

## **STONE SOUP IN SEARCH OF NEW MEAL SITE(S) BY JULY 1, 2024**

For 42 years, Stone Soup Corvallis volunteers have prepared and served free hot nutritious meals to anyone who asks, in a manner that honors the dignity of each person. Since 2005, we have served one meal a day, 365 days a year, never missing a meal. Four of these meals are prepared each week, and three served, thanks to the generosity of St. Mary's Catholic Church. The strong backing of First Christian Church and First Congregational Church also makes Stone Soup's daily meal schedule possible.

**However, on April 23rd St. Mary's notified Stone Soup that their kitchen and dining room will no longer be available beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.** This is to make way for a new high school St. Mary's will open in the fall. With just eight weeks to find a new site to prepare and serve over half our meals, **Stone Soup is in a very precarious position.**

Stone Soup is named for the children's folk tale in which a pot that starts with only water and a stone is transformed into a delicious soup through the contributions of each community member. This soup feeds hungry neighbors and those who contributed ingredients alike. Together, let's leave no stone unturned and tap into Corvallis' abundant creative, generous, and collaborative resources to find a solution.

Most immediately, **Stone Soup needs commercial kitchen and dining room space for up to 60 guests on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.** At the same time, recent events underscore how crucial it is for Stone Soup to pursue its **longtime goal of establishing a single permanent site** open daily to anyone seeking a hot meal in a welcoming environment. We are appealing to the entire Corvallis community for ideas about meeting both the immediate need for meal sites on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and the longer-term goal of developing a single meal site. Please help us in preventing people in our community from going hungry!

We are immensely grateful for the network of volunteers, donors, faith and community groups, and partner agencies that have buoyed Stone Soup for over four decades, and for our incredibly capable kitchen manager. With your help, Corvallis, we can continue and advance Stone Soup's legacy of compassion, fellowship, and delicious hot meals.

To learn more about Stone Soup and ways to get involved, please visit:

<https://stonesoupcorvallis.org/>. If you have ideas for a (temporary) meal site, please send to: [director@stonesoupcorvallis.org](mailto:director@stonesoupcorvallis.org) or contact Elizabeth Jones, 970-690-1285.