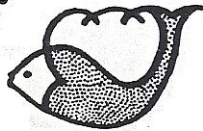


Emergency Overnight Shelter and Services

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

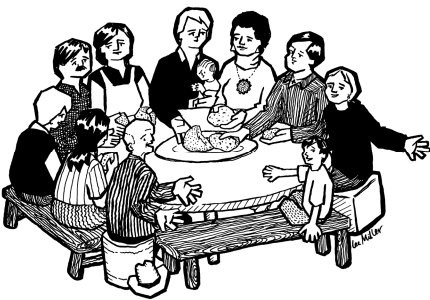
Zacchaeus House for women
with children
Luke's House for single men

loavesandfisheslansing.org

Summer 2013

Creating Community

By Erma Chastine, Director



Loaves and Fishes Ministries' foundation is based on Gospel principles of social justice and the Works of Mercy. We try to maintain our foundation by consistently involving the community. We offer volunteer opportunities in many areas: shelter shifts, clerical, guest intake, cleaning, yard work, preparing meals, event planning, committee work, maintenance and repairs, and our Core Community/Advisory Board.

Other ways we build community is to strengthen our volunteer base by offering events to highlight all that they do for the guests at the Emergency Overnight Shelter. Each year we have a **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**. Many receive awards for "Above & Beyond," "Volunteer Choice," which goes to groups and individuals. In May of 2013 award winners were: Fr. Peter Dougherty and L&F Co-founder Joan Tirak for the "Above & Beyond Award," and St Gerard Church and Margaret Beahan for the "Volunteer Choice Award".

On July 27th we hosted an **open house** and invited the Lansing and surrounding communities to visit the shelter and see what we do to help the homeless. Our hope was to stimulate others to get involved once they viewed our shelter from the inside.

August 17th we had a **picnic** for volunteers and their families so they would have the opportunity to meet one another. As they get to know one another they can share experiences, and discover that there are many like themselves who want to serve the homeless.

Throughout the year we offer **In-service Trainings** for volunteers. The purpose is to inform them of the latest data on homelessness and to build volunteer skills. Every month active volunteers receive the Crumbs & Minnows newsletter. The C&M keeps them informed about shelter changes and successes experienced by guests.

The purpose of building community involvement

is to keep our community sensitive to the struggles of the less fortunate, to recruit more volunteers and to remove the stigmas that go along with being homeless.

Successes you'll want to know about...

Thanks to the dedicated work of our Guest Advocate Mark Bonello AND to our volunteers, we were able to make great strides in helping the homeless these past 2 years.

In the 1st quarter of 2012, 23% of our guests were stably housed. This year, 2013, our first quarter rate was **36%**.

2nd quarter of last year, 63% were stably housed. This year, our 2nd quarter totaled **78%**.

3rd quarter of last year, 57% were stably housed. This year's 3rd quarter is already at **67%**.

These are our best numbers ever!
Community Volunteers truly make the lives of so many easier and help to take away just a little bit more suffering in the world.

Public Monies serving the poor in Michigan

According to the Michigan League for Public Policy, **the Department of Human Services (DHS) budget is the third largest in Michigan**, accounting for 13.5% of total spending from federal and state sources. Public assistance programs consist of child welfare and adult services at a cost of approximately \$6.7 billion in the current fiscal year (Oct to Oct).

Other assistance programs provide funds for: the Family Independence Program; the Food assistance Program; State Disability Assistance; State Emergency Relief; and Child Protective, Foster Care Adoption and Juvenile Justice Services.

DHS total funding (federal and state) **rose from \$4.5 billion in 2007 to \$6.7 billion in the current fiscal year – an increase of 49% due to rising food assistance.** Also, federal funding grew by 77.8%, while state General Funds actually fell by 18.8%. 82% of DHS revenue is now federal.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

“Humankind did not weave the web of life.

Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves.” - Chief Seattle

Remember L&F when planning your charitable giving

Please consider L&F when discerning your charitable donation. This is how your dollars can support this Ministry:

- ▶ **\$12.00** - one night of stay for one person
- ▶ **\$168.00** - fourteen nights of stay for one person (total days of stay for one person)
- ▶ **\$200.00** - one month for one resident in Transitional Housing Program
- ▶ **\$500.00** - will off set cost of telephone and internet services for one month
- ▶ **\$600.00** - one month for three residents in Transitional Housing Program
- ▶ **\$1000.00** - will offset cost of electricity, water & sewage for all three facilities for one month

Also, each of our three houses (except for The Gathering Place wing) was built over 100 yrs ago. So, as you can imagine, major repairs and replacements are needed periodically.

- ▶ **Any level of donation designated** for the replacement of the "**outdoor steps**" at the front door of the shelter, including removal of the old and installation of the new: **Cost - \$300.00**
- ▶ **Any level of donation designated** for continuous pest control and extermination treatment of the "**overnight shelter, and both transitional houses**" to maintain the absence of mice, rats, roaches and bed bugs: **Annual Cost - \$1,452.00.**

Experiencing a Financial Shortfall for 2013-14

For Fiscal Year 13-14, Loaves & Fishes Ministries will receive \$25,000.00 from the City Emergency Services Grant (ESG) General Fund (same as FY 12-13).

HOWEVER...our projected HUD ESG amount for 2014 is \$8,944.00 - a DECREASE of \$3,326.00.

Total decrease will be \$4,788.00 for FY 13-14 grant allocations
THIS IS A HUGE LOSS!

A Bit of L&F History

When the early Core Group decided to expand beyond the original Overnight Shelter, we secured a Michigan State Housing Development Authority loan for \$271,000.00 – the projected cost of buying the house north of us and building a simple walk through connecting wing. However, as our vision grew, the "simple walk through" became an enlarged wing with 2 staff offices, a dining room large enough to accommodate 14 people, a semi-commercial kitchen, and 2 handicapper bathrooms. One of these is accessible only to the 2nd residence, Zacchaeus Transition House for women and children...so called since it is on Sycamore Street. It reminded us of Jesus' calling out to Zacchaeus, a despised tax gatherer who had climbed a sycamore tree...reassuring him that He wished to dine with him that evening.

(We are so grateful to Dart Bank in Mason for blessing us with an unsecured loan for the added thousands that this expanded vision cost.)

our deepest gratitude...

FOR WHATEVER FINANCIAL HELP YOU CAN GIVE BOTH NOW & THROUGH YOUR LEGACY PLANNING.

ALSO FOR BLESSING L&F MINISTRIES WITH DONATED ITEMS AND THE INVALUABLE GIFT OF CREATING COMMUNITY WITH US AS VOLUNTEERS. FINALLY...SPECIAL THANKS TO MEREDITH KRAUS...FAITHFUL VOLUNTEER & AND CORE COMMUNITY MEMBER WHO WILL be moving to Kentucky TO BEGIN A NEW JOB. Our prayers, love & gratitude, Meri!

Dear Friends,

I want to share with you the **wonderful Loaves & Fishes open house** held on Saturday, July 27, hosted by our staff with the leadership of our **Director, Erma Chastine**, and our many volunteers. It was a joy-filled event. The open house was a result of many hours of planning. It led to a successful outreach to the Lansing community, on the heels of an informative and wonderful Lansing State Journal article on Saturday by Vickki Dozzier. (Read the article at <http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013307260033>).

Guests of the open house included:

- those who read the article and were curious,
- an interested volunteer from Open Hands ministry at Central United Methodist,
- a pastor from a local church who is interested and wanted to see our facilities, and
- a curious board member from the Haven House.

Beth Young, our Volunteer Coordinator, signed up folks who were interested in volunteering in many ways, including one person with an interest in doing overnights.

Our facilities looked magnificent. Among many of the comments, were how our facilities were so well thought out in design and economy of space. I continued to learn more of the history on display through picture books, and DVR tapes – very well thought out and well presented. Kudos to Core Community members Joan Tirak, Carol Baker, Barbara Curtis, Donna Stone, to former members Kevin Bowling, Carol and Paul Brun Del Re, and to many others in our "cloud of witnesses" for a labor of love that many of us see as the "end product" of years of dedicated visioning and leading.

With thanksgiving... knowing that through labors of love and dedication, our L&F staff and volunteers along with the Core Community – a "cloud of witnesses" who had and have a vision which brought us to this place and time...we are blessed.

Thank you ALL for reaching out to our community to help us better understand those whom Jesus would seek out first – those who are homeless among us.

Jim Veruink
Core Community Member (since 2011)

Consider including L&F Ministries in your Legacy Planning

