



The Lighthouse Waterville Area Soup Kitchen



More than 180,000 meals served

Meals Served	• 2022 - 19,381	• 2024 - 82,040
	• 2003 - 52,664	• Through March 2025 - 22,015

Average Cost per Meal • \$2.50

A Night to Remember

After many months of work and planning, the Waterville Area Soup Kitchen hosted its **1st Annual Tropical Winter Escape** on Thursday, March 20th. 200 guests filled the Elks Club for an evening of great food, lively music, and warm camaraderie - all in support of WASK's mission to fight hunger and need in our community.

The main event of the evening was a combined live and silent auction to benefit operations at the Lighthouse. Many valuable items were on offer, from artwork and handcrafted furniture to power tools, local experiences, signed memorabilia from Boston pro sports teams, and the coveted recipes of the local Joseph's Steakhouse. WASK's **John Perry** took the stage as auctioneer, entertaining eager bids with great humor as guests competed for the prizes. The silent portion of the auction also offered a great variety of items, including kitchen appliances, craft items, and many gift certificates to local eateries and businesses.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this inaugural event a success - the sponsors who gave so generously, those who donated auction items, and of course, all who came out to enjoy the evening and bid enthusiastically. So many 50/50 tickets! Thanks to your support, the proceeds from the evening will cover the cost of more than 15,000 meals at the Lighthouse.

Special thanks to General Farwell for the music, to Patti Dolham and the Robin's Nest for lovely centerpieces, and to the South End Teen Center for decorating the hall.



- Sponsors**
- Huhtamaki ✨ OWN Real Estate ✨ Colby College
 - Kennebec Savings Bank ✨ Paul Boudreau & Assoc
 - Nancy Sanford ✨ Oakhurst Dairy ✨ Chase Toys
 - Mitchell, Tardy, & Jackson ✨ Blue Sky Counseling
 - Dirigo Veterinary Care ✨ Maine State Credit Union
 - United Steel Workers - Local 449 ✨ Faith Church
 - Sappi ✨ Waterville First Congregational Church

Missed it? No worry.

WASK's 2nd annual **Tropical Winter Escape** is already in the works. Mark your calendars - **March 26, 2026**. We'll be back at the Elks with more food, music, and fun and who knows what wonderful items will be up for grabs.

See you there!



IMPROVEMENTS

WASK is in the 2nd phase of a 3-year grant from Kennebec Savings Bank. This Catalyst grant has been enormously helpful in improving our infrastructure.

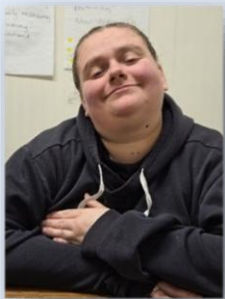
This year's funds enabled us to upgrade 2 key pieces of equipment - our aging, cranky steam table and an old make-do beverage cooler. We now boast a new, larger steam table for more efficient lunch service, and a food-appropriate cooler for the kitchen.



PERSONAL STORIES

Chelsea Atwood is a familiar face at the Lighthouse, and we are excited to share her good news. On May 29th, she will proudly receive her HiSET credential at Waterville Senior High School – a milestone nearly two decades in the making.

Eighteen years ago, Chelsea's education took a backseat to motherhood. Last year, after many challenges, Chelsea decided to take control of her future and returned to her studies. With the HiSET behind her, she plans to begin classes in the Culinary Arts Program at KVCC later this month.



After that? Chelsea hopes to be working in a commercial kitchen and thinks a job as a pastry chef sounds especially good. She is on her way, and we couldn't be happier for her.



ON OUR TEAM

Jessica Beedy spent most of her adult life in southern California. Last June, she and her family moved to Waterville, and the Lighthouse was about to be blessed.

A former volunteer at Preble Street in Portland, Jessica stopped by to see how she might help and has barely missed a day in the last 10 months.



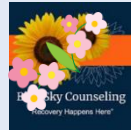
Her own life experiences, including a struggle with alcohol, give Jessica a compassionate heart and some skill in dealing with others who are struggling. She has become an indispensable presence in the dining room, handling any task or crisis with grace.

COLLABORATION



Offering meals and community resource connections in a welcoming space

The Lighthouse is a reliable and compassionate provider of nutritious meals. We're also expanding our impact by connecting guests with a growing network of partner organizations that offer vital resources and support.



A **Blue Sky Counselor** volunteers every week, making referrals for treatment and establishing meaningful connections with individuals who may be considering treatment but aren't quite ready.

Maine Family Planning Mobile Health on Wheels visits the Lighthouse twice each month, providing essential services, often at low or no cost, such as contraception, pregnancy testing, STI testing, breast cancer screenings, and pap tests.



A **Maine Career Center** counselor will be onsite every other week to help with employment opportunities.

Assistance Plus will soon provide onsite assistance for anyone struggling with substance use.



IN MEMORIAM

WASK mourns the loss of one of our founders with the passing of Roger Routhier several weeks ago. Roger was there at the beginning, bringing his Sacred Heart experience to the Lighthouse, and his presence will be missed.



Learn more about us
Visit our website at
WatervilleAreaSoupKitchen.org

WASK is grateful to all who support our operations, including our 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.

DONATE on our website



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