



2016 Summer Newsletter

OFFICE: 307-460-1605

KITCHEN: 307-460-1609

104 South 4th Street, Suite 101, Laramie, WY 82070

STAFF:

Ted Cramer

Executive Director

Michael Albersmeyer

Head Cook

Sarah Carroll

AmeriCorps VISTA

Volunteer Coordinator/

Food Supply Development

700 POUND BLOCK OF COLBY/JACK CHEESE

On January 5th, **I-80 Towing & Service** delivered a 700 lb block of cheese from a truck accident, approximate value \$4,000. Since it was already damaged on the outside, and frozen solid, a chain saw was used to cut it into manageable blocks to be defrosted safely in the refrigerator. Now, even though the bar oil on the saw was replaced with something food grade, it was still a chain saw.

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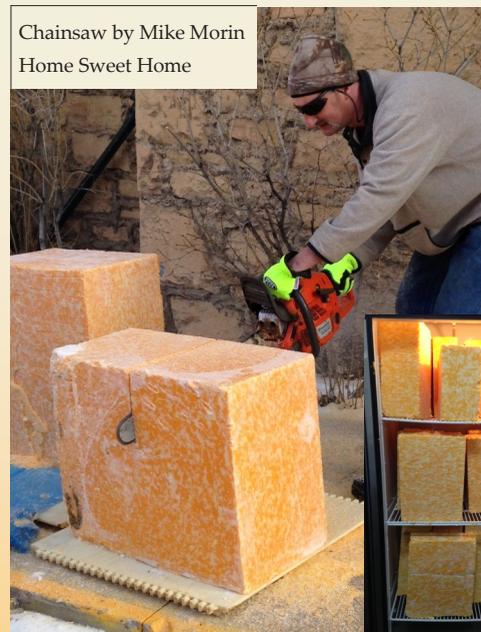
Janae Schick

Member



was kind enough to donate 30 ft of wire that volunteers used to trim all surfaces of each defrosted block, removing any potential contamination.

Now being mid-summer, and finding all sorts of ways these last six months to prepare it, (including *Chainsaw Queso*) we still have 200-300 lbs of perfectly edible cheese.



Chainsaw by Mike Morin
Home Sweet Home



WEBSITE: www.LaramieSoupKitchen.com • **EMAIL:** LaramieSoupKitchen@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS: LaramieSoupKitchenVolunteers@gmail.com

SAY GOODBYE ELECTRIC STOVES...WE NOW COOK WITH GAS!

This spring, the Connections & Partners Mentoring Program at Laramie Junior High School visited the Soup Kitchen asking what they could do to improve the space. Seeing our cooks struggle with two aging electric stoves, they partnered with Student Government to organize a school fundraiser to help



us purchase new ones. On April 13, the group presented us with a check for \$715.95, nearly covering the cost of one new stove after discounts received from the Whirlpool Corporation. Two weeks later the stoves arrived and Eagle Plumbing donated all costs associated with installing the gas supply lines.

Thank you to everyone who made this project possible!



A pair of Whirlpool 5.8 cu. ft. gas convection stoves

What's Next?

Building walk-in fridge and freezer space, ADA compliant bathrooms, a covered wheelchair ramp, and updating the kitchen/pantry space. Grant writing has begun for this remodel with completion projected next summer. Meanwhile,

small projects are still progressing, like our new stainless steel prep table/sink, and installation of a large double-basin wash sink; both possible through generous in-kind donors.

Curious what items are needed?

Visit our website <http://www.laramiesoupkitchen.com/current-wishlist.html> or give us a call.

UW CATERING PARTNERS TO FIGHT HUNGER

UW Catering & Events joins the Wyoming Union, Campus Fresh, and Washakie Dining by adding full pans of prepared food to the list of items donated to help feed the hungry in our community. This is exciting news, especially for our guests who get to enjoy the University Chef's creations: like fajita chicken or steak, lasagna, steamed vegetables, garden salad, baked brie, or apple crisp.

The Policy: As long as the pan never makes it out to the self-serve buffet and is kept/returned to proper temperatures, we can reheat it for a meal at the Soup Kitchen. If you're a local catering company, please consider the steps UW Catering has taken to minimize food waste in Laramie and talk to us about donating your surplus food also.

DUELING PIANOS FOR A DUAL PURPOSE - AN EVENING OF FUN & FUNDS FOR FOOD

On April 1st, we hosted our first large fundraising event “Dueling Pianos for a Dual Purpose”. For years, we have discussed taking on a large event and held some small-scale fundraisers in order to get our feet wet. Looking for an original event to bring to our community, we chose Dueling Pianos, a relatively new and an increasingly popular attraction.



Setting the Stage:

Two piano players face each other and take song requests. In order to get a song played, people must place more money on it than the other requests. Guests could purchase poker chips to make bidding fun & simple. The performers energy is contagious and soon everyone is singing along. When someone wants the song to change, they outbid the previous request, the performers halt the music, and start the next song. One of the highlights of the night was a battle over a song that most guests

wanted to hear, but one person really did not. The bidding war continued as multiple tables joined forces to have the song played. It became the top earning song, over \$700 for “Don’t Stop Believing” by Journey.

The Wine Pull - A popular feature of the event

Companies throughout the community donated bottles of wine (114 total), which were put into plain brown bags and numbered. Guests purchased a ticket, or “pull”, for \$20 and at the end of the night received the bag corresponding to the number they drew.



Save the Date: Friday, March 31, 2017

The event was a big hit! We had a packed house and the room was lively and full of good cheer. Many guests said this was the most fun they’ve had all year. Our next Dueling Pianos fundraiser will be March 31, 2017 at a larger venue so more folks can come and participate in the evening of fun, good food, camaraderie, and a bit of light-hearted competition. We hope you’ll plan to join us!

Event Success: \$10,324 raised

The Laramie community is wonderfully supportive of our mission in feeding both a hungry body and a hungry spirit; understanding that companionship and a hearty meal go hand-in-hand.

We can’t do what we do without you!

This Year’s Sponsors:

** ANB Bank, First Interstate Bank, Premier Bone & Joint Centers **

Acre Co., Blue FCU, Fleener Law, P.C., Home Sweet Home, Laramie Plains FCU, Laramie Physicians for Women & Children, Mulligans, The Still, 3rd Street Bar, Vee Bar Guest Ranch, Veritek, UniWyo FCU



104 South 4th St., Suite 101
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FEINSTEIN FOUNDATION \$1 MILLION GIVEAWAY SUSPENDED

From 1998 to 2014, the Feinstein Foundation partnered with thousands of agencies, helping them generate over \$2.5 billion to feed the hungry throughout the country and overseas. The Laramie Soup Kitchen was one of these agencies for several years before the program was suspended in 2015, to allow the Foundation to concentrate on the Feinstein Jr. Scholars program. While the Soup Kitchen will no longer receive a proportional match for funds raised during March and April each year, we still depend on your contributions to continue providing nutritious meals, opportunities for social interaction, and information about other local resources to all who come to us.

If you were awaiting the annual Feinstein Giveaway campaign materials this past spring, please consider sending your contribution today!

CREDIT CARD DONATIONS NOW ACCEPTED: <http://www.laramiesoupkitchen.com/donate.html>

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