

# The Lighthouse Waterville Area Soup Kitchen

*More than a Quarter Million Meals Served*



<b>Meals Served</b>	• 2022 - 19,381	• 2024 - 82,040	<b>Average Cost per Meal</b> • \$2.50
	• 2003 - 52,664	• 2025 - 110,636	

In 2022, we eagerly stepped into 38 College Ave as tenants - excited to finally have an indoor space with a kitchen, where guests could sit, eat, and feel welcome. Today, that same address represents something even bigger. On October 7, the Waterville Area Soup Kitchen became the owners of 38 College Ave. This milestone is more than a real estate transaction - it secures our mission, strengthens our future, and firmly roots us within our community.



Over the past 3½ years, this building has become a place of refuge and connection. We've seen neighbors facing food insecurity, homelessness, and rising living costs. We've responded by bringing people together around meals and linking them to supports and services.

Ownership is only possible because of incredible community support. Nearly 600 individuals and businesses have donated to keep the lights on and the ovens running. Charitable foundations have invested through grants that support improvements, expanded capacity, and cover essential operating costs. More than 100 volunteers power the Lighthouse. Each day, up to 20 people prep, cook, serve, clean, and listen. And more volunteers offer to help every week.

So, what's next ... With long-term stability in place, we're exploring ways to expand the dining room and create space for additional service providers and resources, including case management, counseling, and medical care.

Because now 38 College Ave isn't just where we serve meals - it's where we grow.



### Stewardship in Action

Ownership brings both opportunity and responsibility. We wasted no time stepping into that role. After taking ownership, we addressed one of the property's most urgent needs by investing in the infrastructure. Carroll's Paving was contracted to excavate and fully repave the parking lot.



Border fencing was also installed by Nick at Dirigo Fencing. Our upgrades represent our commitment to safety, accessibility, and long-term care of our permanent home.

Thanks to Rita LaCroix

When Rita leased the space to us, she helped launch the journey that brought us to this moment. Over the last 4 years, she has been a steadfast friend to all of us at the Lighthouse.

Rita parks her food truck at many WASK events, offering encouragement, generosity, and memorable support.



## 2026 Tropical Winter Escape

*After the big success of our first Tropical Winter Escape, we're ready to turn up the fun again*

Trade winter blues for tropical vibes at a night filled with great music, tasty bites, and plenty of chances to win. Tickets are \$50 each or grab your friends and reserve a table for 8 for \$350. Every ticket includes entry for 3 awesome door prizes. We will also have a 50/50 drawing.

***Pull on your brightest shirt, bring your friends, and escape winter - just for the night!***

- Thursday, March 19
- Waterville Elks Lodge
- 78 Industrial Street
- Doors open at 5:00 PM

Mark your Calendars for Next Year  
March 18, 2027



Enjoy delicious heavy appetizers, a cash bar, and a lineup of exciting silent and live auction items, once again led by the professionally licensed, and entertaining, auctioneer - John Perry.

The floor will be hopping with music from fan-favorite on-air personality DJ Steve Collella.

### Looking to make an even Bigger Splash?

Sponsorship opportunities are available and include table seats, swag, and on-site advertising.



## Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors continues to evolve as the organization grows.

### Austin Segel

A founder of WASK in 2020, Austin Segel has chosen to step away from the board. Like others before him, Austin has decided to focus on the hands-on joy of volunteering at the Lighthouse, free from the administrative duties and meetings that come with board service. We're grateful for his leadership, and glad he's still in the kitchen.



### Jon Boschen

In December, we welcomed a new member to the board. Jon Boschen is a local resident who brings a strong background in community service and trauma-informed support, with a deep commitment to access, dignity, and compassionate care for individuals facing hardship. We're glad to welcome Jon and the perspective he brings to the team.



## Health Services

We're pleased to expand opportunities to access health care, with both information and direct care

### American Heart Association and Hannaford Partner to Support Heart Health

On January 15, Hannaford and the American Heart Association launched a new health-focused service at the Lighthouse. Caitlin Price and Lindsay Colle of the American Heart Association of Northern New England introduced a blood pressure monitoring system and shared helpful information with guests, along with guidance on how to use it.

Representatives from Hannaford - Sherri Stevens, Allison Forrest, Zach Blanchard, and Alex Jones - also joined us, offering discussion focused on nutrition and heart health. We're grateful for this partnership and the added support it brings to our guests.



### Mobile Health Van

Maine Family Planning's Mobile Health on Wheels Van continues to visit the Lighthouse twice each month, providing essential services.



## Contributions

A big thank you to all who responded so generously to our November annual appeal. We are deeply grateful.

We also thank the Mid-State Foundation, the Margaret Burnham Foundation, and the Boston Red Sox Foundation for their recent contributions and support.

MARGARET E. BURNHAM CHARITABLE TRUST



## In the Spotlight

### Meet April Wimer A Warm Welcome at the Breakfast Bar

On any given morning at the Lighthouse, if you ask for a cup of coffee, it is likely to be poured for you by April Wimer and accompanied by a warm smile. For a year now, April has been managing the beverage and breakfast bar, becoming a familiar and welcome presence in the dining room.

From Cape Cod, April moved to Maine in 2013 and, with local resources, worked through depression and alcohol struggles that were negatively affecting her health.



April is the proud Mom of daughter, Ashley, who is a scholarship swimmer at a Florida university. Sadly, her son Dylan passed away 3 years ago.

About a year ago, April discovered WASK through Facebook and realized the Lighthouse was just a few blocks from her home. She reached out about volunteering, and we are grateful she did. Over the past year, April has become a steady and reliable presence for our guests. She especially enjoys listening to their stories and offering a bit of warmth or comfort - often in the form of a hot or cold drink, and perhaps a muffin or a Danish.



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



Waterville Area Soup Kitchen

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