



The Bread Line, Inc

November 12, 2014

Co-Op Market
Attention: Kristen Summerlin
ksummerlin@coopmarket.org

Dear Kristen and our other friends at Co-Market:

What a long great trip it has been since we both opened our doors on Gaffney Road, at almost the same time! Since that time you have been a good friend to Stone Soup Café and its numerous guests, helping us with both financial and direct food support—sharing the foods that are still good to eat but are perhaps behind their best ‘sell by’ look!. They have enhanced the variety and quality of the food we use to prepare our meals.

Our goal is the same as yours—to feed people nutritious meals that will help them through their days and nights. Our guests, however, are a bit different in circumstance than your customers. Many of our guests are homeless, some suffer from mental illness, some suffer from addiction, and still others are among the working poor or are simply going through a rough spot in their lives. Stone Soup Café is open to them all, 5 days a week with a safe, warm environment in which they can enjoy a hot nutritious meal and ‘fellowship with other guests. In addition to their most basic needs—nutritious food, warmth, safety, recognition as valued human beings—we provide a place in which some services can take place; flu shots, meetings with health care or other providers, basic hygiene products as needed, and a warm hug, also as needed.

In 2015 we are adding a new service—Stone’s Throw—a Catalyst Kitchen™- offering food service job training and life skills training as a path out of dependency for men and women facing barriers to employment. Our first class enrolls in March 2015 and we are excited about the possibilities this program offers. More news as it happens!

Funds from the Lend-A-Hand program have been invaluable. Thanks to the generosity of the community, including the Co-Op, the Food Bank, and the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, our per plate cost for guest meals is roughly \$1.75. That means that a donation of \$800 provides over 400 meals to our guests. Since we serve approximately 100 meals per day, that support is critical to our ability to live our mission—Feeding People—Enriching Lives.

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With the initiation of Stone's Throw in 2015, which is planned to become a self-supporting program within 2-3 years, your support is ever more critical. In fact, if we are chosen to be a recipient, perhaps we can arrange a small presentation to your wonderful frontline staff about it and about the Café—with cookies and tea at the Café?

In the meantime. Thank you for all you do. We look forward to seeing your soup take "Best Use of Local Ingredients" at January's Soup Off.

Warmly, and with thanks,

Jennifer Jolis
Executive Director
(907) 452-1974