

Stewpot December 2025 Newsletter



Stewpot's Mailing Address

**Please send all Stewpot correspondence and
donation checks to P.O. Box 2278,
Little Rock, AR 72203.**

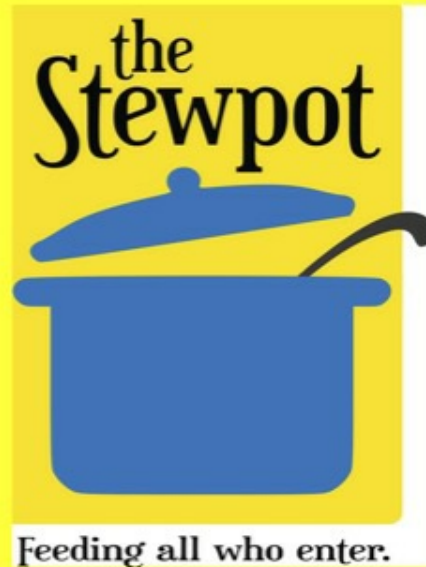
Holiday Schedule for Stewpot

**Christmas Feast
Thursday, December 18**



- **Open Monday and
Tuesday, Dec. 22 & 23**
- **Closed December 24 – Sunday
January 4**
- **REOPEN MONDAY JANUARY 5, 2026**

Stewpot Celebrates 50 Years of Service in 2026



During 2026 Stewpot will mark 50 years of faithful service providing meals in downtown Little Rock "to all who enter." Through all these years, Stewpot has earned quite a legacy and reputation. It is rare to find a faith-based, volunteer-led ministry that has continually been serving for five decades. The Board is discussing ways to use the whole year to affirm our past and look for new means of extending our efforts. We will keep you posted as plans develop.

McDonald's - Palacios Enterprises Offers to help the Stewpot

Thanks to Greg Fairchild, Stewpot board member, for contacting McDonald's - Palacios Enterprises. They will help serve both Thanksgiving and Christmas Feasts at the Stewpot.



They will also provide pies for dessert both days. Thanksgiving Day Feast is on Tuesday, November 25 from 12:00 to 1:00pm. Christmas Feast is On Thursday, December 18th from 12:00 to 1:00pm.

Beginning in January 2026, they will donate an entrée every 4th Friday of the month. No servers provided. Menu decided upon by McDonalds.

Over the Hill Gang from Ferncliff Builds 5 Picnic Tables for the Stewpot

Quiet hands. Big impact.

Every week, a faithful crew of retired volunteers—lovingly known as the Over the Hill Gang - gather in Ferncliff's woodshop. With skill, laughter, and a deep love for giving back, they build picnic tables, Adirondack chairs, preschool equipment. and so many of the wooden pieces that make

People feel like home.

This week, their craftsmanship stretched even further into the community. David Gill, former Ferncliff Executive Director and proud member of the Over the Hill Gang, delivered a truckload of handcrafted picnic tables to The Stewpot on West Markham in Little Rock.

Thanks to these lovingly built tables, diners at The Stewpot now have more places to sit, share a meal, and feel seen. Currently, when the diners pick up their lunches, they have to find somewhere to sit to eat their lunch. The tables were placed in a gated area behind the Salvation Army building. Now when the diners pick up their lunches, they will have a nice comfortable area to eat their lunches.

Giving back takes many forms. For this crew, it comes in the shape of wood, screws, friendship, and care.





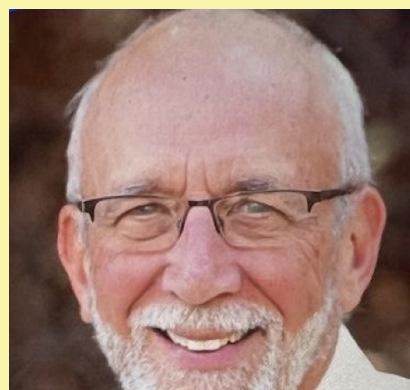




Meet Our New Board Officers and Board Member for 2026-2027

David Gill, Board Chair

David Gill grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a graduate of Miami University and Boston Seminary. He began his career as a Presbyterian pastor in Indiana before moving to Arkansas to serve with Heifer Project



International. In 1997, he became the Executive Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, where he led more than two decades of growth and innovation. During his tenure, Ferncliff expanded its mission by establishing a national Disaster Assistance Center, a Nature Preschool, and the Sharing the Goods program, which provides donated products to local nonprofits.

Since retiring, Mr. Gill has continued to support camp

RANCH IN NEW MEXICO. HIS WIFE, VICKI, FOUNDED AND HAS directed the Perry County Food Pantry as a volunteer for 35 years. The Gills reside in Houston, Arkansas, and remain active in community service.

Bridgett Norwood, Board Vice-Chair

Bridgett Norwood was born at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. As the daughter of a career Air Force officer, she experienced a mobile upbringing, relocating to Little Rock Air Force Base while in seventh grade. She graduated from Sylvan Hills High School and attended the University of Central Arkansas and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Mrs. Norwood began her professional career as a Respiratory Therapist before transitioning into collegiate athletics, where she developed a passion for mentoring young women through golf. She joined the University of Arkansas at Little Rock as Assistant Golf Coach and was promoted to Head Women's Golf Coach in 2001, serving until her retirement in 2019. That same year, she began volunteering with Stewpot, where she continues to serve with commitment and pride. Mrs. Norwood has been married to Wyn Norwood for twenty-five years, and together they share a blended family of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



Valarie Whitlock, Seceretary

Valarie Whitlock (Second from left), has dedicated her life to education and community service through her twin passions—nurturing young minds and connecting people with the power of books. For 28 years, she taught kindergarten in the North



Little Rock School District, finding great joy in helping children discover the wonder of reading and writing. She now continues her commitment to learning and literacy at the Central Arkansas Library System's Amy Sanders Branch in Sherwood, where she assists patrons in finding books, information, and connection.

Mrs. Whitlock's life is grounded in faith and family. She has been married to her husband, Tim, for 32 years, and together they are the proud parents of two college-graduate sons. A lifelong member of Park Hill Baptist Church, she also volunteers with the Stewpot in Little Rock. In her free time, she enjoys baking, cross stitching, walking, and reading.

Tammy Pflug, Treasurer

Tammy Pflug was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, and is a graduate of Little Rock Central High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Missouri Southern State University. For the past 29 years, Tammy has been an active member of Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, where she has faithfully served as Treasurer for approximately 25 years.



Deeply committed to community service, Tammy has volunteered with the Stewpot for about 15 years and now serves on its Board of Directors as Treasurer. Her volunteer work extends to several other organizations, including El Zócalo, where she assists with food box distribution, and the Pulaski County Jail, where she participates weekly with a literacy program for inmates.

Rosie Homan - Board Member

Rosie Homan has dedicated her life to education, faith, and community. For 42 years, she taught kindergarten and first grade in the North Little Rock School District, finding deep

moment in guiding children as they discovered the joy of reading and writing. Teaching was not merely her profession but her calling.

Mrs. Homan has been married to her husband, Chuck, for 48 years, and together they have built a life rooted in love, laughter, and faith. They reside in Sherwood, Arkansas, and are the proud parents of two grown children.

A devoted member of Sherwood First Baptist Church, Mrs. Homan continues to serve her community through volunteer work at the Stewpot, where she is fondly known as the “star peanut butter sandwich maker.” In retirement, she enjoys reading, walking, and shopping, embracing each day with gratitude and purpose.



We Will Miss You

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Nancy Howell, Stewpot Manager, is going to retire at the end of December 2025. Nancy has held this position for the last eight years as a volunteer without any remuneration. The Stewpot manager is a **volunteer** leadership position, responsible for overseeing the daily operations, strategic direction, and community engagement of the Stewpot program. This individual is nominated by the board chair and approved by the Stewpot board, serving at the discretion of the board. The Stewpot manager holds a permanent seat on the board of directors and provides essential oversight to ensure the effective delivery of services to the community. With the appearance of the COVID virus, the Stewpot Board seriously considered closing the Stewpot. Nancy came up with the idea of preparing sack lunches in the Stewpot dining room and carrying the lunches down to the church courtyard and serving the disengaged. Nancy was instrumental in the move of the

the Chef Instructor at Food Jobs Work, instructing students in both technical food service and interpersonal skills. Michael operates the Little Red Wagon food truck and has a passion for serving people who need a hand up. Michael, along with his wife, Jessica and their children attend The Church at Pinnacle Mountain. He is excited about investing his skills and energy in Stewpot's ministry.



Stewpot Receives Grant



Thanks to the AR Foodbank Capacity Grant, Stewpot was able to purchase a “double wide” freezer. This addition was greatly needed since we gave up several freezers before moving to the Salvation Army building. Now we can take full advantage of Foodbank items which are seldom offered such as lunch meat or chicken. Storing food safely has always been a priority for us. Grants enable Stewpot to purchase needed items without cutting into our food budget.

Some More Good News from the Foodbank

Dear Little Rock Stewpot Inc,

We are pleased to inform you that your pantry has been awarded \$2000 in food credits on your Arkansas Foodbank Agency Express food ordering account. These credits are available for immediate use.

This generous gift comes from a donor who wanted to support the Foodbank and our partner pantries during this critical time. The amount allocated to your pantry was determined based on the number of individuals you serve. While we wish we could do even more, we've worked hard to provide as much support as possible.

We encourage you to stock up your pantry now. We are seeing a 10–30% increase in first-time visitors, and in some areas, the number of individuals served has doubled due to the ongoing federal shutdown. It's essential that your pantry is prepared to meet this rising demand.

Please stay in touch with us as you navigate any increased needs. We are here to support you however we can.

Thank you for everything you do to make our neighbors feel welcomed and supported during this time.

Many blessings,

Sherri Jones

Chief Programs Officer

Arkansas Foodbank







STEWSPOT LOVES SURPRISES

Several groups in Little Rock periodically surprise Stewspot with food contributions. In late October, an anonymous group donated several large jars of peanut butter and many boxes of chips. The Stewspot sack lunches, which are served daily almost always, include a peanut butter sandwich. Thank you! Thank you!



Stewpot Serves Thanksgiving Feast

On Tuesday, November 25th, The Stewpot served a Delicious meal to the Stewpot diners. Employees from McDonald's - Palacios Enterprises.brought pies for dessert and helped serve the meal



**STEW POT
THANKSGIVING DINNER
MENU
November 25, 2025**

CHICKEN AND DRESSING

DELUXE MASHED POTATOES

SEASONED GREEN BEANS

🍁 FRUIT SALAD 🍁

ROLLS OR CROISSANTS

DESSERTS PROVIDED BY MCDONALDS/ PIES

🍁 KOOLAI & WATER 🍁

SPORKS/ FOAM PLATTERS/THANKSGIVING NAPKINS

Served by volunteers from McDonald's - Palacios Enterprises



The Thanksgiving Feast took place in our new outdoor seating area. Tablecloths and decorations of leaves and fresh fruit added a festive flair to the great food. The tables allow diners to visit with others as they share the meal.







- **These Turkeys were too tough to eat!**

Thanksgiving Food Boxes Donated to Stewpot

A family in Maumelle (Dwane Tankersley, Stewpot Board Member and his wife Vicky) wanted to express gratitude and thanksgiving this season for the blessings of life by sharing with others. Everyone has challenges at times – physical illness challenges, financial, and even loneliness. Eating around a table can provide physical

nutrition but also provide an opportunity for laughter, sharing, and goodwill by enjoying a meal together. Four boxes of ingredients were delivered to Stewpot for gifting to folks who can prepare the ingredients and make memories with friends and family that they love during this upcoming season. Photos below shows what was was in each box.

Thanksgiving Boxes

One \$20 Gift card for meat



(Items below can be any brand/any flavor.)



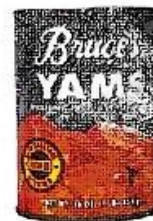
3-14 oz. cans



3-14 oz. cans



1-14 oz. can



2-14 oz. cans
or 1-28.5 oz.



1 box



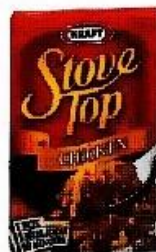
1 can



1 bag



2 bags or 1 box



2 boxes



2 family size or
4 regular size



2 cans
Evaporated Milk



Cooking oil

Stewpot Holidays

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Day

Good Friday

Memorial Day

Juneteenth

Independence Day (4th of July)

Labor Day

Thanksgiving

Friday after Thanksgiving

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Bus Passes for Little Rock Stewpot

Stewpot diners are constantly asking the Stewpot Day manager for bus passes. Adult 10 ride passes cost \$11.50 each. The Stewpot cannot afford to buy these passes unless they receive donations specifically designated for bus passes. If you would like to make a donation for Stewpot diners bus passes, go to the Stewpot website



<https://www.stewpot-littlerock.org/> and click on the Donation Page. You can make a donation using Pay Pal or a credit card. Remember \$115 will buy 10 passes. When you make your payment, if you don't see an area to designate what the donation is for, you can email the Stewpot at Stewpotlr@gmail.com and say that you have made a donation to the Stewpot and would like to designate the funds are for Stewpot Diner Bus Passes. Alternatively, you can mail a check to the Stewpot at:

The Stewpot-Little Rock
Post Office Box 2278
Little Rock, AR 72203

Make a note in the check memo section: Bus Passes.

Make a Donation to Stewpot

Stewpot,s financial support comes from donations from churches, individuals, corporations and grants. With moving costs and food costs rising and our numbers increasing each month, we really need your financial support. Please help support the Stewpot. Checks can be mailed to The Little Rock Stewpot, Post Office Box 2278, Little Rock, AR 72203.

You can also make an online donation by clicking on Make a Donation below. When you click on Make a Donation, you will have the option of making an online donation with either PayPal or a credit card.

[Post Office Box 2278, Little Rock, AR 72203]
[stewpotlr@gmail.com]
[<http://www.stewpot-littlerock.org/>]

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