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Community must stand up and help

It's been nearly a week since Grace Fellowship Mission Church last served a breakfast or a lunch to those in need. Nearly a week since more than 30 lunches were delivered to shut-ins on a daily basis. Nearly a week since 50 others were able to share breakfast and lunch, the Word and fellowship at Grace's table.

That's a shame.

And what just may be shameful is that so far it appears no one - no group, no church, no institution - is stepping forward to help Grace Fellowship's Brother Marvin Greene and his wife, Geraldine, find at least a temporary fix to fulfill what they clearly feel in their hearts as a calling, their mission, to operate a soup kitchen to provide nourishment to those in need.

Some, like us, may question whether Grace's soup kitchen should even be in this position. A dollar a month rent doesn't seem unreasonable - one reason cited for the church vacating its East Second Street home of the past 14 years - but we all are guided by our own moral compass and understanding.

So this issue isn't about the Greenes and Grace Fellowship. It's about the community's responsibility to help those less fortunate.

With that in mind, we've contacted Jackson County United Way, which has agreed to join us in an effort to help someone find a solution, even only a temporary fix.

We'd like to urge those who may be able to offer an idea to attend a meeting at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Community Agency Building. No, we're not asking that a United Way agency take over the soup kitchen, and this invitation goes beyond the United Way. It extends to churches. It extends to service organizations. It extends to individuals.

Surely between individuals, businesses, organizations and churches this community can step up and help find such an answer until Grace can provide a more permanent solution.

When former U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton kicked off Leadership Jackson County's Distinguished Speakers Series on Wednesday, he spoke of the common good and community engagement.

We think it's time for our community to become engaged in this problem and help deliver nourishment to those in need.

Our view

Our community must step forward and help - even if only on a temporary basis - to ensure that the mission of providing meals to those in need is met until Grace Fellowship Mission Church finds a more permanent solution.