

Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry

Fall/ Winter 2023

& Pantry

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Every year, the days from November through December inspire a season of gratitude and charity across the country and world wide.

Since starting as Executive Director of LSKP seventeen months ago, it has been my experience that our amazing community doesn't restrict itself to just holiday giving, but rather year-round generosity. From food drives, to golf events, charity bingo, and much more, people show up to fill a bus, buy a ticket, or cook a meal. And this is what I am truly grateful for this holiday season!

Be sure to check out our story in "Kids on a Mission" and see what our kids are up to. In highlighting these efforts, we are hoping to inspire more families to participate in ways that fit in their already busy lives. We can help develop age appropriate tasks all can enjoy. Contact us to learn more.

Please know how grateful we are for all you have given us in our mission to help others. We hope to grow our efforts even further serving greater numbers and making just a little more difference each year.

On behalf of the staff and board of directors, please accept my warm wishes for a happy healthy holiday season.

Warm regards,

Kim Caisse

"FORE" EVER GRATEFUL

Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry held its Annual Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Sept 27. After having to postpone it from September 13th due to bad weather, the 27th was a great golf day! 133 golfers teed off at 9 am at Chicopee Country Club to enjoy eighteen holes of golf in the beautiful fall weather. Lunch and dinner provided by the Turn 9 Grill at the Country Club topped off the day.

After all was done, the tournament netted approx. \$23,000 for Lorraine's to use in its mission to fight food insecurity in our community.

A large thanks goes out to all our corporate sponsors: Alden Credit Union, Allied Flooring, Baystate Restoration, Beaulieu and Sons Home Improvement, Gelinas and Lefebvre Law Offices, LaPorte, Shea and Borys Insurance, McKinstry Market Garden, Mass Alternative Care, Ondrick Natural Earth, Springfield Thunderbirds, Valley Opportunity Council, Western Mass Mom Prom, Westfield Bank, and Yankee Home Improvement. Additional thanks go out to all of the local businesses and individuals who donated gifts for our raffle. The raffle is a large part of what we earn that day, and we could not do it without such generous donations. Teddy Bear Pool and Spa and East Main Street Auto sponsored hole-in-one contests. Unfortunately, no one won the pool or the \$10,000! Maybe next year!



Our happy participants. Thank you!



Our business sponsors. Thank you!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

KIDS ON A MISSION

Preschool



Four year old Gary Haas of Chicopee, helping to sort cans at LSKP.

How young is too young to start teaching kids about kindness through volunteering?

Here at Lorraine's we say it's never too early. Recently, four year old Gary Haas, accompanied his mom Katie Haas of Chicopee, to do a little volunteer work at LSKP. Katie herself began volunteering in the community as a child, so she is no stranger to giving back at an early age.

"It's important to show children that other people matter in the world and it's a lot bigger than just themselves..."

- Katie, Chicopee

Katie shared her reasons for starting Gary so early. *"It's important to show children that other people matter and the world is a lot bigger than just themselves and their family. Helping our community is a great way to express that. Being helpful and kind is a great quality to nurture as they grow up. It stays with them for life."*

TeenTime

NEARI school Easthampton students have been coming to Lorraine's two to three times a week for the past year. Some teens work stocking and sorting the inventory, and others come to cook.

"These teens are unique, in that they choose to come here as part of an elective course they take," said LSKP Executive Director, Kim Caisse. "They are a joy to be around and take their volunteer time seriously. I am thrilled with the relationship we have developed with NEARI School and its students."



NEARI's mission NEARI School students Easthampton enjoying the camaraderie explains it all," We help each student find the best ways to learn, relate, communicate effectively, and make a difference in the world." Learn more about NEARI at nearischool.org.

If you would like more information on programs like this contact Kim Caisse at 413-592-9528.



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)

ALL ABOUT GIVING



Every day people in our community face the challenges of food and housing insecurity. Those challenges are compounded in the harsh winter months here in New England.

Meeting those difficulties head on takes a different kind and level of giving.

Here is a list of how you can help get our clients through the storms:

NON FOOD ITEMS

We are looking for adult, new only please:

- Socks -New, heavy, thermal
- Shirts- Thermal
- Hats/ Gloves/Scarves

FOOD ITEMS

- Peanut Butter
- Granola/Protein Bars
- Soups
- Peanut Butter Cracker Packages

Hugging the outer wall of the LSKP building here in Chicopee, you'll see a patterned strip of walkway leading you to the entrance.

When new construction began, our vision was to create an idea that would honor a legacy of caring and kindness, and would stand the test of time as a beacon for the future visitors. That guiding light is our "Path to End Hunger" - our memorial brick walkway. Many people have scripted their deceased loved one's name here in this path. But few know that the names are not limited to just those who have gone before us. Donors have chosen to honor a living friend or family member who continues to exhibit kindness daily. Businesses etch their name as well, showing their dedication to our community.

If you have that hard to buy for, inspirational soul in your life, etch it in stone (or at least brick!) and let their legacy inspire others.

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.

Stress reducing office ideas!

- Take the stress out of office gift giving, and turn your exchange into a company event through food and clothing, 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)
- Tuna
- Pasta
- Sauces
- Peanut Butter

Answer



Save these ideas to share with family this holiday season!

Scan the code to donate securely!



Or visit lorrainessoupkitchen.com/donate



170 Pendexter Avenue | Chicopee, MA 01013

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Chicopee MA 01013
Permit # XX

MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER

Welcome Jerry Destin!



Jerry preparing Thanksgiving meals

We are pleased to announce the newest member of our LSKP staff, Jerry Destin, who has taken on the role of Operations Manager.

Jerry started at Lorraine's working through a temp agency. When his assignment was up, there was no doubt in our mind, he was perfect to fill the permanent position.

Jerry Destin is a first generation Haitian-American from Boston. He is a culinary graduate with over a decade of accomplishments and has worked in many different environments: steakhouses, fine dining, barbecue, smoke restaurants, and country club settings. He adapted easily to all of them, just as he is doing here at Lorraine's.

His goal for LSKP is to continue to uplift and serve the community and to work with and aid the residents of Chicopee.