

Summer 2023

# Waterville Area Soup Kitchen

## The Lighthouse

*More than 50,000 meals served*



### The Lighthouse continues to serve our community



## Current Needs

### Financial Support

Our meal count is increasing rapidly - up more than 600% in one year - and the demand for our service continues to rise. We are happy to serve our neighbors and take pleasure in providing as much as is needed. The result is - the more we do, the more we spend. We are making the best use of our resources, and our cooks work magic to prepare delicious meals economically. Still, as we grow, so does our budget. We are profoundly grateful to our supporters and the assistance provided, and we need more.

### We are appealing for subscription donors

- \$3.50 pays for a meal, all expenses included
- \$35 will provide for 10 meals
- **Will you pledge ten meals each month?**

We are proud of what we do, and our guests are grateful for the food and support we offer. Please help us to keep going. To make a recurring donation, visit our webpage.

[www.watervilleareasoupkitchen.com](http://www.watervilleareasoupkitchen.com)

### Volunteers Requested

Our volunteers are the best! They faithfully arrive every week to serve our guests in many ways. Some volunteer for one day per week, others for 2 or 3. Some help in the kitchen or serve breakfast or lunch, others operate the dishwasher or clean the floors after lunch. Our volunteers also deliver meals to shut ins.

Currently we are looking for help with donation pickups on Wed and Fri at 7am. Access to a truck is a plus!

**If you have as little as an hour a week, you can help!**  
Please call 207-859-3063, visit our webpage, or stop by.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Sincere Thank You to

- **Individual Donors** - donated > \$14,000 already in 2023
- **John T. Gorman Foundation** - \$15,000 grant
- **Maine Community Foundation** - \$10,000 grant
- **Bangor Savings Bank** - \$4,000 foundation grant
- **Fortin's Home Furnishings of Winslow** - donated 2 new refrigerator freezers, fulfilling enormous need
- **Hannaford** - continuing weekly generosity of foods
- **Poland Spring** - provided bottled water when we were hit with a citywide 'don't drink the water' order
- **Johnny's Selected Seeds** - included us in their donation of 50 lbs of greens
- **Waterville Area Women's Club** - \$1,000
- **Waterville Rotary Club** - \$1,250
- **Local area churches** - \$6,500
- **Local Businesses** - \$4,200
- **Rita Lacroix** - a constant champion, fed our guests from her food truck one day in June
- **Monica Hawk** - Pampered Chef Consultant hosting a party which benefits us
- **All** - who hosted birthday fundraisers on Facebook

## Community Service Award

### Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter Awards Carla Caron

In May, WASK President Carla Caron was recognized with a 'Community Service Award' by the Board of Directors of the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter at their Annual General Meeting.



The Directors of WASK are pleased to have a good working relationship with the Shelter, as we work to serve many of the same clientele.

**Congratulations to Carla!**

## Upcoming Events

### Virtual Fundraiser - Happening Now, ending soon

Log onto the online Pampered Chef party and find some new tools for your kitchen! WASK receives a portion of all sales.



**August is DOUBLE DONATION MONTH**

Scan the QR code or use the link below

<http://www.pamperedchef.com/party.wtvlsoupkitchen>

Working together to end hunger!

### Wellness Day - Tuesday September 12

Between noon and 3:00, WASK and 20 other local and state agencies will be available at Head of Falls to present information about their services. Learn how to access help regarding:

- Housing
- Behavioral health
- Jobs and Employment
- Re-entry from prison
- Addiction medicine, treatment, and recovery
- Other issues



**Rita's Food Truck will be on site**

## Our family is growing

### John Perry

Meet John, the newest member of the WASK Board of Directors. We are happy to welcome him to the team.



"I am originally from Fairfield Center and now live in Oakland. I've been at Huhtamaki for 17 years. I am the Environmental, Health & Safety Manager at Huhtamaki, a position I've held since 2011. I believe in the mission of the Waterville Area Soup Kitchen and hope to serve the community until such time there is no longer a need."

### Todd Stevens

A new resource at the Lighthouse is Todd. He joined the Waterville Police Department in March as Community Outreach Coordinator, a new position created to serve people struggling with a number of issues: mental health, substance abuse, and other crises.

Todd works with this at-risk population and strives to connect them with organizations and agencies that can help. He visits the Lighthouse often, getting to know the people who visit there regularly. He monitors radio traffic and attempts to de-escalate situations before an official police response is required.

He has also visited some of the city's camps, learning of people's needs and working to find solutions. One simple example is when he provided rakes, city trash bags, and DPW pick-up to those who live outside, without amenities most take for granted.

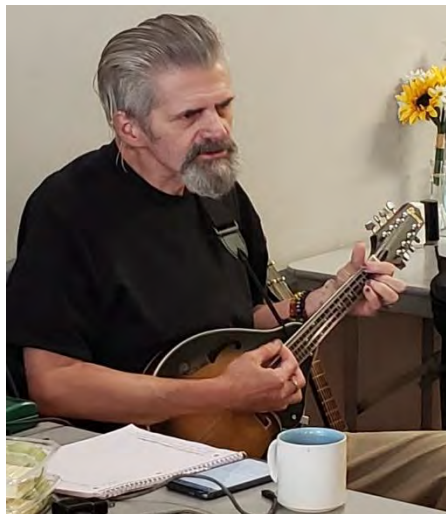


Coming to Waterville after 4 years with Crisis and Counseling in Augusta, Todd has certification from the FBI and training in crisis negotiation.

### William Anderson

Originally from Portland, William arrived in Waterville in 2019 to take advantage of housing through the VA. He first arrived at the Lighthouse last fall after losing that apartment. After 17 years drug-free, fentanyl, the scourge of our time, had him down. In fact, he openly shares that Narcan brought him back from the brink more than once.

Music is William's jam. It's the platform he uses to share himself and what he knows with those around him. What he wants to share most is positivity, acceptance, and recovery. At the Lighthouse, William found welcome without judgment and over the next few months, he reclaimed his life. And that life is so much more than addiction.



William is an army veteran, and the father of two. For a time, he was even Mr. Mom - a stay at home parent. When he began healing, his guitar began to appear with him. Today, he is at the Lighthouse almost daily, and may be toting his guitar, a banjo, or a mandolin. His presence is a calming fixture. He probably knows the name of every person in the dining room, and he doesn't worry about what people think about him. "They probably don't, very much." It took many years but today William is comfortable in his own skin. And he is happy to do what he can to offer a similar peace and acceptance to others. Visit his Facebook page.

Follow us on Facebook

**Waterville Area Soup Kitchen**

Menus posted weekly



**Waterville Area Soup Kitchen**

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