

# FROM SOUP TO SERVICE

ST. JAMES RENOVATES ITS COMMUNITY SHARING CENTER



## SUPPORT OUR SOUP TO SERVICE CAMPAIGN

FROM WEEKEND LUNCHESES, TO 20,000 MEALS  
A YEAR, TO A COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACE...  
THE ST. JAMES STORY WARMS HEARTS & SOULS

For over thirty years, volunteers from St. James Episcopal Church in Painesville – along with its many partner churches – have been feeding the poor out of a vintage 1940s kitchen.

Parishioners began the St. James Lunch Program in 1983 to feed the hungry on Saturdays and Sundays. As the need and support from neighboring churches grew, we began providing lunch on legal holidays and simple evening meals on Monday and Tuesday as well.

Devoted volunteers from thirteen churches and three secular groups feed the homeless, the mentally ill and

displaced, the working poor, the aged on fixed incomes, and transient families seeking work and stability in our community. And we've felt honored to do so.

But now the time has come to update our building to current health and building department standards, so that we can continue this valuable work...and expand the scope of what we do from a simple soup kitchen to a full-service community center for one and all.

This is why the Soup to Service Campaign was launched.

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### FROM DINNER TO DISH WASHING... OUR CURRENT DILEMMA BEGAN IN THE KITCHEN

The success of our thirty-year-old feeding program inspired us to renovate the St. James kitchen. If we could do so much with so little, we reasoned, imagine how many more people we could help with an updated kitchen? We envisioned a kitchen area where food could be safely stored, efficiently prepared, and lovingly served in a pleasant, well-appointed dining/meeting area.

But as our kitchen renovation plans developed, we began to realize that an outdated kitchen wasn't the only issue requiring attention:

- ✓ The subfloor in our 150 year old building is not adequate, simply built on top of sleepers (floor joists,) creating critter problems and mustiness.

- ✓ The rest rooms are minimal: two single-use unisex washrooms and one fifty-year old, two-stall men's room...limiting our ability to fully utilize the building for outreach in collaboration with social service and educational organizations, and hosting community members' events in a flexible space.

If St. James is able to accomplish these basic renovations to our kitchen, floor, and rest rooms, we can expand from a simple soup kitchen to a flexible community facility that serves the entire Painesville community. Support for the Soup to Service Campaign will enable us to do it.

### FROM SOUP TO SERVICE... LOOK WHAT ST. JAMES HAS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED!

St. James is a 190-year-old congregation, deeply rooted in serving our community's less fortunate. Fiscally responsible and stable, we have our own 501(C) 3 autonomous foundation for endowment.

Having achieved so much already, St. James is well on its way to becoming a 'go to,' Soup to Service, fully appointed-community sharing center:

- ✓ St. James is well respected in the community with a vibrant feeding ministry that serves 400 meals a week...that's 20,000 meals a year!
- ✓ The program is open to the entire community; whether hungry or lonely, everyone is welcome to share a meal.
- ✓ This year the St. James Lunch Program celebrates its 30th anniversary.
- ✓ St. James is a hub for community service, with thirteen partner churches and numerous social service organizations.

- ✓ Recognized for treating people with dignity, St. James offers spiritual sustenance to the homeless, the poor and the mentally ill as with our parishioners.
- ✓ Through St. James, the community at large is provided with funeral services, baptisms, and marriages.
- ✓ As a partner in the Lake County Continuum of Care, St. James assists numerous Lake County social service agencies reach people needing help.
- ✓ St. James receives food and/or service donations from the Lake County Juvenile Court, the Painesville Municipal court, the Painesville Post Office, and many service and religious organizations, as well as businesses throughout the Lake County area.
- ✓ The groups already served by St. James include four 12-step support groups, Tai Chi for Health, and pre-school Christmas and graduation programs.

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### FROM SOUP TO SERVICE...

### LOOK WHAT ST. JAMES HAS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED!

- ✓ St. James makes worship space available regardless of denomination, serving as the first home of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church and two congregations of the Church of God in Christ.
- ✓ St. James fosters service in younger generations through supervised projects with Cub Scouts and

Girl Scouts, our partner church youth groups and confirmation classes.

But we don't think this is enough....St. James parishioners want to update our facility to become a greater resource for all our community.

### FROM RENOVATION TO SUSTENANCE & RECREATION...

### WITH YOUR HELP, HERE'S WHAT WE CAN BECOME

Since the need of Painesville's less fortunate continues, the St. James Lunch Program is more vital than ever. While unemployment has recently decreased, so has the average salary...at the same time, the cost of life's essentials has increased. And today, more children live in poverty than ever before.

With your support for our Soup to Service Campaign, St. James will be able to continue to support the hungry and disenfranchised. At the same time, renovations to our center will ensure that St. James continues to be a thriving part of this community for years to come.

Your support would help us to become a ministry center...both an outreach center and a place of worship. Renovations to bring our space into compliance would enable us to...

- ✓ Provide a safe, healthy, and accessible space for the hungry and homeless;
- ✓ Maintain a comfortable environment for our current ministries;
- ✓ Provide affordable space for other outreach groups;
- ✓ Offer our facility as space for public service uses; and
- ✓ Open our doors to the arts, to musical and theatrical events...as so many thriving churches do.

The question shouldn't be, "Can we afford to do this?" If we are to fulfill our call to service for the next fifty years, the question needs to be, "Can we afford not to?"

### FROM START TO FINISH...

### THIS IS WHAT OUR SOUP TO SERVICE PROJECT NEEDS

Your support of the Soup to Service Campaign plays a vital role in making our dream – to develop St. James into a community gathering place, a ministry sharing center where everyone is welcome – come true. This will be the only such center in downtown Painesville.

We need to raise \$800,000 to do it. Our 150-year-old building is restricted by a lack of proper facilities. But if you share our vision to create a vibrant center where the homeless are fed...and everyone in the community has access to a new public space for service, outreach, and the arts...your support will make it all happen.

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### FROM START TO FINISH... THIS IS WHAT OUR SOUP TO SERVICE PROJECT NEEDS

The operations of the St. James Community Sharing Center are entirely self-funded, and volunteer-driven. Our Soup to Service Campaign supports the renovation and will improve our ability to serve all members of the Painesville community better...long into the future.

Without the support of local community leaders like you, we will not be able to move forward.

FROM BUSINESS OWNERS  
TO SOCIAL WORKERS...  
OUR SOUP TO SERVICE  
CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP



#### OUR MISSION:

Community sharing the love of Christ:  
nurturing mind, body and soul.

The Rev. Vanessa E. B. Clark

Tom & Libby Hill

Nancy Walsh

Kimberly Birch

Bobbie Nolan

Arthur Q. Lindrose

Joshua Horacek

Richard Goodale

Judith Morris Barrie

Scott A. Hewis

Gracia Morton

Jan Downing

Michelle Hovencamp

James Morton

David Webster

Robert Beckwith

## HOW TO GIVE

Please provide the following information:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

I PLEDGE TO GIVE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For a pledge card contact the church office  
at 440-354-3526 or Tom Hill at 440-478-6633.