



MATCHAN MENU

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www.matchannutritioncenter.org

Co-Editors: Frank Schmid & Betty Esnault



Prayers once again

When we were at our old location, the volunteers and our neighbors said the Our Father in a group



before the meal started. Now, our neighbors drift into the pantry and kitchen at different times starting at 10:30 AM. So

now at 10:15 the volunteers gather in a circle before our neighbors come in. We bow our heads to put ourselves in the presence of the Lord and we give thanks to the Lord for giving us the opportunity to serve. We pray that the dignity of the people we serve is preserved. We remember our donors of all kinds and any special intentions we may have.

It only takes a few minutes but it reminds us why we are there.

LOC Easter Ham Drive



On behalf of the people we serve, I want to thank all those who participated in the 13th Annual Easter Ham Drive sponsored

by the Ladies of Charity (LOC) for the Matchan Nutrition Center. This year, 66 people donated a total of 32 hams and \$2,363.

Matchan thanks Mary Ottney for her efforts as LOC Ham Drive Chairperson. We also thank Leslie Swanson, LOC President, and Fr. Jim Smalarz, Pastor at OLQM, for promoting this event.



The Easter Ham drives and Thanksgiving Turkey drives have become very important annual events for Matchan.

The hams were given to our neighbors who came to the pantry the Thursday before Easter. When the hams ran out, we gave away ham bones. These are Honey Bake Ham bones that have a great deal of ham on them. Honey Bake makes ham sandwiches but only uses the spiral cut portion of the ham. The rest is sold as ham bone.



Tim Schuele, Matchan's Board Chairman and volunteer, tells this story of that day. "We had an older gentleman come into the marketplace Thursday right before we shutdown. He was careful in picking out just a few items, milk, some produce, and a few pieces of fruit. I asked him if he would like a ham bone. He broke down in tears of gratitude. He just lost his job and was not sure how they could afford a ham for Easter meal. I gave him the largest hambone we had left, and he expressed a blessing for us, for the work we do."

Heartwarming!

Times are good at Matchan.

People have found us. Attendance figures are going up. We are consistently getting over 100 people at both the pantry and the kitchen (where we serve hot nutritious meals) except on those days when Social Security delivers their checks.



Easter baskets were available for the children who came to the Pantry this year. Occasionally, we get toys and new stuffed animals also. Some are quite elaborate like the doll house and



car below. Something like this would be unaffordable to most of our neighbors.



Matchan is constantly looking for new sources of food. We hardly ever have too much food. Cereals, canned goods, drinks and some fruits and vegetables can be saved now that our storage area has been improved. Perishable foods that are left over at the end of the day are usually taken to Grace Center of Hope, a shelter in the center of Pontiac where approximately 60 men live. Depending on the type and quantity of food that is left over, we may take it to Oakland



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Metro Food Rescue is one of our most recent donors. They rescue food that would otherwise be discarded and deliver it to food pantries like Matchan, and throughout the Pontiac and Detroit areas. Because of the growing need, they complement and supplement the region's major food-focused organizations. They have premium food products like Entenmann's, Thomas' English Muffins and bagels, and Brownberry bread products.



Another valuable and relatively new food source is Hospitality House in Commerce Twp. Hospitality House operates a food pantry and provides referral services. In addition, Hospitality House also provides advice and aid to pantries in other cities as they work to fight hunger in the greater southeastern Michigan community. They have limited freezer space so when they have surplus frozen meat, they donate it to Matchan. Although Matchan needs to travel 12 miles to Hospitality House, their donation provides meat for our kitchen as well as for our neighbors in need.

When the Ladies of Charity found out we lost Costco as a donor, they began to bake bread, cakes, and cookies for us. Although some of these treats are given to our neighbors who shop at the pantry, most of these goodies are used as desserts with our hot meals in the kitchen.



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The pantry is doing extremely well. People bring carts to carry their food. There is no limit on what they can take if we have an ample amount. We often purchase eggs and other fruits and vegetables if we need them to have a well-rounded selection. We always have milk from Gleaners and a limited amount of meat from Gordons Food.



More and more clothing is showing up lately. This area has expanded to include shoes and boot also. There are a lot of children's and woman's clothing

but there is a need for men's wear.



In the basement at All Saints Episcopal Church is a gym where we set up the pantry. On the third floor is an auditorium where we serve a hot nutritious meal. A visitor once said to me, "It's sort of like Hudson's use to be. After you are done shopping, you go up a level and have lunch."

Hygiene Kits

This is a common project for school children, potential Eagle Scouts or community groups. It is simple to do but takes a lot of time and energy. Hygiene kits contain soap, dental supplies, deodorant – anything to keep you clean. They are greatly appreciated by our neighbors because they can't buy these things with their bridge card and often do without.

During Lent at Christ Our Light Church, the 5th and 6th grade students in the Religious Education's Monday night program selected Matchan for their



Lenten Giving Activity. They purchased and packaged items for hygiene kits. They called them “Blessing Bags” for the needy.

We thank Cindy Kanczuzewski and the children at Christ Our Light for including Matchan in

their Lenten Program.

Matchan Board member Christine Devine also organized a couple of hygiene projects recently also. Julie Nelson from Our lady of Refuge brought in a few people to help assemble hygiene kits. All the components had to be sorted out into milk crates before the kits could be made. Over 50 gallon size zip-lock kits were made. They ran out of toothbrushes but Julie sent in 100 toothbrushes the following week to finish the job. (Julie is also the one who has donated home baked cookies every other week for the last three months). God bless you, Julie.



In the month of May, the Michigan District Optimist and Michigan District JOI Board donated over 100 hygiene kits that included quarters for laundry, new socks, and Kleenex. Leftover supplies were also included for future kits. Thank you Tom and Cindy Longway for this wonderful donation to Matchan.

Some Friends Never Forget

A few weeks ago, we were serving lunch and a familiar face showed up, banjo in hand. It was Jim Artinian. I wondered when Jim was at Matchan last. I found the answer in our August 2007 Board Members' Meeting minutes, referencing to that year's Appreciation Dinner for volunteers and

donors. It read, “Music will be provided by Janis and Jim Artinian.” Yes, Jim and his brother had volunteered to play and sing for us 16 years ago.



Some friends never forget. Jim came back to entertain our neighbors after 16 years. He sang some classics; “You are My Sun Shine,” “Sweet Caroline,” “This Little Light of Mine,” and “Amazing Grace” and more. He prompted one of our neighbors to create his own song.

He plays a 5 string right-handed banjo with his left hand. The strings are upside down, but that is the way he learned to play.

Thank you Jim and you are always welcomed to come back.

A New Endeavor at Matchan

By Gary Fiscus, Matchan Board Member

The motto of Saint Vincent is “No work of charity is foreign to The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul”. In keeping with that rule, we are always looking to expand our relationships with existing partners and pursue new opportunities to help our neighbors in need.

We have recently started a pilot program and partnered with Kids Empowered On The Move (<https://kidsempoweredonthemove.org/>) to deliver hot meals to neighbors in need in Pontiac that do not have transportation. We have been delivering 8 hot meals every Thursday for the past month.



We coordinate with Kids Empowered On The Move every week to determine how many meals are needed and where to deliver them. Kimber Bishop-Yanke is the founder and president of Kids Empowered On The Move and is also the President of the Oakland County Poverty Task Force. We have been participating with the Oakland County Poverty Task for over a year and recently helped give a presentation on The Society Of Saint Vincent DePaul to the Oakland County Poverty Task Force. We hope to grow this program and continue to find ways to help our neighbors and leverage resources.

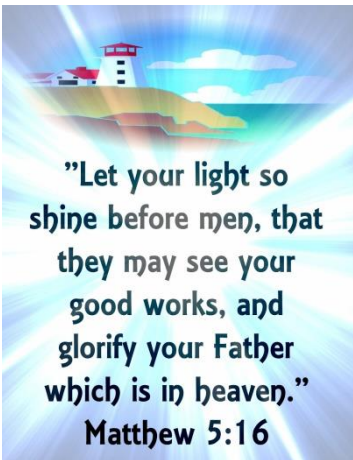
**Matchan Nutrition Center
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
P.O.Box 430954
Pontiac, MI 48343**

**Return Service
Requested**



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

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“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm and well fed”, but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead”. *James 2:15-17*

Thank you, Volunteers and Donors

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The Matchan Nutrition Center

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization sponsored by Oakland County District of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Take a look at the Matchan website at <http://www.matchannutritioncenter.org/>. It is a story book about the Matchan Nutrition Center.

Find out how you can help with your time and talents.

If you are able and we have convinced you that what we do is worthy of your support, you can help financially by making a donation on line or mail it to: **Matchan Nutrition Center, PO Box 430954, Pontiac, MI 48343.**

Send comments to: matchan.svdp@gmail.com