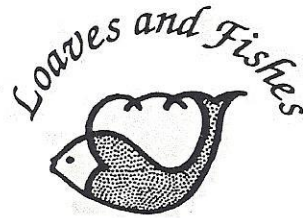

**Emergency Overnight
Shelter and Services**

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



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

loavesandfisheslansing.org

December 2023



Holiday Blessings of Gratitude to you!

“THERE’S A WIDENESS IN GOD’S MERCY,
LIKE THE WIDENESS OF THE SEA;
THERE’S A KINDNESS IN HIS JUSTICE,
WHICH TRANSFIGURES YOU AND ME.”

These stirring words from an old hymn are what come to mind as we contemplate ***the goodness of SO MANY of YOU*** who have been such an integral part of our Loaves and Fishes Ministries “Family of Supporters” over the past 42 years.

By zealously working together to heal and re-home people ‘*living on the edge,*’ we have become keenly attuned to the fact that most do not have stable families in their disrupted lives. So, we try to help as best we can to make life more stable for them – building a sense of home, family, and community in the time they are with us. *This is not only a calling...it is an honor and a privilege to be able to provide beds, hot meals, clothing, and advocacy services to so many men, women and children who would otherwise be on the streets...or under the bridges.*

However, due to the high number of people we work with each year, as well as the great need and the fluctuating resources that many programs like ours experience, ***we often find ourselves ‘living on the edge’ as well...hoping that there are enough people and organizations out there, filled with the “Wideness of God’s Mercy” to come together in support of our ministry. We just cannot turn people back out into the streets when we know that, with the help of the community, WE CAN DO MORE!***

So, we are once again reaching out to expand our L&F “Family of Supporters” by building enduring relationships with generous donors, like yourselves, to help us continue the good services we offer through our short-term Overnight Shelter (30 days or longer) and our two long term transitional homes, Luke’s and Zacchaeus Houses, where guests can stay 24/7...rebuilding their fragile lives.

Please see “side 2” to become more acquainted with what we are doing to serve those experiencing homelessness...as you seriously consider joining our “L&F Family of Supporters.”

God’s Peace & Blessings be with you!
Loaves and Fishes Staff & Core Community Board of Directors

TO DONATE: Use enclosed envelope OR online: www.loavesandfisheslansing.org - click on Network for Good.

(See side 2 for more information)

Services Provided

- Emergency short term housing for single adults (occasionally accompanied by a child)
- Caring, competent, professionally trained staff
- Compassionate, non-judgmental, non-discriminatory advocacy and mentoring services
- Financial assistance with securing personal ID's and purchasing needed prescriptions.
- Help with travel to/from appointments.
- Support in finding housing and jobs where available.
- Safe, clean environment, beds and bedding, daily meals, and personal laundry services
- Dedicated, professionally trained volunteers who cover daily 6-10 and overnight 10-7 shifts, providing personal support plus hot breakfasts and dinners.
- Weekly AA meetings – open to all
- Small 2-room apartments plus shared space with kitchen, laundry, bathrooms, visiting area and storage for 3 single women families (2-3 children) in Zacchaeus House Transitional Housing program (24/7 longer stay)
- Personal bedrooms plus shared housing amenities for 3 single men in Luke's House Transitional Housing program (24/7 longer stay).
- In-service support group meetings to address parenting, personal finance, job hunting, personal hygiene, school, etc.
- Mentoring support in completing GED's, going to college, obtaining job training and/or jobs.

Challenges in working with Homeless

- Dealing with all levels of mental illness and unaddressed substance abuse issues.
- Responding to complex list of guests' immediate needs.
- Addressing underlying causes of homelessness.
- Making appropriate referrals for health care, counseling and ongoing personal services.
- Helping guests deal with social, medical, and systemic challenges.
- Balancing staff responsibilities to guests along with management responsibilities.
- Recruiting, training, and scheduling reliable volunteers to work 365 days a year.
- Dealing with the challenges that severe weather brings - ice, snow, excessive heat.
- Maintaining buildings and grounds.
- Having enough money to hire, train and pay staff fair wages and basic benefits.
- Having in place healthy COVID-19 protocols when/if the virus is again ravaging throughout the community.
- Hosting weekly COVID Tests of guests, staff, volunteers

Financial Challenges

- Dealing with the economic trends that affect personal, church, local, state, and organizational donations.
- Providing for fiscal and financial longevity
- Maintaining buildings and grounds to ensure the safety and security of the guests.
- Having enough money to repair or replace the furniture and appliances as needed.
- Finding volunteer fundraising partners who can help L&F keep out of the red as grants and donations go down.

Feedback from L&F Guest Surveys

What one thing do you like best about Loaves and fishes?

- Lots of smiles.
- Meals, volunteers, cleanness.
- Safe place
- Feels like home.
- The respect I received from the staff and volunteers.
- The friendliness, helpful
- I love this place.
- Feels like family.
- Meetings on Monday morning - the talks keep me going.
- I don't want to leave.
- This is the best homeless shelter at which I have stayed.
- Loving care, wholesomeness.
- The staff does a really good job assisting with problems.
- The nicest volunteers.
- Warm beds and hearts.
- The way they treated me was so uplifting.
- The many resources provided.
- You show the love of Christ.