



Motown Soup

by Dan Karlin

“**Motown Soup**” is a name for the members of “Motown United Ministries” (M.U.M.’s Soup). It began in December 2003 when letters of invitation were sent to eight partner ministries of Trinity Lutheran Social Ministries (Utica) to join

a collaborative that would work in their State Department of Agriculture approved church kitchen making soup mixes to sell. All profits would be shared among the ministries.

Four ministries responded, although after a year of planning, tasting, and testing, only two ministries were able to provide enough volunteers to continue - Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (which shelters 1100 people in various programs every night) and MCREST (a collaboration of 84 Macomb County churches that rotate weeks to shelter the homeless).

A few sales were made in 2004. In 2005, the profit began to generate and \$11,000 was made and given away - \$5,000 each to the DRMM and MCREST and a tithe of \$1,000 was divided among 6 other ministries that shelter and/or feed the homeless. 2006 is on line to be an even more profitable year.

“All work is done by volunteers—from making to selling the mixes. Every penny of profit goes to help those in need,” says Dan Karlin, facilitator for the group and Minister of Social Outreach at Trinity. “Trinity provides the kitchen, 85% of the work force, and storage space. Trinity is in a position to do this without reimbursement. Everything goes back to Eph. 2:10 and the Great Commandment: Serve God, Serve Others. This is a unique way of helping people put their faith into action.”

As production and sales have expanded, volunteers have stepped forward to lead the soup

mix making. Some appear every week. The time together provides fellowship as well as a welcomed ‘mindless monotony of production work’ after a stressful day on the job. New production teams have sprung up, including seniors who spend an hour working after a weekly Bible Study.

“Many people purchase our mixes because the profit helps the homeless. And, when they make our mixes, they realize how fantastic the taste is,” says Karlin. “Of the ten various mixes now offered, the best sellers are the soups: white chicken chili, potato, and chicken noodle. The brownie mix is also a favorite. It all depends upon your taste buds.”

Two successful years of making soup has inspired Trinity to branch out on its own to make a simple pancake mix that is given by the case to food pantries. Funding for the pancake mixes initially came from Thrivent’s West Macomb Chapter. Expenses are now covered entirely by Trinity.

Mixes can be purchased on line at www.motownsoup.com or by calling the church 586-731-4490 ext. 116. Motown Soup also offers fund raising opportunities and wholesale options.

For more information, contact www.motownsoup.com, drmm.org, www.MCREST.org, or www.trinityutica.com/socialministries.