



MATCHAN MENU

March, 2023

Volume 15, Issue 1

www.matchannutritioncenter.org

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New Matchan Website Goes Live!

We are excited to announce that the new Matchan Nutrition Center website is live! The website is still located at: <https://www.matchannutritioncenter.org/>. We hope that the new format, with fresh photographs and action-driven text, will be engaging and effective for our patrons, our donors, and our volunteers.

We had hoped to create a new website several years ago, but the Covid-19 pandemic and our unexpected move to All Saints' Church delayed the process. We knew that an engaging, user-friendly website was an important part of our outreach to the Pontiac community and to possible donors and volunteers. Our organization's location change provided an opportunity: it drove many community members to our website looking for information, and so it seemed a perfect time to complete the renovation. The new site was presented to the Matchan Board for input and was launched officially on Friday January 27, 2023.

We researched similar not-for-profit websites for inspiration and found an emphasis on clear, concise text; on action-driven pages and links; and on interesting visuals and graphics.

We found that websites for many not-for-profit websites had two main goals:

- Conveying information and resources to those who would use the service offered by the not-for-profit and
- Giving potential donors and volunteers an easy and clear pathway to offering support and a reason to do so.

Accordingly, we worked to streamline our messaging and to organize our website to cater to the two groups that access it most often: those seeking help and those wishing to give help. Our aim was to direct each user to the information most useful to him or her as quickly and easily as possible.

As the website evolves, we will strive to create fresh content to feature monthly. In the next few months, for example, we hope to launch short but informative pieces accenting nutrition information, recipes from our chef, spotlight features on our donors, and feedback from our weekly visitors.

The rich tradition of giving that Matchan Nutrition Center has offered the Pontiac Community for nearly 40 years remains the same. We hope that our new website facilitates the service that we offer our neighbors and clears the way for those who wish to support our mission.

Please visit our new website! We look forward to your input, and we thank you for your support of The Matchan Nutrition Center.

By Mike MacLean

How Can I Help?

Kelly Monahan asked this question last Christmas. She works for a small, family owned physical therapy company. They have about 20 employees and wanted to donate to Matchan for Christmas. We decided that creating hygiene kits would be a good project for 20 people, collecting things like tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, body lotion, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner. They made kits for men and women by placing these items in a Ziploc bag. Our neighbors really appreciated these gifts.



If you are a traveler, collect unused hotel toiletries and bring them home for Matchan. Collect canned food. Gloves and socks are needed every winter. This past summer, Christ Church Cranbrook brought Matchan fresh vegetables that they grew in their church



gardens. Boy Scouts have created their Eagle Scout programs around a Matchan need. Schools have included Matchan in their outreach programs. Beverly School in Beverly Hills had a canned food drive this fall.

Go to our website, matchannutritioncenter.org, and click on GIVE HELP. There are all kind of ways you can help!

2022 Year End Report

Our mission at the Matchan Nutrition Center is to serve hot, well balanced meals to our neighbors in need and to provide other life changing assistance that leads to self-sufficiency locally in Oakland County. Our ability to carry out this mission depends greatly on the support of our donors and volunteers. The reason that Matchan has been successful is that people believe in what we do and the way it is done. This is why we feel it is important to update you, each year, through this Newsletter and on our website, (www.matchannutritioncenter.org).

Matchan is both a soup kitchen and a pantry. The



pantry saw major changes, even more so than the kitchen. Our main source of milk, eggs, meat products, fruits, and vegetables is Gleaners. Pre-pandemic,

the van would pick up 500 to 600 pounds of food each week. Now we often pick up over 3000 pounds. The pantry grew so large that we now call it the Market Place.

Matchan closed on May 3, 2022 because it lost its lease; therefore, we fully operated for only eight months. During the last four months, we still



collected and distributed food at Oakland Hope, thus retaining our food donors until we opened again at All Saint Episcopal Church in September. Our

numbers below will reflect this change.

The Kitchen served 6,268 hot nutritious meals this year during the 8 months we were open. We closed down May 31st and reopened September 27th. This averages about 95 meals a day, down from the 200 that we served in pre-pandemic times. We slowly

were increasing our numbers and then we had to shut down.

The Pantry answered a notable increase in the need, caused by the pandemic, for food to be taken home for use during the week. This year, 140,000 pounds of food were given away. Funds required to operate the pantry are primarily the cost of the van that picks up the food and shared cost with the Kitchen such as wages, trash collection, insurance and printing. Very little food was purchased. All food and Market Place donations come from Gleaner, Costco, Panera and GFS.

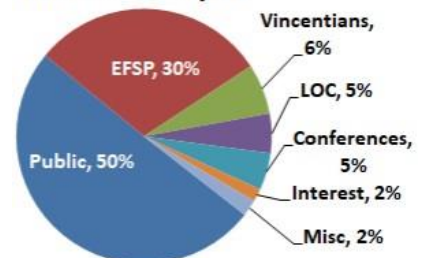
Volunteers are the backbone of our operation. We had 76 regular volunteers before the pandemic. Today Matchan operates with about 39 volunteers, 21 or more who work each day. The total number of volunteer hours was 13,900, close to the 16,000 last year even though we were closed some of the time. We still were responsible for closing down and finding a new location, Our “Working Board” put in about 7,000 of these hours.

In-kind services totaled \$58,150. The 15 **governmental and social agencies** were invited to return after the pandemic. The **Christian Legal Aid Program lawyers** returned after its absence for the previous fiscal year. The St. Paul Street Evangelization Apostolates and Humana Insurance Agency also returned. The total in-kind services included about \$4,150 in St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store clothing vouchers.

In-kind goods totaling \$439,000 were picked up from **Gleaners, Costco, Panera, Whole Foods, Ellen’s Cafe and Gordon Foods**. Excess donations were distributed to other organizations.

Where does the money come from to support the Matchan operation? We had about 153 donors last year. This Chart summarizes our sources of funding. 10 **St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Conferences** are on our donor list. **Vincentians** are individuals who belong to or have a relationship with SVdP Conferences. The **Ladies of Charity (LOC)** conduct a Thanksgiving Turkey Drive and an Easter Ham Drive for us each year. In the 2022 Drive, 52 turkeys

Income 2021/22

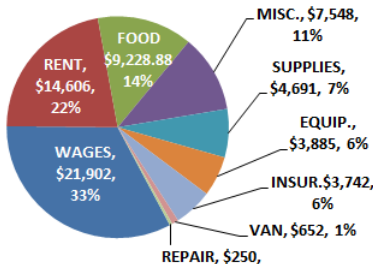


were collected. Government funds came from **EFSP** (Emergency Food and Shelter Program). All donated money is used to support our mission.

Meijer Simply-Give program matches donations made to Matchan at its 12 Mile and Telegraph store. This year we spent \$6,771 in Meijer food cards. If you use the Meijer Program, please send us an e-mail at machan.svdp@gmail.com, so we know who you are, and we can add you to our donor list.

Where does the money go? Operational costs were \$66,505 this year. Meal costs are usually a measure of performance. However, because we were closed

Expences 2021/22 > \$66,505



as a result of losing our lease, various normal figures of merit are skewed. **79% of our expenses did not change because we were closed.** The van still picked up

food. Rent, wages, insurance, and miscellaneous charges still needed to be paid. Equipment had already been purchased in anticipation of our needs.

We have two paid, part-time employees. During the four months that we were closed, our employees were still paid. They were involved with the moving process some of the time; they were tearing down racks, cleaning, and move equipment to a storage location. There were additional expenses like hiring people to move heavy appliances out of the basement and to a storage facility. We can say that food costs were \$1.47 per meal. This includes the Meijer's funds from their Simply Give program for which we are very grateful.

Other Activities include a **clothing table** where clients can get gloves, hats, coats and various other clothing. Vincent de Paul Detroit provides us with \$4,150 in **vouchers for clothing** at the **SVdP Thrift Stores** that we make available for our guests. Some SVdP Conferences earn vouchers at the stores and donate them to Matchan.



Hygiene kits are still assembled and made available to our guests. **Sleeping bags** that are made by Helping Hands in Troy are given to those in need. Matchan purchases **emergency clothing** such as

boots or work shoes that are not available at the SVdP stores.

All in all, it was a difficult year, but good year. The coming year will be no less demanding as we begin again as we did 38 years ago. We are proud of the work that we are doing during this challenging time. With God's help, we will overcome the obstacles that now stand in our way. We thank you for your continuing support.

An Update of Where Matchan Is This Year.

In the End-of-Year report above, it stated that our main source of milk, eggs, meat products, fruits and vegetables is Gleaners. That has changed. As of the New Year, Lighthouse assumed responsibility for the building however, as a courtesy to those who utilized this source in the past, they have allowed Gleaners to distribute primarily food boxes and some milk on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The food boxes contain various surplus canned goods, cereals and candies; however, we receive less fresh fruits and vegetables and no more butter and eggs. GFS helps us in this area, but we need to supplement these foods by purchasing them with *Meijer Simply Give* funds. We can still purchase food through Gleaners but the free food is limited.

Costco was our source of bakery products but they now give what we received in the past to Forgotten Harvest. We are in the process of finding a new source for bread and other bakery products.

Fortunately, we have volunteers like Jim who collects food from various sources and delivers them to many non-profits. He has added us to his list. You never know what he will bring next. He has a watchful eye and knows what we can use.

Our relationship with All Saints' Episcopal Church is getting better and better. They like what we do and are working hard on securing what we need. We now share their cooler and freezer appliances. Storage places are being evaluated.

Our numbers of neighbors served are improving also. We are approaching our post-Covid attendance numbers. More people are finding our location and what we can provide.

We have faced many challenges in the past few years but we resolve them with God's help. He never lets us out of his sight.

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

**Return Service
Requested**



James Stanley



We at Matchan are all saddened by the sudden passing of our beloved volunteer, James Stanley. He has been with us for many years and died just 10 days after his 62nd birthday.

You couldn't help but love James whose warm and gentle manner and dedication to helping our neighbors endeared him to all. James was in charge of the canned goods in the MarketPlace. He would ask someone to take a picture of his food display because he was so proud



of how it looked, but he didn't always want to be included in the picture. He was a humble man who treated everyone with love and dignity. All who were fortunate enough to know him miss him deeply, and offer our heartfelt prayers for the family and friends he has left behind. May he rest in peace

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.svdv@gmail.com