

## Community Kitchen Report 2024

The Community Kitchen Ministry is a ministry that serves Strafford residents and families, providing nourishing food, fellowship and prayer opportunities. This ministry is going strong in its sixteenth year of feeding the community! We receive canned and boxed items and fresh and frozen items from the USDA every month that are used to create weekly meals for the community.

Many new community members have joined in to serve, and we are thankful that these meals have become a welcoming and inviting place for many families in the area. Over twenty people help with the weekly suppers each month by picking up Food Bank bakery items, planning and cooking meals, baking desserts, serving and interacting with the community and cleaning up after meals. There are five teams that form a weekly rotation throughout the year. Each team chooses a menu and purchases any extra items needed for the meal. Over the last year, we have strived to served nutritional meals each week that range from chicken pot pies, pasta and fish dishes to soups, stews and pulled pork. When possible, we serve fresh salads, and we benefit from the Community Garden and neighbors' donations of local produce.

This year has been a turning point for the Community Kitchen. We are welcoming more people that come to eat in than those who take out meals. We have been serving up to eighty meals weekly and over 200 meals each month. Because the numbers have increased, the donations from the community have also increased. This has caused the Community Kitchen to become self-sustaining because of local donations and those given by people that eat at the meals.

We are thankful that the community is once again coming into the Christian Center for meals, and we continue to encourage our neighbors to come and fellowship! We pray that it will continue to serve the community spiritually as well as physically.

We are also thankful to all those that make this ministry possible through their donations of time, energy, talents and money. If anyone would like to join in this ministry, please reach out to me. Thank you, and God bless.

Respectfully, Larisa Molloy,

Coordinator, Community Kitchen