SOUP KITCHEN TO EXTEND ITS SEASON

PROVINCETOWN, MA—In response to the changes to business-as-usual imposed by the COVID-19 virus, the Soup Kitchen in Provincetown (SKIP) will be extending its season. The Monday-through-Friday lunch service was to have ended on April 24 but will now be offered through at least Friday, May 1. In addition, the SKIP board will decide on further extensions on a week-to-week basis and that decision will be announced to the community in advance.

The move comes as a large number of SKIP patrons and volunteers have been delayed in returning to their seasonal jobs because of the pandemic. In the past, SKIP began to see the number of guests begin to fall off as the tourist season cranked up.

“Our volunteers and staff have graciously agreed to continue the work of preparing meals for their community,” said Philip Franchini, SKIP board chair. “We will continue to monitor the very latest virus-related information to determine whether further extensions of our season are warranted.”

Earlier in the pandemic, SKIP ended its indoor, sit-down service to ensure proper social distancing and for the safety of its staff, volunteers and guests. Since then, boxed lunches have been prepared and distributed outside SKIP’s location, the Provincetown United Methodist Church at 20 Shank Painter Rd. To help minimize contact, guests arriving by car are asked to pop their trunks so volunteers can place the boxed and bagged lunches inside. The lunches are available from 12:30pm until 1:30pm or whenever meals run out.

The generosity so crucial to SKIP’s survival has continued throughout the pandemic. Those wishing to make a donation may go to www.skipfood.org and click on “Donate”
for payment options. These gifts not only help underwrite food purchases but help support other important needs, including staff compensation, kitchen cleaning, church expenses, linen service and the additional supplies, such as the boxes and bags required for the current method of food distribution.

“SKIP will base its decision on continuing its service beyond May 1 upon the availability of its volunteers and space, in consultation with the local board of health and based on state and federal guidelines,” said Franchini.

Since SKIP is a registered 501 © (3) non-profit corporation, donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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