

## Backpack Buddies to continue through summer

We have worked hand in hand with both local school systems to continue to provide Backpack Buddies after the schools shut down due to COVID-19. We are grateful for the social work staff at both MCCSC and RBBCSC for making this happen. We have decided that we will continue to operate the program throughout the summer, only in a different fashion. Instead of working with the school social workers, which isn't possible in the summer, we will provide Backpack Buddies bags for families in the neighborhoods we serve through our Summer Food Service Program. Since we expect those numbers to be higher this summer than years past, we still welcome food donations specifically for this program. Items most helpful in Backpack Buddies are the following items:



- 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.

*Thank you, Kroger, for donating about \$2,500 of food for this week's Backpack Buddies!  
We appreciate all that you do in our community!*

**Kitchen Wish List**  
Bulk onions  
Bulk broccoli  
Bulk cauliflower  
Large bags of frozen vegetables  
Backpack Buddies food  
Any kind of food is helpful



Community Kitchen  
of Monroe County, Inc.  
PO Box 3286  
Bloomington, IN 47402-3286

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

# Food for Thought

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

## May 2020

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chantel Adcock  
Andrea Armstrong  
Jeanette Barefoot  
Jim Becker  
Nicole Bolden  
Kyla Cox Deckard  
Seth Elgar  
Laurie Eynon  
Elizabeth Gentry  
Valeri Houghton-Motley  
Gillian Johnston  
Angela Martin  
Alison May  
Troy Maynard  
Alan Simmerman  
Hope Snodgrass  
Jeff Watson  
Dan Williamson

### STAFF MEMBERS

Chris Center  
Tim Clougher  
Caitlin Conley  
Jason Cook  
Heather Craig  
Amy Dyken  
Zach Elgar  
Hugh Farrell  
Veronica Fazio  
Alison Garrett  
Evan Graper  
Arielle Hacker  
Debbie Hopson  
Ashley Mann  
Vicki Pierce  
Marty Schick  
Adam Sommer  
June Taylor  
Garrett Walters

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Area 10 Agency on Aging  
Bloomington Township  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Blmngtn  
Friend's Place  
Girls Inc.  
Hoosier Hills Food Bank  
IU Health - Positive Link  
LifeDesigns  
MCCSC  
Perry Township  
RBBCSC  
Stone Belt  
The Rise  
Transitional Services Inc.  
United Way of Monroe County

Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Inc.

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

Phone: (812) 332-0999  
Web: monroecommunitykitchen.com  
Email: director@monroecommunitykitchen.com



## Doing work during this time

During this unprecedented time in our lives, we are all doing things in new ways. That includes us here at Community Kitchen. **These things are the same:**

- We are open for people to get dinner from both locations (1515 S Rogers & 1100 W 11th) from 4-6pm, M-Sat.
- We are working with school social workers to provide Backpack Buddies to low-income families.
- We are providing dinner each day to the residents of Friend's Place shelter.
- We are providing meals that are home delivered each day, to low-income individuals who are homebound seniors or are chronically ill.
- We are providing lunches for Head Start children.

Not everything is the same, of course. **These things are new or different:**

- We cannot provide sit down meals at dinner so folks now get both warm and cold meals to go.
- Because families have to travel to their child's school to pick up Backpack Buddies, only about two-thirds of the families are receiving them.
- Because Head Start is not in session, we are providing reheatable lunches and cold sack lunches for their children. Most families pick up their meals on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. A few are home delivered by Head Start staff.
- We are providing one lunch and one dinner each day to any residents of the Isolation Shelter. Those individuals are experiencing homelessness and are presumed positive or required to quarantine because of suspected COVID-19.
- We are providing two reheatable meals each day to a new zero cost Meals on Wheels route. We have been serving 10-16 people on that route each day.
- Youth clubs, like Boys & Girls Clubs, have remained closed or are open for only a few children of emergency workers. Therefore, we aren't providing meals and snacks to the normal enrollment of children they have.
- Food donations are few and far between. We are purchasing food in ways and for programs that are not normal for us.
- We are doing all of our work with staff only, NO volunteers. And we miss them!

We are very pleased for the many ways the community has been generous. We have received financial donations and are incredibly grateful for those. We witness bright spots every day. We are grateful for folks who have been creative and held neighborhood food drives in someone's driveway. Both Bryan Park and Covenanter neighborhoods have done that. We appreciate all of the folks who have made masks for our staff and have donated the funds from masks to Community Kitchen! You all brighten our days during this time. Thank you!

## CK Brunch

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. Reservations and menu choices are required in advance. Tickets are \$50 per person.

Because of the current pandemic, our May brunch will become a virtual brunch with some cool ways for you to participate with us, while we're apart. Watch our website and Facebook page for upcoming details. Other remaining 2020 brunch dates are:

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

## 2020 Meal Counts

Rogers Street	13,598
Express	16,309
Feed Our Future	14,436
Head Start	14,297
Nutrition Links	1,044
Backpack Buddies	28,130
A Friend's Place	5,720
Senior Links	912
Meals on Wheels	900
Isolation Shelter	85

**Total 95,431**

# 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:

Abbie	d'Vines of Bloomington Inc.	Phi Gamma Nu
Alpha Phi Omega	Earle Farm	Pi Kappa Alpha
Amazon Smile	Earth Nation	Psi Iota Xi
Amber Ridge Neighborhood Association	Ellettsville House of Prayer	Rainbow Bakery
Author Solutions	Evening Glories Extension Homemakers Club	Red Tutoring
Banneker Community Center	First United Church	Reeves Club
Baxter	Force Fitness and Performance	Renaissance Rentals Company
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Frontstream (United E Way)	Sherwood Oaks Christian Church
Bethel Lane Holiness Community Church	Gaden KhachoeShing Monastery	Soul's Harbor Church
BHSS Honor Society	Hand in Hand a Stone Belt Project	South Central Community Action Program
Big Woods	Highland Village Church of Christ	St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
Binford Rogers Elementary School	Hilger Enterprises - Orkin Pest Control	St. Paul's Catholic Center
Blockhouse Bar LLC	Holiday Inn Express	St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
Bloomington Board of Realtors	Irish Lion	State Employees' Community Campaign
Bloomington Friends Meeting	IU Black Law Student Association	Steve's Roofing & Sheet Metal
Bloomington Lions Club	IU Civic Leadership Development	Stone Belt
Bloomington South National Honor Society	IU Law School ICLEO	Teachers Credit Union
Bloomington Thrift Shop	IU Optometry VOSH	The Owlery
Bloomington Township Trustee	IU Student Accounting Society	The Production House
Butch's Grillacatessen & Eatzeria	Kappa Alpha Theta	Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center
Camelot Realty	Kilroys on Kirkwood LLC	Transitional Services Inc.
Campus Children's Center	Knights of Columbus #1096	Unionville Church of Christ
Catalent	Korean Presbyterian Church	Unitarian Universalist Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Kroger	United Way of Bartholomew Co.
City Church	LIFEDesigns	United Way of Central Indiana
City of Bloomington HAND Department	Limestone Grille	United Way of Greater Philadelphia
College Internship Program	Little Union Baptist Church	United Way of Monroe County
Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe Co.	MCCSC Community Transitions	Unity of Bloomington
Congregation Beth Shalom	Network for Good	University Lutheran Church
Cross Roads United Methodist Church	North Central Church of Christ	Whole Sun Designs Inc.
Darn Good Soup	Old National Bank	
Delta Gamma	Paypal Giving Fund	
Delta Theta Tau Sorority, Zeta Chapter	Penguin Random House LLC	
Duke Energy Foundation	Perry Township Trustee	
	Phi Delta Epsilon	

## 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>



## Volunteering at Community Kitchen

We miss our volunteers! In mid-March we had to send you all home and we've missed you since. While we long for your safe return, we will wait until it feels like the safe time to do so.

When we start using volunteers again, we will start scheduling just a few folks per shift and will require that everyone wear masks and gloves. If you are one of our regular volunteers, know that we'll reach out via social media, email and by phone, when we start scheduling again. Please know that we only want volunteers to come back when you're ready. If you don't feel comfortable doing so when we first start taking volunteers again, we won't permanently replace you. We couldn't! We'll welcome you back whenever you feel it's right for you. We plan to step back into using volunteers in smaller numbers at first and then increasing as safety allows. We will be prioritizing shifts and tasks for volunteers so unfortunately, we won't be able to use everyone immediately when we start.

Safety will dictate when we will start scheduling you again. With that caveat in mind, we hope to start welcoming some of you back within the next month. We start our Summer Food Service Program on May 26th and expect our numbers to be higher this summer than years past. We are hopeful to have some of you back to help us out with the prep for that program.

If you're new and interested in volunteering, we have several opportunities once we are back to more normal operations. 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**. In addition, each Monday-Friday, we will have a **Summer Food Service prep shift from 7:30-9:30am**. We will also use volunteers for our **delivery routes from 10am-1:30pm**. Those folks ride around and help us hand out lunches to children on the route.

If you have young children and would like to volunteer together as a family, we have a Family Volunteer Day each quarter on a Sunday afternoon when no other programming is happening. Tasks are suitable for family members of many ages. Give June a call and find out more about our quarterly Family Volunteer Days. She can be reached at 812-332-0999. We'll begin those again, too, as safety allows.

We look forward to welcoming back some volunteers soon. Be on the lookout for social media posts and email about that.



## Saying farewell to Bailey

Bailey Duff has been a four year Cox Civics Scholar at Community Kitchen. Bailey was an intern to our Volunteer Coordinator and helped with all aspects of volunteer recruitment and retention. She especially worked on recruiting volunteers from IU and helping the student population understand the importance of volunteering in the community. She strongly believes that there is a way for all students to be involved in volunteering in the larger community.

Bailey said that the most surprising thing she learned at Community Kitchen is how many times per week we serve! She is from an area that doesn't have a service like Community Kitchen, so when she first started as a freshman, she was very surprised to learn that we serve six days a week.

Bailey has a twin brother and was a Little 500 rider during her time here at IU. She has graduated and will be starting her new job as a Revenue Cycle Transformation Analyst with Nordic Consulting Partners.

We appreciate the enthusiasm and diligence with which Bailey approached her time here at Community Kitchen. She was willing to do whatever it was that was helpful and was very proactive in reaching out to the campus community to encourage volunteering. We've already been missing her around the office and wish Bailey all of the best in her future. Thank you, Bailey!