

**Emergency Overnight
Shelter and Services**

831 N. Sycamore St.
(Corner of Oakland & Sycamore)
Lansing, MI 48906

Loaves and Fishes



Ministries

Telephone (517) 482-2099 Fax (517) 482-6848

**Transitional Housing
and Services**

Zacchaeus House for women
with children
Luke's House for single men

Fall 2016

Church Youth Group rebuilds Zacchaeus House playground



These pictures were taken by Volunteer Coordinator Beth Young who followed with amazement every step of the building project. The story is by Core Community Board of Directors member Jim Veurink, following his interview with Our Savior Lutheran Youth Group Director Dave Wright about their 2016 Back Yard Mission project.

FINALLY! A PLAYSPACE FOR OUR KIDS!! For many years, Beth Young, our L&F Volunteer Coordinator has been seeking a group to adopt the Zacchaeus House backyard. Our vision has been to provide a fun and safe place for our resident children to play outdoors. Our prayers were answered this summer through the outreach of the Our Savior Lutheran Youth Group, led by Youth Director Dave Wright.

Dave has led the group of 25 kids with summer projects called "Back Yard Mission". These extraordinary youth put their *faith into action* by building an outdoor play and exercise set with their sweat equity. With the adult team's direction, the kids were in-serviced on how to safely use all of the tools. Then the project began – these special teens spent three tireless days assembling the play set. Beth said, "It was truly wonderful seeing these young folks take such great pride in making it possible for our L&F kids to have a safe and enjoyable play yard once again!"

The group used nothing but raw materials and a blueprint, all without the use of an easy-to-assemble kit! The kids also rebuilt the back step leading to our Z-House backyard, and built a brand new bench for moms to watch and enjoy their children at play.

As Dave shared, "our faith calls for providing significant, tangible results for all God's children." As Our Savior Lutheran Youth Group has taught us – *Our faith beckons each of us to live lives of servanthood.*

Thank you, "Back Yard Missionaries," for reaching out to our kids who live at the shelter, and for reminding us that by our actions, our faith grows and impacts the lives of others.

Our heartfelt gratitude to Our Savior Lutheran and their Youth Group for a job well done!

Celebrating the lives of those who have served

They have passed... .but their works are still with us!



Barbara Doyle entered eternal life May 4, 2016, but she will never be forgotten by our L&F Core Community Board of Directors.

Barb joined our L&F staff in 1996 to serve as Assistant Coordinator with Coordinator Don Leaf.

Together they guided and co-facilitated the major clean out and renovation of the newly purchased house next door, plus the construction of a sizeable connecting wing between the houses, which we named *The Gathering Place*. After completing these projects, Barb helped design the new shelter and advocacy program for those who would live in the adjoining house.

Inspired by the gospel story of Jesus calling out affectionately to Zacchaeus, a despised tax-gatherer who had climbed into a nearby sycamore tree to get a better glimpse of Jesus (Luke 19: vs. 1-10), we decided to call the new residence Zacchaeus House, since one of only two sycamore trees on the entire stretch of Sycamore Street grows right in front of the house. With the start of a new program, the dream of assisting more people began to grow into a reality. L&F was finally able to offer two kinds of guest services: *temporary emergency overnight housing* and services in the original house, and *transitional housing* for 6 months to 2 years for three single moms with children in the adjoining house.

Barb Doyle was the perfect person to help L&F through this demanding transition and all the decisions that had to be made, including changing our official name to Loaves and Fishes Ministries.

In expressing our sympathy to the Doyle family, Barbara Curtis, one of the early co-founders wrote: *"We will so miss Barbara – she was such an important part of Loaves and Fishes Ministries. We will miss her great sense of humor, deep spirituality and rock solid sense of purpose."*

Presente! We celebrate and will be forever grateful for Barb Doyle's life and all she did for Loaves and Fishes Ministries.



In the August Crumbs and Minnows volunteer newsletter, Director Jenny Leaf wrote: *"It is with great sadness that I let you know that our beloved overnight volunteer, Jim Booth, passed away last night. He had a stroke on August 1 and was moved to Hospice House of Lansing on*

August 10. Beth and I stopped by to see him on Friday and even though he was unable to speak, the light in his eyes let us know that he recognized us. He was surrounded by his family as he peacefully passed August 14, 2016."

Jim was the Lansing realtor who believed in our original Core Group's vision of starting an emergency shelter and helped us to purchase our 831 N. Sycamore house, with only a leap of faith as collateral and a few thousand dollars in personal savings. Jim worked to arrange for a land contract sale, with the \$18,000 balloon payment due in five years. He trusted us. He believed in us. He saw the need for and the wisdom of our dream...and he became one of our life-time overnight volunteers, working the 10 pm to 7 am shift every Wednesday night...unless he was sick or away...until he died.

Such was his faithfulness, Jenny notes, *"If he tried to call in sick and I somehow didn't get the message, I would call to ask if he was okay since he didn't show up. He would say he could be here in 15 minutes...despite his terrible gout. He would buy good quality sausage, cook it at home and bring it for breakfast the next day."*

Needless to say, there are countless stories of things Jim has done for L&F and for our guests over the past 30+ years. Saying he is and will be missed doesn't even begin to describe the impact of his life and his death. *In a way, we think of our original Emergency Shelter as "Jim's House" and plan to post a memorial to him there...so all the guests he served can read and remember.*

Presente! We celebrate and will be forever grateful for Jim Booth's life and all he did for Loaves and Fishes Ministries.

Miracles Continue as Community Involvement Grows



In July Auto-Owners Insurance Company, as part of its **100th Anniversary Celebration**, contributed approximately \$1 million to support and assist 31 basic needs charities in the greater Lansing area as well as additional basic needs organizations in all of the 26 states in which it operates. Chairman and CEO Jeff

Harrold said, "I am very proud we have been celebrating the communities we operate in by giving back through charitable organizations. We wouldn't be here if we hadn't been embraced by the communities in the regions we're doing business in." *The organizations that received donations in the greater Lansing area were selected by a vote of Lansing-based Auto-Owners employees. The amount of the donation was based on the number of votes received. We are delighted to report that Loaves and Fishes Ministries was voted 12th of the top 15 recipients, and was awarded \$13,400 in recognition of the work we do to provide shelter, food and advocacy services for those experiencing homelessness.* Director Jenny Leaf and Core Community Board of Directors Co-President Joan Tirak attended the ceremony to accept the award and express L&F's deep gratitude to Auto-Owners for their support.



For about 3-4 years, we worked to build a relationship with CASE Credit Union, hoping that L&F might someday be selected as one of their Charity Dress Down Days recipients. **Last December, CASE surprised us with the news that Loaves and Fishes Ministries had been chosen by the employees at their six Lansing locations to receive their 2016 2nd Quarter Dress Down Days donations.** Director Jenny Leaf represented L&F at the award ceremony on July 27. Following the event, Jenny wrote: **"I attended the Case Credit Union staff meeting this morning so they could present the check to us. When Darcie called last week she wouldn't tell me the amount because she wanted it to be a surprise. I couldn't believe it! Their employees raised \$4,246.27."** After accepting the award, Jenny extended our deep gratitude to CASE and to the employees who voted to support Loaves and Fishes Ministries. Special thanks also goes to **Nick Nauta**, former CASE Financial Advisor, and to Pennsylvania branch employee **Sharon Velez** for submitting L&F for consideration to the CASE Community Activity Team members who facilitated the voting and award process.

Churches & Other Project Partners Our deepest gratitude ALSO goes to *all the churches and community groups who so generously partnered with us*, not only helping with fundraising, but also helping us with essential projects to help sustain our shelter houses and programs. Among these are:

Our Savior Lutheran Youth Group designed and built a new play yard, bench and door stoop for our Zacchaeus House transitional shelter for single moms and kids. *(See story and pictures on page 1)*

Rivers of Life Church's Sowing Seeds Ministry volunteers did outdoor maintenance, helping Loaves and Fishes Ministries keep its promise to the city of Lansing and to our surrounding neighbors, that L&F will be one of the "sparkling jewels" in the Sycamore neighborhood.

Michigan State Police Resource Management Group volunteers planted flowers and did yard work this spring and summer, honoring their commitment to being community police who truly care about the quality of life in the community.

United Methodist Conference Church members spent a day cleaning debris from behind the parking lot fence, on the alley side. It's amazing what they found to recycle and dump!

Michigan State University student volunteers came together to do fall clean-up which included weeding the garden. It was wonderful seeing them out in the yard in their rain gear, working in spite of a pretty heavy downpour!

May God bless each and every one of you!

To ADOPT-A-PROJECT

Contact Beth Young 517-4822099
volunteer@loavesandfisheslansing.org

TO DONATE

Use enclosed envelope OR
donate online at
www.loavesandfisheslansing.org





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CURRENT RESIDENT OR



Join us for an
Evening of Fundraising
Saturday, November 5 from 5:30-9:30
Creative Wellness 2045 Asher Court, East Lansing
Massage Therapy, Chiropractic & Acupuncture services available.
Light refreshments served.
Enter to win a year of FREE Creative Wellness services.

Book your appointments in advance by calling 517.351.9240
Or drop in on a first come first serve basis. *(Insurance not accepted)*

100% of the funds raised will go to Loaves and Fishes Ministries

