

**Emergency Overnight
Shelter and Services**

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



**Transitional Housing
and Services**

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

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

Fall 2022

Following Mother Teresa's Example at Loaves and Fishes

By Brent Anderson, L&F Volunteer Coordinator

"The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is Love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little LOVE." ~Mother Teresa



According to Mother Teresa, the Saint from Calcutta, the worst diseases plaguing humankind are isolation, loneliness, and feeling unloved. Not AIDS...Not Cancer...Not Leprosy... (Probably not Covid-19 either.)

During her lifetime, **Mother Teresa** strove to **Love** the lowliest, **Uplift** the downtrodden, and **Care** for the sickest among us. **Her actions demonstrated a faith and belief that every human is born with inherent Value and deserves to be Loved.** When it comes to Covid-19, Mother Teresa likely would have reminded us that everyone needs to feel Community and Love and Acceptance. This was hard to do during the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. Now, even though Stay-at-Home orders and 10-day quarantines are behind us, there's still an uneasiness when we encounter other humans face-to-face, especially at large events, community gatherings.

The lasting effects of the Covid-19 pandemic go far beyond the individual health effects. In Lansing, we still have hundreds of brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness, for many reasons, including a lack of affordable housing and too few shelter beds. As a result of this pandemic, isolation and loneliness are spreading unabated, especially among the most vulnerable members of our city. In our current political, economic, and social environment, individuals experiencing homelessness don't stand a chance. Every shelter in the Greater Lansing area is looking for volunteers and staff to support their missions now that Coronavirus funds are drying up and safety net programs are going away. Something needs to change.

Let's refocus and compassionately embrace those individuals too weak to cry out for companionship, conversation, and connection. Mother Teresa's warning about the dangers of loneliness and our need to support one another are more important today than ever before. Mother Teresa washed the sores of Lepers and welcomed people with AIDS when they were shunned by the rest of the world. She identified people and places with the greatest needs and knew those were her people to love, and those were the places her ministry needed to be involved. If she could do all that, we must continue advocating, fighting, and giving a voice to individuals and families experiencing the trauma of homelessness, especially now.

The **Loaves and Fishes Ministries' mission**, our inspirations, and the reasons for continuing the advocacy of individuals experiencing homelessness has been overshadowed by Covid-19 procedures and protocols these last few years. We continue to mitigate the risks, while fully acknowledging continued concerns regarding COVID-19. It is time to bring attention back to our purpose and mission: **Loving** the Unloved, **Caring** for the ignored, **Nurturing** the neediest, and **Restoring Hope** to those less fortunate.

JOIN US! The need at L&F is greater than ever! We have lots of work to do!

volunteers@loavesandfisheslansing.org or 517-482-2099

Meet Sallie Campbell ~ our new Interim Executive Director



I am very happy to be working as the Interim Executive Director for Loaves and Fishes Ministries. I appreciate the faith that the Core Community Board of Directors (CCBD) has in me to help keep the organization on track, as well as move forward. I have been working in the Lansing community for most of my adult life, in one role or another. I graduated from Western Theological Seminary and learned there that “mission” often comes to us, in a wide range of opportunities. I have worked in ministry and social services in a variety of settings since then. I love people. I have always enjoyed learning about their lives and seeing how God works in such wonderful ways, not only through us, but also through the people around us.

My first day as Interim Executive Director was September 30th. Since then, the guests whom I have met at Loaves and Fishes Ministries have been very warm and welcoming. I obviously don’t know them well yet, but they certainly appear to be humble folks who need a little support and love to help get them on a path to a brighter future. I am already feeling very proud to be associated with this organization and all the work that goes on here. The community is well-served and I am optimistic about how I might contribute in positive ways to the work in process and changes for the future.

The staff have all been extremely friendly and helpful to me since I came. They are very personable and obviously dedicated to their work here. They are sharing their enthusiasm with me and helping me get connected with our guests and the protocols that are in place. There is a lot to learn, as the work here is enormous and busy. But the positive atmosphere and continued love and support for the people living here is obvious and the relationships among the staff and guests is contagious. It’s a joy to come to the office in the morning and be greeted by smiles and the commotion of people getting ready to go out and face the world for another day. (*“Staff has expressed mutual love and appreciation for Sallie!”*)

While some of the members of the L&F CCBD are relatively new, a few others I have learned have been with the organization from the beginning and continue to serve in many ways. They are a working board and visit the shelter often. It’s nice to see how comfortable they are coming there and sharing their skills in a variety of ways. There is a very loving and unconditional atmosphere at the shelter that is easy to see and feel. The guests experience being genuinely cared about while they are guided to a new path for themselves.

I’m in awe of the history and dedication of the donors who have supported this organization for so long. I’m still learning...but from what I have seen, certainly the staff and the board have worked together, particularly during Covid, to keep this shelter safe and running smoothly. But none of that would be possible if not for our donors and volunteer supporters being “the wind beneath our wings.” Thank you for your continued belief in the work of Loaves and Fishes Ministries and its compassionate care toward the folks here who are experiencing homelessness. Your support makes what we do possible and is life changing for those being served through your generous contributions.

Blessings & Peace to you all. Please join us at a “Meet and Greet” Open House, Dec. 4, from 2 to 4 pm, so you can see where all this good work is happening and meet the staff and CCBD members who support it all. (See Pg 4).



Our Deepest Gratitude to CCBD President Kendra Basiga for going ABOVE & BEYOND!

(Kendra Basiga speaking at the June 9th Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our new “Stepping Stones” program, in conjunction with St. Vincent de Paul and Power in Passion, for reentering parolees residing at Luke’s House.) **Kendra was elected President of our L&F Core Community Board of Directors at our April 20th meeting**, when L&F co-founder **Joan Tirak** who served as CCBD president for many years, stepped down due to health concerns. Then in early Sept, faced with an unexpected transition between executive director **Dr. Thomas Woods**’ completing a most challenging COVID stretch of over 2 ½ yrs., and our hiring **Sallie Campbell** as our interim executive director, **Kendra heroically filled in ~ managing all aspects of the ministry:** guests, volunteers, training new staff, CCBD growth/governance and much more!

We thank God for her vision, commitment, dedication, and strength!



We have so much to be grateful for and so many of YOU to be grateful to this Thanksgiving! Our hearts are full of love for ALL who participated in our “Giving Hearts 40th Anniversary Year-Long Fundraiser” which raised a whopping **\$70,263.00! Thanks to your most generous gifts, we are able to continue housing, feeding, and caring for our guests...as well as doing needed repairs and upgrades in our aging facilities.**

May God bless your most loving and generous hearts!

Granger Foundation: A Family Commitment

With Gratitude on behalf of the L&F Staff and Core Community Board of Directors

Loaves and Fishes Ministries has been the grateful recipient of many grants given by the **Granger Family Foundation**. The local Foundation has generously supported our appeals for many years. As a smaller, home-based not-for-profit outreach in our community, Loaves and Fishes cares for three buildings, all of which are over 100 years old.

The Granger Foundation has financed many of our projects, including the replacement of a retaining wall at Luke’s House, new efficient furnaces and air conditioners in our homes, exterior siding and a recently installed washer and dryer on the main floor of our overnight shelter, making our daily chores more accessible and time efficient for our staff and our volunteers.

The Granger families formed the foundation in 1978 with the dream of “*giving something back to the community in which they have lived all their lives*”. *The Foundation’s primary purpose is to enhance the quality of life within the greater Lansing area.* We are indeed grateful for the Granger Foundation’s support helping to sustain the work and mission of our shelter program, as we work together to transition our guest residents from our facilities towards independent living.

Thank you for your most generous, caring outreach over these many years!

A Most Gracious Surprise!

By Joan Tirak, CCBD Member

In July, the commercial freezer in the L&F Gathering Place kitchen *died*, and we didn’t have the money to replace it. But then on Sept. 25, I received a surprise text from someone I did not know, saying: “*Joan, this is Deacon Dave Drayton. I heard that Loaves & Fishes lost their freezer. I hope you have been able to replace it. If you need some financial help with the replacement, please let me know. I might have someone who could help on the financial end. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.*”

Saying a prayer of gratitude, I responded, “God bless you for reaching out to us!” And after texting back and forth, Deacon Dave checked with his wife Sherri, and they said they could personally donate \$2,000!

We are SO grateful for this Most Gracious Surprise!





831 N. Sycamore
Lansing, MI 48906

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Please consider helping to sustain L&F by:

- Using the enclosed donor envelope OR
- Making secure donations through our website at

www.loavesandfisheslansing.org

Click on "Donate," then click the "Network for Good" button.



CURRENT RESIDENT OR



Open House

Loaves and Fishes Ministries
Emergency Homeless Shelter

DECEMBER 4, 2022
2:00 PM - 4:00PM

831 N. Sycamore Street
Lansing, MI 48906



Join Us

All are welcome - Community Members, Volunteers,
anyone who wants to see what we're all about!