



# Sheltervoice

The Women's Shelter | Fall 2019

*"A reminder that hunger and homelessness exists in our community. The "Souper" is meant to be a teachable moment for everyone about the true meaning of the Thanksgiving holiday. Many have used the evening as a "kick-off" to their holiday season...and to catch up with old friends and share stories from the previous year." Kathy Riley*

## OUR 40th THANKSGIVING "SOUPER," - Who knew?

By Rhonda Fulmer

Everyone has been working on the 40th year celebration and anything that could get in the way of progress got in our way but goodness prevailed. Kathy Riley was to write the 40th year celebration article but I ended up seizing the job and Kathy graciously let me step in. But hey, I know the concept like I know the back of my hand. I've heard Kathy say it 1,000 times, **"it's a simple idea, offer some soup and bread, a pre-holiday date, local entertainment, and ask for a small donation for the "meal". Keep education and public awareness of the homeless problem a priority."** I've come to know it well because of the example she sets.

What is most important about the concept is the community wants to know its own weaknesses so it can help because our community really wants the goodness to rise to the surface. In previous newsletters, the common thread was often reflecting on the past. In last year's edition Kathy nailed it for me when she wrote **"it is one of the most hope – filled nights of the year for me."** She wasn't talking about the money, even though we all know that the money is important. She was talking about relationships. Among the many: Chick-fil-A friends who run the Souper kitchen; Eastminster Presbyterian friends who ready the facility before we arrive, who even clean up after the event; the servers/hosts; musician; steadfast shelter volunteers serving tea, managing ticket sales, working the raffle, and breaking it all down when the night is over; the lovely Shelter staff, steadfast and cheerful

even at the onslaught of the abundance of pre-event planning; and you all, **"the faithful individuals and families who have chosen to spend the Thursday before Thanksgiving with us at Eastminster. Our sincere appreciation to everyone for your love and support. I would like to believe that the "Souper" is going to be around a long time."**

All this is meant to keep the shelter doors open. Most of you know that after many years we now have air conditioning; there is also a cheerful space for not only AA and NA meetings, but budgeting classes, yoga, etc. in preparation for getting women back on their own, reclaiming their lives. Often the shelter is full to the max, but there are times when we cannot hold on to those who sought help. There's no magic, there's no formula except it's a simple idea, like the Souper, like Field of Dreams, "build it they will come." And they do.

We invite you, our friends, to come experience hope. Yes, even sponsor Souper tables, if you can, the details are enclosed. Honor a woman you admire, or a man, or a group, but then bring your friends, family, colleagues to enjoy this special tradition a week before Thanksgiving. They too will be reminded that homelessness is not just in California, New York, Florida, Texas, Washington and countless countries in the news, it's right here in our community. Come join us. It's one way to become involved and what a great way to bring in the holiday season. I can think of none.

**The Women's Shelter  
"SOUPER"  
Thursday  
November 21**

5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Always Thursday before Thanksgiving  
Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
3200 Trenholm Road, Columbia



**EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN**

We are so grateful for this food,  
it restores our strength,  
it heals our bodies,  
it fuels our brains.

We are so grateful for this time,  
to renew our spirit,  
to share our trials,  
to find new strength.

# Reflections

**What can happen  
when people  
come together,  
work together,  
and give together,  
for a better world.**

“My first Souper was after I met Sister Kathy at a church presentation. At her invitation I visited the shelter and have been committed ever since. My children attended the Souper almost every year growing up and now their children enjoy being a part of the event. There are so few things that are consistent in our lives but for me the spirit and community that comes together every Thursday before Thanksgiving to benefit those less fortunate than I am gives me great comfort.”

-Lee Coggiola

“I have a vague memory that the Souper was once held at Washington Street United Methodist Church and that the soup was made by dumping cans of Campbell's in a pot. Did I dream this?”

The Souper has always been an often much-needed reminder of the importance of concern for others. I'm there every year. Always will be. - Nancy Higgins

“I think my first Souper was in 1996 when I was the new person on the City Community Development team. Rick Semon kept talking about a Kathy Riley. I wanted to see if she was a real person! It was a special moment for me when watching our youngest son, age 6, help with the set-up. Now, twenty-four years later, my son is a junior in college. - Rebecca Frierson”

“A friend from Lutheran Seminary introduced me to The Women's Shelter. He spoke so highly that I wanted to provide some relief to this group who clearly knew exactly what they were doing. That was 24 years ago. I'm still here every Monday and the staff still knows exactly what they're doing - Helping women reclaim their independence! The Souper is on the same clear course! Forty more years, God willing!”

- Rhonda Fulmer

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“The Souper is THE fundraiser for The Women's Shelter and the money that is raised goes a long way towards providing for the women who live there. But as a volunteer and then an employee of the Shelter for many years I saw more than that each year as I watched those who attended and read the notes sent by those who could not be there in person. I watched the residents look around in amazement at all of the people who wanted to help them to a better life. I watched women who had found that better life and had come back to encourage those who had taken their places. I watched people (some of whom were around when the Souper was just an idea) marvel at how far both the Souper and the Shelter have come. I watched people eager to learn more and join the support team. The Souper is a once-a-year reminder of what can happen when people come together, work together, give together for a better world.” -Nancy Rogan

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“My first Souper was with my family in 1980 when the Souper was held in the basement of Dreher High school. Little did I know I would attend the next 32 Soupers with my children and their children! My most memorable year was when I turned 60 on a Souper night. My Shelter family (and co-workers of 30 years) had planned my birthday party and invited over 200 guests! When I arrived there was a table with balloons and one big one with “Happy 60th!” - Paula Hines

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“I had a conversation with a co-worker/friend, the late Darrell Elrod, when we worked together at South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). I discovered he was Kathy Riley's husband and he discovered I was a supporter of The Women's Shelter. Over the years, we had many conversations about The Women's Shelter. We both strongly believed in The Women's Shelter. I know he would be proud of the continued ministry of The Women's Shelter and the Soupers and I look forward to attending many more. - Andy Jordan

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# 40TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING "SOUPER"

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hosted by **Eastminster Presbyterian Church**, 3200 Trenholm Road, Columbia

Sponsored by **Chick-fil-A** of Columbia

## How can I support the Women's Shelter through the SOUPER?

- ♥ **ATTEND:** Your donation of \$5, per person attending, goes a long, long way to help us.  
Chick-Fil-A operators, so generous to the Shelter with their time and talents, will provide a delicious hot bowl of their signature chicken noodle soup, crackers, and ice tea. They also present one coupon for a free Chick-fil-A chicken sandwich and, for the kiddos in all of us, they offer an adorable Chick-fil-A toy cow!
- ♥ **SELL TICKETS:** We count ourselves lucky to many who help us with advance ticket sales. For information on how to participate, please call us at (803) 779-4706.
- ♥ **BUY A BUNCH OF TICKETS:** Some friends of the Shelter actually treat their friends to dinner at the "Souper." Many of these friendships become new friends to the Shelter.
- ♥ **CAN'T MAKE IT?** Join us in spirit. To offer your support in spirit because you are not able to be physically present is deeply valued.
- ♥ **DONATIONS:** Your generosity will be put to perfect use. Please use the enclosed envelope to support the Shelter with your "Souper" donation.
- ♥ **SPONSOR A TABLE:** Sponsor a table in honor of a special woman. For a donation of \$150.00, send a message about your wife, mom, daughter, mother-in-law, friend, role model or mentor. Your honoree's name will grace a lovely table, and he or she will receive recognition in the "Souper" program. Complete the following information and return the form with your contribution in the enclosed envelope by Thursday, November 14, 2019.

Your Name

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Your Address

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Circle One:                      In Honor Of                      In Memory Of

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**Below, please print the names as you want them to appear on the table and program:**

Honoree's Name

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By (Your name or group's name)

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Return to:                      **The Women's Shelter                      3425 N. Main Street                      Columbia, SC 29203**

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### Revente's Second Chances

3050-A Millwood Avenue, Columbia, SC 29205

All net profits benefit The Women's Shelter

*The Women's Shelter  
3425 North Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29203*

*Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #1018  
Columbia, SC*

*Address Service Requested*

# Wish List

The Women's Shelter greatly appreciates and strongly depends on donations from individuals, churches and other civic groups. We do not have a lot of storage space, but the items listed below are frequently needed. If you have any other items you would like to donate, please contact us. Thank you for your continued generosity!

(803) 779-4706

## **SEASONAL:**

- ◆ Holiday baked goods/desserts
- ◆ Soft drinks
- ◆ Fresh fruits/vegetables
- ◆ Watches
- ◆ Bedroom slippers
- ◆ Gift cards for haircuts
- ◆ Phone cards
- ◆ Zoo/movie/entertainment tickets
- ◆ Basic alarm clocks
- ◆ Answering machines
- ◆ Umbrellas
- ◆ Small Day Planners



## **ONGOING:**

- ◆ Gently used or new black pants
- ◆ Tennis shoes/black no-show socks
- ◆ Shower caddies
- ◆ Creamer/sugar
- ◆ Coffee/tea
- ◆ Sugar-free snacks
- ◆ Toilet paper/paper towels
- ◆ Paper plates
- ◆ Tall kitchen bags
- ◆ Tin Foil/cling wrap/zip lock bags
- ◆ Laundry detergent/Regular & HE
- ◆ Dryer sheets/liquid softener
- ◆ Cleaning supplies

**amazon**smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to The Women's Shelter.