

Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry

Fall/ Winter 2022

& Pantry

Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry | 170 Pendexter Avenue | Chicopee, MA 01013 | 413.592.9528

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kim Caisse

Working for 20 years for the Chicopee Public School system as a paraprofessional in the special needs program and as a small business owner, I grew deep roots in this community. Those roots blossomed, along with the skills those positions offered me. As times became challenging and more people were in need, I felt called to utilize those skills and connections in a different way. When the Executive Director of LSKP, position became available, I knew where I needed to be next, and I was honored to be selected and appointed to lead this organization on the next leg of the journey.

When I arrive each morning through the doors of Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry, I take a moment to pause and reflect. I humbly ask God to bless all those who will walk through that door, be they our guests in need asking for help, volunteers rolling up their sleeves, or generous benefactors bearing gifts. I stand on the shoulders of a giant; Lorraine Houle, the compassionate visionary who brought this effort to life, and I draw upon her courage. I feel the gentle hug of the spirit of this building, constructed with love and an all-volunteer community. And I begin my day.

Holidays have always presented a challenge here at LSKP in any economic environment. The level of need increases during these times, heightened by cold weather. When you add the stress of a pandemic, increasing prices, supply issues, and staff shortages, it can almost seem overwhelming. I say almost because our community has risen to the occasion time and time again, not letting any negatives get in the way. For this we are thankful.

As Executive Director, I ask you to join me in looking forward. As you sit down to a day of food abundance and blessings at your Thanksgiving table, think of those less fortunate and perhaps perform one small act which can have big effects. Whether it is a monetary donation, food drive or day of volunteering, it will make a difference. In celebrating your family's traditions of exchanging gifts, consider the many youngsters whose loved

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IN THE SWING

A sunny end of summer day set the scene for LSKP's Annual Golf Tournament on September 14th on the beautiful grounds of Chicopee Country Club. 106 golfers took to the course providing support to our mission while having fun in the process.

A great big thank you goes out to our Corporate Sponsors: LaPorte, Shea, and Borys Insurance, Westfield Bank, Chicopee Firefighters Local 1710, Ondrick Materials and Recycling, Super Brush, Baystate Restoration, and Valley Opportunity Council.

The stakes were raised on two holes with opportunities to win big by achieving a hole in one. Teddy Bear Pools and Spa didn't give away a pool or spa this time, maybe next year! East Main Street Auto held onto that big cash prize for one more year as well.

Our golfers were well supplied for a day of fun with golf balls from Callaway Golf, snacks from our friends at Frito Lay, bottled water courtesy of Interstate Towing and goody bags donated by Fallon Health.

The fun continued courtesy of our incredible businesses and artisans who provided over fifty raffle prizes delivering enjoyment to all our attendees.

Chicopee Country Club



Board member Al Picard waits for the elusive hole in one prize winner. Maybe next year Al!

We are grateful to all who participated, donated, and volunteered their time in helping us raise \$15,000 to further the mission of Lorraine's Soup Kitchen. Save the date and come back to swing for big prizes again next year September 13, 2023.

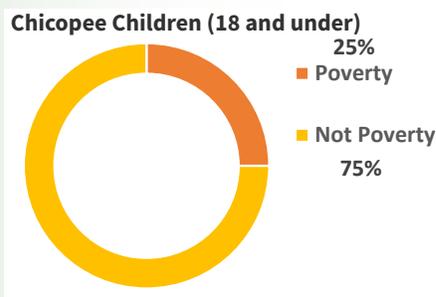
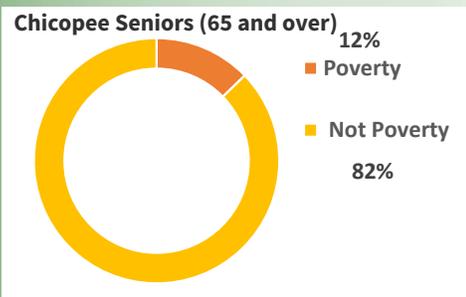
ALL ABOUT GIVING

LSKP GIVES TO OUR COMMUNITY...

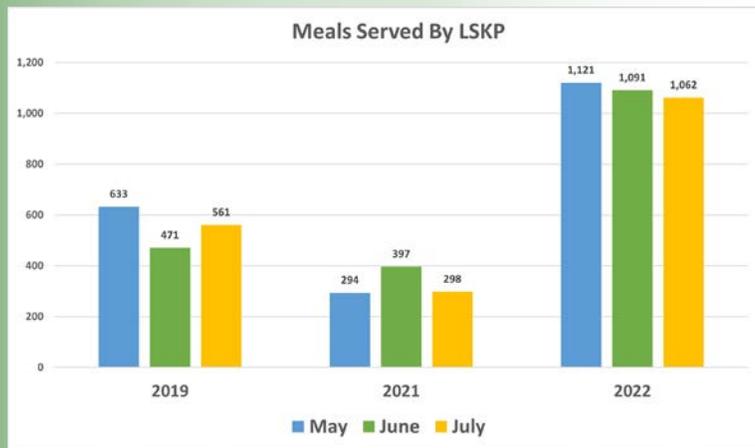
Every day here at Lorraine's, we see the changing faces of those in need in our community. Through your generous support, we are able to continue to provide a vast array of programs to ease the burden these difficult times have placed on our friends and neighbors. Currently in our own neighborhood, in the city of Chicopee, there are 55,190 residents*, 15.6% of whom are at the poverty rate, and sadly 25% of them are children.



The changing faces of those in need in our community



*US Census Bureau -2021 census.gov <https://bit.ly/3VkJf9>



**Closed 2020 for meal service due to COVID. Post COVID, meals served have doubled.



Lorraine's
Soup Kitchen & Mobile Pantry

PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Pantry

10am-2pm
Monday – Friday

Hot meal

4pm-6pm
Monday – Friday

Mobile Pantry

4pm-6pm
Monday – Thursday
(check Facebook/web for locations)

Executive Director (Continued from page 1)

ones can't financially put that same smile on their children's faces. Support a toy drive, winter coat collection, or donate through LSKP which will allow us to provide the essentials. In this edition we have suggested the many ways you can help to support us in the next two months. With three major hallmarks of giving coming up, we humbly ask you to review our giving page and take on a charitable challenge that suits your situation. Or perhaps you are in need of our services yourself; we can help. On behalf of the LSKP organization and all whom we serve, I personally would like to express our best wishes for your joyful celebrations and family gatherings. We extend our gratitude for your past generosity and look forward to being a greater resource through our continued connections.

ALL ABOUT GIVING

...BECAUSE YOU GIVE TO US.



We give thanks for the many ways our supporters have allowed us to successfully fulfill our mission.

If you are blessed and can help make another's holiday special please consider purchasing an item or two from "our everything but the bird list" when you are out shopping for your family gathering. Great idea for a family, office, book club or friends project to donate everything needed for the Thanksgiving bag.

- Stuffing
- Instant or real potatoes
- Gravy
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned vegetables
- Cake mix and frosting
- Chicken or Turkey (if you can)

What is your special holiday favorite? Consider including the recipe along with the ingredients to share with other families!

Global generosity on Giving Tuesday, (November 29, 2022) unleashes the power of humanity to help organizations like ours, transform our communities.

Local Family Friendly Giving:

- Call or video chat with an older person in your life.
- Have a talent? Schedule a virtual performance.
- Write a letter to a senior through loveforourelthers.org
- Make an extra lunch while you make your own and share it.
- Want to go beyond just a few meals? Ask us about volunteering!

Businesses:

- Encourage your employees to join you in supporting LSKP through food/money and your company matching donations.
- If you have a storefront, coordinate a food drive of non-perishables. We will be glad to pick them up.

We honor all the holiday traditions of those we serve, as well as those who generously share their resources with us.

LSKP is especially challenged during the holidays due to many requests for assistance. We ask that you consider helping us and our community. Here are a just a few ideas:

Start a new family tradition!

- Host a holiday food drive
- Make it a family affair and come to cook for our hot meal program.
- In lieu of family gift exchange, fill a basket for a complete holiday meal.
- Honor a loved one with a memorial monetary donation.
- If holiday shopping using Amazon please designate LSKP as your AmazonSmile Charity.

Stress reducing office ideas!

- Take the stress out of office gift giving, and turn your exchange into a company event through food clothing, or toy drives.
- Encourage your customers to join you in the effort.
- Fill a basket for a complete holiday meal.

Question

What non-perishable items are most in need for the soup kitchen pantry?

While we appreciate all the foods that are generously donated, at this time we are most in need of:

- Soup
- Rice (1 & 2 lb bags)
- Pasta
- Sauces
- Tuna

Answer

Save these ideas to share with family this holiday season!

Visit Us!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Kids On A Mission



L to R: Giovanni Carrano, Carter Baron, Olivia Baron, Julie Carrano

Watch our website for kid friendly ways to volunteer coming soon!

“Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.” – JFK

Two families in the Fairview section of Chicopee are sending their strong messages to the future through the efforts of their amazing children.

For three years, the Baron & Carrano parents have supported their children in hosting a lemonade stand in conjunction with the Fairview Annual Neighborhood Tag Sale. The smiling faces of Olivia and Carter Baron, along with their neighborhood friends, Giovanni and Julie Carrano, melted the hearts of tag sale visitors for two consecutive days, bringing in a whopping \$200 to benefit both Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen and Chicopee Boys & Girls Club. Their cumulative total for this event over three years is an outstanding \$600! That’s a lot of homemade cookies and lemonade!

“We sometimes underestimate the power of young children, but when supported by their families and community, change happens,” said tag sale organizer and LSKP volunteer Carol Pirog. “These kids are proof positive that being part of the solution can be fun and rewarding. I am proud of my neighbors for sending the message that kids care.”

If you would like to sponsor a kid’s event or learn more about getting your kids involved in supporting Lorraine’s please contact us. We love kids!