

**Emergency Overnight
Shelter and Services**

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

Loaves and Fishes



Ministries

**Transitional Housing
and Services**

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

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

Summer 2019

NO MATTER HOW SMALL YOU THINK THE DOLLAR AMOUNT IS, YOUR DONATIONS ARE PRICELESS!

By Jenny Leaf, Director

The goal of our programs is to help people experiencing homelessness get into housing. While this often means helping with case management services such as referrals and advocacy, it sometimes begins with the basics. Some of our guests have locations to store their belongings and come to us with clothes and personal needs items but many come from situations where they had to leave everything behind and they only have the clothes they are wearing that day.



This is where you, our supporters and donors, play one of the biggest roles in helping our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness. We are so grateful for and appreciate all donations, financial and in-kind, and want you to know that every donation, big or small, can make a huge difference in the lives of our guests. Sometimes people that donate in-kind items say things like, "Oh, it's just a package of toothbrushes," or "I was just cleaning out my closet and haven't worn these jeans in over a year, so it's not a big deal." We want you to know it *is* a big deal - it's a huge deal. We can literally see the difference these items make right before our eyes. Sometimes a new guest will ask if we have a toothbrush and toothpaste because they left theirs at the last place they stayed and they are so relieved when we can provide them. When a guest doesn't have anything to sleep in, we have donations in various sizes so they can be comfortable and get a good night of sleep. A couple years ago, a man brought in what seemed like a full closet of dress shirts that he didn't wear anymore. The shirts had all been dry cleaned and pressed which isn't something we see very often. We happened to have a guest here at that time that wore the same size and as soon as he put on a new shirt, we watched him stand up straighter and laughed as he showed us his new clothes and practically strutted around the shelter. He knew he looked sharp which meant he felt sharp, too. We put all household item in-kind donations to good use, as well. The laundry detergent means our guests have clean clothes, sometimes for the first time in a while. We use cleaning supplies that are donated at the shelter so the guests can return each night to a clean and welcoming place. We also give these supplies to the residents in Luke's House and Zacchaeus House so they are also able to keep those houses clean and safe.

Because of the generous support we receive from you, our guests can go to work, a job interview, meet with a potential landlord, or go to school with confidence. That confidence and sense of self-worth leads to our guests making real progress and achieving their goals. When you drop off an in-kind donation, we will always ask you if you would like a receipt and for the dollar value of the items to put on the receipt for tax purposes. We want you to know that no matter how small you think the dollar amount is, your donation is priceless!

We can literally see the difference these items make right before our eyes!

Consider Volunteering Where the Need is Greatest

By Jim Veurink, Co-President, Core Community Board of Directors



One of our overnight volunteers, Kayla Park, donates her time three of four Mondays each month. Kayla was working at a volunteer fair for her day job and met our Volunteer Coordinator, Beth Young, who was representing L & F at the fair. While chatting together at nearby booths, a special connection was made. Kayla was intrigued with our ministry and offered to volunteer. Kayla's commitment is a testament to her dedication, enthusiasm and a generous spirit at the shelter!

Kayla's is a life full of service. She is employed with Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services) through community outreach for refugees resettled in the Lansing area. Kayla seeks out suitable, loving homes and programs for refugee youth who've been lost from their families of origin and need a stable, thriving home and school environment.

Kayla brings to us a unique perspective on volunteering. Through her experience working at an agency relying on volunteers, she asks herself, "if I choose to volunteer, where can I offer the most help?" Kayla learned that one of our greatest needs is serving our guests as an overnight volunteer. She took on the challenge.

And she has learned that the overnight shift is a wonderful time to serve. Kayla sees most guests in the morning, serving omelets, biscuits, fried potatoes and grits! Editor's note: if you're not a breakfast chef, we'd still graciously accept your services of offering juice and milk with toast, jam and cereal!! It's a great opportunity to offer our residents a good jumpstart to their day.

Kayla shared that overnight volunteering is a gratifying experience. Evenings are generally peaceful, and there are the occasional times when a guest who can't sleep, shares their concerns and joys with her during a later hour.

Kayla wants to encourage our Loaves and Fishes volunteer community to consider giving an overnight shift a try. If you are curious, please call our volunteer coordinator, Beth Young. It is a great way to serve our shelter and guests.

May God bless you, our volunteers, in the many ways you serve our neighbors in need!

To join our L&F volunteer team, contact Beth Young at volunteer@loavesandfisheslansing.org

SEE COVER PAGE FOR THE REAL FACTS

Please consider helping to sustain L&F by:

1. using the enclosed donor envelope OR
2. make secure donations through our website at www.loavesandfisheslansing.org
Click on "Donate," then click the "Network for Good" button.



SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH LEGACY GIVING



Plan now to share your bounty to help secure the future of our sisters and brothers experiencing homelessness in the Greater Lansing Area, by designating Loaves and fishes Ministries as a recipient of a portion of your financial blessings in your Will or Trust.

Our Deepest Gratitude to Jim Veurink as he transitions from the L&F Board to Direct Service with Our Guests

By Joan Tirak, Co-President, Core Community Board of Directors

Jim Veurink, who has faithfully served as a member of the Core Community Board of Directors since 2011 and as Co-President of the board for several of the more recent years, has decided to transition from the board position to focusing on the day-to-day volunteer needs of serving our guests. While on the board, Jim also served on the Leadership, Documents, Newsletter and Web committees. He was also a steady, compassionate support to our staff members, often volunteering to help with needs that frequently pop up in working with our many sisters and brothers experiencing homelessness.



In his letter of resignation to the Board, Jim wrote: *"It has been a blessing for me to serve our homeless neighbors as a board member. Also, it has been a blessing to work with you all. I look forward to serving our guests more directly and actively through volunteering during evening shifts. I receive much joy from these interactions."* Needless to say, we were sad to see him leave his active role as a Board member, but we are so grateful that he is passionately committed to doing direct service with our guests.

God bless you, Good and Faithful Servant!

A Big Thank You to the Granger Foundation

By Barbara Curtis, Core Community Board of Directors

Once again, the Granger Foundation has come through to support Loaves and Fishes Ministries! Granger Foundation is a local foundation that has consistently supported Loaves and Fishes over the past many years especially with needs resulting from the age of our structures.

In early July they sent a check to pay for a new furnace and air conditioning unit at Luke's House which had failed. Last year they funded a very expensive retaining wall that was crumbling at Luke's House that had to be repaired in order to comply with City of Lansing Housing Code.

Over the years they have also paid for bathroom repairs and new windows for our properties, among many other grants they have given us to keep our shelter homes in good repair.

In light of all this, we offer our sincerest gratitude for Granger's continued generosity to us and to others in the Lansing Community!

Also Special Gratitude Goes to...

Lansing Catholic High School
Work-a thon- 2019



For all the work they did in weeding and planting flowers, as well as building *another* picnic table for our guests to enjoy!

AND we also extend heartfelt thanks to:

...MSU Center for Service Learning Day of Service for doing yard clean up, planting flowers & mulching.
... St Michael Parish Service Group, Grand Ledge, for raking and cleaning up the Zacchaeus House yard - the main play area for the children staying there. Now the play set is free of weeds so they can play and enjoy.

God's love & blessings to you all!



831 N. Sycamore
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Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lansing, MI
Permit No. 362

Please consider supporting & joining our L&F Family!
Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@loavesandfisheslansing.org

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



REAL FACTS

3,650

Emergency bed nights provided annually

10,950

Emergency meals served annually

6mos to 2yrs

Two long term houses for single women with children & single men

365 days/yr.

Professional Advocacy & Support Services

However, REAL FACTS are incomplete without acknowledging that it is generous people like YOU who have kept our Emergency Shelter and our Transitional Homes going and growing. If we have learned anything over these past many years, it is that we could never have even tried to meet the complex needs of homeless mothers, fathers, children, veterans and mentally ill without the generous support of our private and public donors.

The GRATITUDE of our L&F guests is very REAL too! Nothing says it better than surprise notes from guests like this:

"I am writing this letter with tremendous gratitude for your full-time staff. Their kind and thoughtful demeanor met me from my initial telephone call to my final goodbye. I was so appreciative of the way they both went out of their way to make me feel comfortable. After my painful and ugly divorce, the last thing I was in need of was anyone making me feel lower. I got the exact opposite from them!"

"The facilities were immaculately clean, the volunteers clearly and properly trained in the ways of compassion and goodwill, and the food was surprisingly delicious. Although it may seem unlikely to find this kind of gem right here in Lansing, MI, it is absolutely true. I have never in my life had to stay in a shelter before, and like many of us, I was afraid and believed the stories I'd heard. But because of the unlikely safety, humanity, and professionalism I experienced at L&F – I am compelled to write this Thank You! letter."