Our Board members give an amazing amount of guidance and support to the staff of the Kitchen and our local Harvest Dinner raised $47,000 – a little rude to talk so openly about money please forgive the author, but we were desperate to raise enough money to finalize our new cargo van. We cannot stress enough our local Harvest Dinner at “our place” so we planned accordingly. This made it a lot easier for the cooking staff and offered us a chance to make our newly decorated dining room and our newly renovated warehouse look spiffy which was fun. We held the dinner on September 22nd which was the first day of autumn and had a blast with the autumnal theme. If you attended THANK YOU SO MUCH! If you couldn’t make this year – you missed a fun evening!

The Community Kitchen has a small core staff and absolutely everyone gave their all for this event. The dining room had been repainted and two refrigeration units had been installed and we were worried that it might look a little industrial but with lovely table linens, flowers on every table and a harvest-themed display of hay bales and chrysanthemums, the room looked inviting and almost like a restaurant. The smells coming from the kitchen were tantalizing and the food matched the smells. We had a meet and greet hour in the main warehouse on the second floor of the building and that was fun. Our new floor (see photo on opposite page) is splendid and we think has certainly raised the bar for food pantry warehouses. We are very proud of it.

In 2018 we celebrated our 26th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. In 2018 we celebrated our 26th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. We hope you will agree this is an amazing achievement in many ways - first of all this is the 26th with all the accolades that deserves - but it is also with the same leadership which I think is unheard of. We are so lucky to have the support of Bill and Joann Fenton, and their employees who work so hard to make the golf tournament the success it has been over nearly three decades!

The weather this year could have been a little kinder - it was a very cold and wet start, and we could see the players were going at quite a lick, but then it stopped raining at noon and everyone slowed down and had a great time. The 2018 tournament was amazing in another way - raising over $47,000! This event is such an enormous help to our organization and this money helped us serve over 31,000 meals to our clients.

Like us on FaceBook, it’s a great way to see what we’re up to! Go to The Community Kitchen and see our posts!
As was said on the front of this newsletter … we were a little naïve going into the renovations project and were not at all prepared for the disruption to our daily lives. Both programs offered by the Kitchen were affected to some extent but the end results were such an improvement that complaints were kept to a minimum.

The scope of work was fairly extensive and without repeating everything that we did … to recap:

We installed steel beams and composite joists to make the second floor structurally safe; we installed a new conveyor belt; we installed a new walk-in freezer on the second floor; we installed a new walk-in freezer and a walk-in cooler in the dining room; we completely gutted the kitchen and installed a new ceiling, new floor, new LED lighting; new grease trap, new range, new double stacked convection oven, and new three bay sink; we created a new emergency exit corridor from the dining room to the back car park; created a new kitchen office and storage area; we repointed the exterior brickwork where necessary; repaired some exterior stucco; painted the exterior woodwork where necessary; installed two new exterior doors at the rear of the building; and reconfigured the awnings on the front of the building. This was a huge undertaking and we were lucky to have DEW MacMillin win the bid process as they completely took charge from day one and made the whole process as easy as they could for us. The staff were also involved from day one and certainly had a lot of input to the project.

After the main renovations were over, the Board of Directors voted to release funds from our limited reserves to make two further improvements …

We are very lucky that the work we do is remembered by many, many people who live in this region. We are a donation-funded charity and are constantly amazed by the generosity of the people who live in this area. We can only do the work we do because of that generosity and we feel proud and humble to be able to continue that work here at the Kitchen because you have the confidence in us to do the right thing with your donation. Everything we do is made possible by our donors and we hope you are as proud of what we achieve as we are.

We send out thank you letters for the cash and food donations made by our supporters but it can never be said enough that we can only do what we do because of YOU!

Thank You!