House of Prayer	Paypal Giving Fund	United Way of Central Indiana
Frontstream (United E Way)	People's Market	United Way of Monroe County

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<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>

CK Brunch - Brunch at a Distance

Typically, we hold quarterly brunch fundraising events. 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. However, due to the pandemic, our May Brunch was held virtually, as will be our August Brunch.

That means that we'll post the theme, dish options, menus and how-to videos, so that you can join us and prepare your own brunch at home. You can even purchase a cocktail option from Cardinal Spirits to complete the event. Watch our website and Facebook page for information on how to proceed. Donations are accepted but not required to participate with us. We just want to keep #CKBrunch alive during COVID.

Our final brunch date will be in November. Stay tuned for updates on whether that will be in person or virtual, as well.

Grateful for grant support during COVID-19

We are grateful to have been funded recently, by grants that have made it possible for us to continue to function through the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some ways we have been funded recently:

- Rapid Response Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County - to cover the costs of the first few weeks of extra staff when volunteers had to be sent home due to the Stay at Home order.
- City of Bloomington Jack Hopkins Social Service Funding - to fund the purchase and installation of pallet shelving in our warehouse, and to purchase the battery for a donated pallet lift.
- United Way COVID-19 Relief Grant - to fund one month of providing meals to the Isolation Shelter and new Meals on Wheels no-fee routes.
- Arby's Foundation - to fund general operations.
- The Glick Fund - to fund both general operations and Summer Food Service Program at The Reserve at Chandler's Glen.
- CARES Emergency Food & Shelter Program - to fund Free Meals Services.
- Church Mutual Insurance CARES - to fund Free Meals Services.
- Boston Scientific Foundation - to fund Backpack Buddies Program in summer and through the school year.
- Hoosier Hills Food Bank CARES - to partially fund the purchase and installation of a new walk-in freezer.
- Tri Kappa Alpha Chapter - to fund food for children's programs.
- We also received a Payroll Protection Program Loan which helped us keep elevated staff levels for months while all volunteers were off.



New pallet shelving and pallet lift, funded by City of Bloomington Jack Hopkins Social Service Funding. This new shelving more than doubles the capacity for pallets of food in our warehouse. It also allows for the space for an additional walk-in freezer in the warehouse, partially funded by Hoosier Hills Food Bank CARES, which will more than double our freezer capacity, as well.

Free summer meals for children

We continue to distribute lunches on Monday through Friday and will until school starts in August. We serve free lunches to children at the following locations and times:

Route 1

- The Rise (Drop-off)- 10:30am-10:35am
- Trailview Neighborhood-10:45am-11:00am
- Crestmont Community- 11:10am-11:30am (Illinois Court)
- Crestmont Community- 11:35am-11:55am (12th & Summit St)
- The Reserve at Chandler's Glen- 12:00pm-12:20pm (by the picnic shelter)
- Arlington Valley Mobile Home Park- 12:30pm-12:45pm (Behind office)

Route 2

- Limestone Crossing- 10:30am-10:45am (playground area)
- Highland Park Elementary- 11:00am-11:15am (900 S Park Sq Drive)
- Southcrest Manor- 11:30am-11:45am (by the mailbox area)
- Country View Apartments- 11:55am-12:10pm (playground area)
- Henderson Court Apartments-12:15pm-12:30pm (playground area)
- Walnut Woods- 12:40pm-1:00pm (playground area)



Lunches include a main entrée (sandwich, wrap, etc), fresh vegetable, fruit and milk.

Jan-June 2020 Meal Counts

Rogers Street	21,389
Express	21,833
Feed Our Future	19,521
Head Start	19,410
Nutrition Links	1,560
Backpack Buddies	36,066
A Friend's Place	8,580
Senior Links	1,392
Meals on Wheels	1,635
Isolation Shelter	418
Hotels 4 Homeless	344

Total 132,148

We've been thrilled to welcome back volunteers, as they help us make and assemble about 200 sack lunches each morning for midday delivery to children in low-income neighborhoods. They have also been helping keep the Backpack Buddies Program going through the summer.



Kitchen Wish List
 Garlic powder
 Cooking oil
 Pasta
 Onion Powder
 Dill
 Thyme
 Backpack Buddies food
 Any kind of food is helpful

Member Agency



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