PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Rebecca Parr
Phone: (865) 566-1653
Email: contact@KnoxvilleSOUP.org

SOUP’s On!

KNOXVILLE: All Knoxvillians with an appetite for community improvement are invited to Knoxville SOUP on July 24th. The dinner will be held from 6:00 to about 8:30 p.m. at the South Knoxville Community Center, 522 Maryville Pike (in South Knoxville). SOUP is an exciting community-focused project sponsored by the South Knoxville Alliance (SKA) and is open to the public. It is a combination of a dinner and a showcase of proposals for community-based projects from which attendees will choose the winner. Four exciting proposals were selected to present for this dinner:

1. Burwell Gardens: Cultivate Wholeness
2. South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association: Outdoor Bike Repair Station: Outdoor Bicycle Pump
3. Next Step Initiative: Next Step to Hope & Treatment
4. New Hopewell Elementary: Enhance Science Standards through Outdoor Implementation

For a suggested donation of $5, attendees receive a dinner of soup, salad, dessert, AND a vote. This dinner isn’t just about the food. It’s about the opportunity to connect with the community, share ideas and bring about some sort of change or improvement. After the presentations, dinner is served and guests have time to dine, digest and discuss the various projects. Then they cast a ballot for the project they like best. Toward the end of the evening, the ballots are counted and the winning project is awarded 100 percent of the funds raised at the door that evening. Winners are invited back to subsequent dinners to report on their progress and success.

Proposals can be for anything that will benefit the community or society in general. Past winning projects have improved greenways and nature trails, provided exercise equipment for seniors, funded back to school drives, supported other charitable endeavors and even launched a small business with a social focus. There are no hard and fast rules to what a proposal should be, only that someone envisions it, asks for it and the diners vote for it. The most recent Knoxville SOUP, held April 17th, raised money for the East Tennessee Technology Access Center for their Sports Equipment for Community Center for People Affected by Disabilities project.

For more information about Knoxville Soup, visit KnoxvilleSOUP.org or email contact@KnoxvilleSOUP.org.