

# The Lighthouse Waterville Area Soup Kitchen

*More than 133,000 meals served*



## Feeding our Neighbors

It would be wonderful to say that food insecurity in our area has been eliminated. Unfortunately, the numbers say that it continues and in fact, has grown. The Waterville Area Soup Kitchen has served more meals in the first 9 months of 2024 than in all of 2023.

### Average Daily Meals Served

- 2022 - 165
- 2023 - 205
- 2024 so far – 296

*Mindful Spending*

With sources of low-cost and no-cost food supplies, the average cost of the 7,403 meals produced in August, with all operating costs included, was \$1.80

## Heartfelt thanks to a Departing Member

Aline Poulin was instrumental in the foundation of the Waterville Area Soup Kitchen in the summer of 2020. It was her experience with non-profits, her devotion to our cause, and her selfless dedication of many hundreds of hours that brought WASK from a 'good idea' into a thriving reality. After serving tirelessly in every conceivable capacity for the soup kitchen, Aline has decided to step into a 'real' retirement. She will be sorely missed.



## New Board Members - We extend a warm welcome to Anna and to Angela.



Anna Holdener has become a familiar face at the Lighthouse since last fall when she began attending 'listening sessions' in the dining room. Anna works for KVCAP and operates the South End Teen Center. She has been active with the South End Neighborhood Association for years. Her presence with us has been a boon.



Angela Leary is a Systems Implementation Specialist at Huhtamaki. Since opening the Lighthouse, WASK has enjoyed a close and beneficial relationship with Huhtamaki. Angela has been an advocate for the Sexual Assault Center and has many years of experience working as a coach. We are excited that she will bring those skills to WASK.

## A Valuable Team Member

Jimmy Falero has moved many times in his 61 years. Born in Connecticut, he has lived in South Carolina, Ohio, and Florida before landing in Maine several years ago. Jimmy worked in construction and hurricane recovery in Florida for nearly two decades. With a love for mountains and rural living, he briefly lived in a tent near Waterville. When he heard about the Lighthouse, Jimmy asked if we could use any help. That was a fortuitous day for the Lighthouse. Since then, he has become a fixture with us. He oversees the dish room and takes on many other jobs: cooking, cleaning, painting – lending a hand wherever needed. Jimmy spent a year at the shelter and has recently moved into an apartment in Waterville. He likes our community and we're very glad to have him!



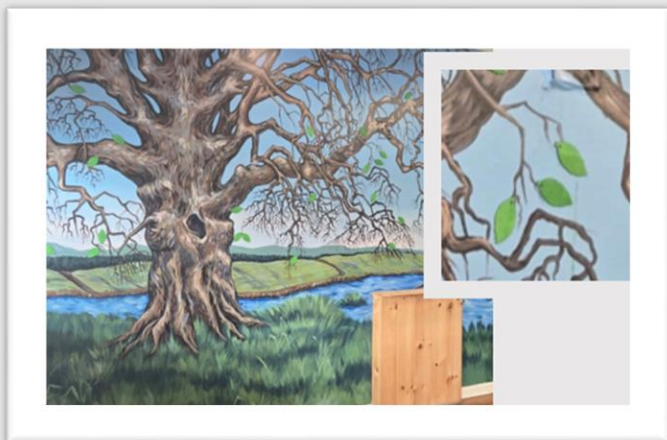
## Volunteers

After four eventful and productive years, WASK remains an all-volunteer operation with more than 70 individuals on the roster. The Board of Directors was pleased to host a recent celebration of these invaluable contributors. Thank you to Rita Lacroix for an array of scrumptious offerings served at the event. It's only because of volunteers and friends that the Lighthouse can operate each day. If you have time and would like to explore options to contribute, please come by the Lighthouse any weekday for more information.



### ART

The Lighthouse recently received a beautiful gift from Waterville Creates! Desiree DuBois and Nicholas Runco painted a lovely, meaningful mural in our dining room. Known as participatory art, this beautiful tree welcomes our guests to contribute by adding a leaf when they meet a personal goal. Placing a leaf is tangible evidence of an achievement. Several leaves already grace the tree and many more will be added in the weeks and months ahead.



### UPCOMING

**Holidays** The Lighthouse will once again welcome friends for holiday meals. Many thanks to Kingdom Life Church who will staff Thanksgiving, and Beth Israel Congregation who will serve Christmas lunch..

**Festival of Trees** The Waterville Area Soup Kitchen is excited to participate in the Waterville Festival of Trees this year, which will be held during the last two weekends of November. We are looking to be the "BEST in SHOW" so come check us out and bid on our tree! All proceeds raised will address food insecurity and workforce development opportunities.

**Save the Date** **Thurs March 20, 2025**  
WASK will be hosting a fundraising event at the Waterville Elks Club. Stay tuned for details as the date approaches. It will be a fun event!



**Learn more about us**

Visit our website at [WatervilleAreaSoupKitchen.org](http://WatervilleAreaSoupKitchen.org) and follow us on Facebook

**Waterville Area Soup Kitchen**  
PO Box 1494, 38 College Ave  
Waterville ME 04903



### GRANTS and DONATIONS

The Waterville Area Soup Kitchen continues to be blessed by generous Maine supporters and champions of our mission.

WASK is enormously grateful to once again be a recipient of a \$15,000. grant from the John T. Gorman foundation, intended for general operating support.



This Maine foundation is a beautiful example of what can happen when a lottery jackpot lands in the right hands. 'Narragansett Number One' has generously awarded \$10,000 to us. Thank you!

WASK has once again been awarded \$10,000 by the Community Building Grant Program. We appreciate being recognized for the real and potential impact we have on our immediate and extended community. Thank you!



This very local organization recently awarded us \$1000. Neighbors helping neighbors! We are very happy to be among the many worthy organizations aided by this group! Thank you!

Healthy Northern Kennebec, whose mission is to "improve public health in Northern Kennebec by engaging the community, assessing needs, and planning actions for success" donated \$1500. Thank you!



Special thanks to a local individual for the generous gift of a washer/dryer. What a treat to no longer haul laundry home each evening!

### Individual Donations

WASK is grateful to all of those who support our operations and want to give a special shout-out to our regular monthly donors. An individual donation of \$50/month allows us to provide 1 meal a day for a guest all year long. Any amount is helpful and goes a long way.

**To join, sign up on our website.**

