

Support the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen

On Dec. 18, Sally and I attended the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen fundraiser at Prairie Bay. I want to thank Prairie Bay, the volunteers and all those who donated to this very important effort. We were blessed with great food, superb service and the joy of the Christmas season with all who attended the fundraiser.

I recently met with Pastor Bob, Glen Gustafson and Amy Wyant. The purpose of the meeting was to see if there was something I could do, as a state legislator, to help with the renovation project. Pastor Bob said repeatedly that the needed upgrades are a good opportunity to improve and bring the Soup Kitchen up to code. He also stated the Minnesota Department of Health and food inspectors have been remarkably patient and helpful in the process.

While the \$30,000 plus price tag is daunting, the end result will be an even better facility to serve the 60-80 meals per day (20,000 meals annually) to our friends and neighbors in need. The Prairie Bay fundraiser raised some the funds needed; I propose the following to raise additional dollars:

I suggest the Lakes Area Ministerial Association and all the churches in the Lakes Area designate a Sunday in the near future (one date) as Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen Sunday. On the selected date, the clergy would use their sermons to highlight this wonderful program that has been a symbol of hope and compassion in the Brainerd lakes area for the past 24 years. Each church could take up a second collection with the proceeds going to the Soup Kitchen Remodel Fund. Individuals can also send donations to P.O. Box 632, Brainerd, MN 56401.

Let's all join hands and once again give of ourselves to help keep the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen in our community.

Rep. John Ward
District 12A
DFL-Brainerd