



## **Moment for Mission – Souper Bowl of Sharing**

*Supporting The Salvation Army Food Pantry, Oneonta, NY*

### **A Moment for Mission on Sunday, February 1, 2026**

*Rebecca LaBarr, First United Presbyterian Church, Oneonta, NY*

In 1990, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time.

This gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good? Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food donation DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The first year, they invited 22 area churches to join the team and collected \$5,700 with 100% of donations distributed to local-area charities.

Since then, Tackle Hunger, with its signature Souper Bowl of Caring event has become a national, grass-roots, youth-inspired movement where ordinary people are doing extraordinary good. Over \$220 MILLION in dollars and food has been generated while benefiting thousands of soup kitchens, food banks, meal programs and other hunger-relief charities in local communities.

The USDA Food Security report reveals that 47.4 million people lived in households experiencing food insecurity in 2023, an increase of 3.2 million compared to 2022, and it has only gotten worse in 2024. This spike was likely largely driven by inflation and the rollback of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which allowed schools to offer school meals to all their students at no charge, and expanded the Child Tax Credit. Now these programs are at risk of being totally cut.

Our Souper Bowl of Caring collection will go to the Salvation Army Food Pantry to benefit our local population of those in need of help. Thank you to donors who see the vision of a world where we can use the energy of our biggest events to help feed our neighbors in need.

Soup Pots will be in the sanctuary during the month of February but you can also send in your donation to the church office with *Souper Bowl* on the memo line.