

Waterville Area Soup Kitchen

The Lighthouse

More than 25,000 meals served!



How are we doing? *It's been 2½ years and we'd like to let our supporters know how we're doing*

Our story is best told with a combination of concrete numbers and heartwarming stories of the Lighthouse

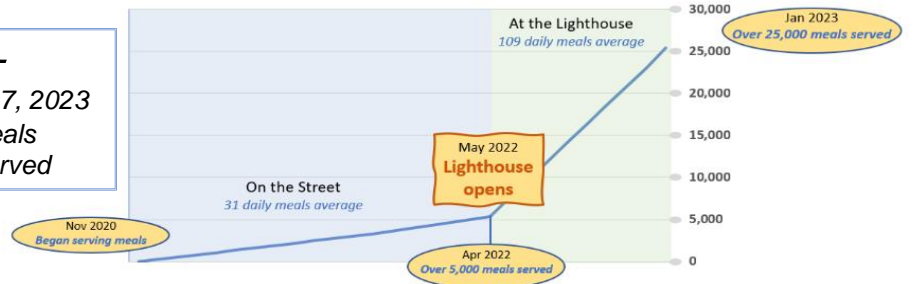
In the summer of 2020, the founders of the Waterville Area Soup Kitchen declared its mission:

Provide hot, nutritious meals to those who might otherwise go without.

We began in the fall of 2020 in a borrowed kitchen, delivering meals outdoors to those who needed our help. Today we have a professional kitchen and comfortable dining room that is much more than a place to eat.

The Numbers -
As of January 27, 2023
25,389 meals
had been served

This mission is served by a Board of 11 and a volunteer roster of 40. On any given day, there are 2 to 4 people in the kitchen, 6 to 8 in the dining room, and another in the dish room. No one is paid. All labor is from the heart. *There is never a cost to eat here.*



Beyond Food *In recent weeks, we've been able to help with some additional needs*

Winter Clothing Drive

Over the past few months, we have worked to make warm winter clothing available to the Lighthouse community. To meet specific needs, Joyce Nasr who coordinated our Winter Clothing Drive, compiled a 'wish list' and reached out to our community for help. It has been a joy to see jackets, pants, boots, and warm items arrive at our door in response. Each day our guests find useful items on our clothing table. Our faith in the goodness of our community was reinforced when a desperate request for size 14 boots was fulfilled in a day, meeting one man's need for warmth and comfort this winter.

The Giveaway Table

The Giveaway Table, previously located on "the Concourse", has recently moved indoors to the Lighthouse. On Fridays during lunch, it offers a variety of essential items: *toiletries, paper goods, diapers, cleaning items, socks, pet treats, bottled water, canned goods, fruits.* A project of the Greater Waterville Area Poverty Action Coalition and the Poor People's Campaign, and funded by the Community Investors Program at KVCAP, the generosity of individuals, and organizations like Central Maine Gleaners, donations of items or funding are appreciated. Local pickup is available. For information, contact edleonar@colby.edu



Andrea Pasco of the GWAPAC and Elizabeth Leonard of PPC

Holidays at the Lighthouse *Our heartfelt gift to those we serve throughout the year*

Volunteers, including those on the Board, really do enjoy being at the Lighthouse and serving our clients. This was evident during the holidays as we made the season more comfortable for our those less fortunate than ourselves.

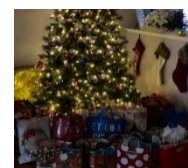
Thanksgiving

It was assumed The Lighthouse would be closed for Thanksgiving but when someone raised the idea that we could offer guests a nice turkey dinner, closing for the day was no longer an option. Over two weeks, our cooks roasted numerous turkeys and on Thanksgiving Day, many guests were welcomed to a delicious turkey feast with all the fixings. Well maybe not all the fixings - next year we'll remember the cranberry sauce!



Christmas

This year Christmas fell on a Sunday, and since The Lighthouse is typically closed that day, it was not expected that we would serve a meal. Well, we are not that easily stopped. Supported by a group of volunteers from Colby College, we served a delicious ham dinner to all comers. Even Mrs. Claus attended, distributing gifts and fulfilling the wishes of some of our regular clients. It was our pleasure to make a practical contribution to 'happy holidays' for our friends.



Meeting our Expenses

State Representative Bruce White and Doreen White have been staunch supporters of The Lighthouse since we opened last May. They recently launched a campaign to find businesses who might step-up to pay a month's rent on our facility on College Ave. We are happy to report that this campaign has been wildly successful. Bruce and Doreen have personally pledged January 2023 rent, and with a 6-month pledge from Colby College along with the generosity of several others, the rent for 2023 is covered!

With help from our friends

While we have other expenses that will need to be paid, such as utilities, taxes, insurance, groceries, and incidentals, having the rent taken care of is a tremendous boon to our financial stability. Thank you, Bruce and Doreen, for leading the way.



Breakfast Fundraiser

After our successful spaghetti dinner fundraiser in October, we decided to try a breakfast event. On Saturday, December 10, we held a breakfast to raise funds. On the menu were bacon, eggs, pancakes, and French toast. The Christmas tree was up, holiday music provided a festive ambience, and the community, once again, showed up to support our mission.

Between the breakfast and two raffles that we held during the event, along with the generosity of this community, we succeeded in raising more than \$700.

A Grant Opportunity

Vote for WASK!

The Waterville Area Soup Kitchen is on the ballot to receive a grant from Community Matters More, a program of the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation. Awards will range from \$1000 to \$5000. The organization with the most votes within each geographical area will receive \$5000. Our organization is in the region composed of Kennebec and Somerset counties. A \$5000 grant would be a tremendous help to us as we continue to serve the hungry in our community at the Lighthouse.

Voting opens February 1 and continues through February 28. Please vote and encourage all your family and friends to vote also. To cast your vote for The Waterville Area Soup Kitchen, please visit:

www.bangor.com/cmm



Mason Jar Campaign

Fundraiser

The Waterville Area Soup Kitchen's Advisory Committee, consisting of Aline Poulin, Marie McDonald, and Audra Weisel, recently held its first *Mason Jar Fundraiser*.



For 6 weeks in November and December, 38 local businesses participated in our campaign, by placing jars at their check-out to collect change. The generosity of their customers raised \$1,130 for us. We are happy to share the names of those businesses whose patrons generated the largest donations:

- * **1st place** - Sav A Lot \$313
- * **2nd place** - Bolley's Famous Franks \$121
- * **3rd place** - Point Afta \$112

Our winners each received a Certificate of Appreciation for their participation, presented by Carla Caron, WASK President.

Upcoming Event

Professional Networking

Business After Hours

On Wednesday, February 15, 5:30-7pm, our own Kennebec Savings Bank, along with Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, will host a professional networking event at the Lighthouse. Hosted by Chamber of Commerce members in our region, Business After Hours is one of many benefits offered to chamber members. Hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and other beverages will be available. You could also win the 50/50 raffle and fabulous door prizes donated by area businesses. Remember to bring your business cards!



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Waterville Area Soup Kitchen

Menus posted weekly



Thank You

We are grateful to all supporters.

We need and appreciate you!

To consider a subscription donation,
visit our website

watervilleareasoupkitchen.com

Waterville Area Soup Kitchen

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Consider becoming a volunteer
at The Lighthouse