

**Emergency Overnight
Shelter and Services**

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



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/Winter 2015

Our Appeal is REAL...and so is our Gratitude!

REAL FACTS

3,650

Emergency bed nights
provided annually

10,950

Emergency meals
served annually

6mos - 2yrs

Long term housing for
3 single men & 3 single women
with children

365 days/yr

Professional
Advocacy & support
Services

\$54,000

Budget shortfall as of
Oct 31, 2015

Holiday Blessings to ALL!

"I was homeless, and you sheltered me, naked and you clothed me, hungry and you fed me....As long as you did this for the least of my brethren, you did it for me." Loaves and Fishes Ministries was officially opened in April of 1982 to embody these words of Jesus, and has always taken this call very seriously.

However, the **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! Monthly survey comments about "one thing they like best" include: *The respect I received from the staff and volunteers, feels like family, friendliness, helpful, great meals, cleanness, safe place, feels like home, the nicest volunteers, warm beds and hearts, the way they treated me is so uplifting, you show the love of Christ...and finally, I don't want to leave.* In fact, we've learned that many homeless people regard L&F as the "Hilton of Shelters" in the Lansing area☺!!

But the stark **REALITY** is that our expenses continue to outpace declining public grants and private donations. We are continually facing rising costs for utilities, technology, repairs, maintenance, transportation, food, supplies and printing, plus paying our dedicated staff a livable wage – all of which are reflected in a budget shortfall of \$54,000 as of Oct 1, 2015.

So we once again come to you in all humility, asking you to remember L&F in your Holiday giving, and consider becoming a Sustaining Partner with us in feeding and sheltering those experiencing homelessness. In return you will be assured of our prayers and those of the guests who benefit from your generous and selfless gifts. May God abundantly bless you and your families during this Holiday Season!

See pp 3 & 4 for the many ways you can help!



From our Director: Jenny Leaf *Spending Holidays Homeless*

“Happy Holidays!” It is always amazing to me how these two words can conjure so many memories, warm feelings and anticipation of a wondrous time ahead. Many of us spend holidays gathering with family and friends. We eat special meals and sweets until we are stuffed to the gills. We exchange gifts and good cheer. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and then ring in the New Year with hopes of good things to come. We are truly blessed. Happy, indeed.

Many of our guests at Loaves and Fishes Ministries have the same kinds of memories from their pasts. They share those stories with us with twinkles in their eyes. Some get to spend time with family and friends sharing food and fellowship around the holidays while others no longer have, or never had, that in their lives. The difficulties and challenges that our guests face are monumental on any given day and sometimes that makes it really difficult to have a happy holiday season. For our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness, survival does not allow taking a break to enjoy the warmth and glow of the season. Our guests still have to figure out transportation, look for jobs, make it to appointments, find enough to eat and stay warm...every single day. Sometimes this is even more difficult around the holidays as helping agencies close and transportation services stop in celebration of Christmas and New Year’s Day.

It is our hope that Loaves and Fishes Ministries can make the night times a little bit brighter and warmer for our guests all year round, but especially during this time. We do everything we can to make our guests feel welcomed. While we cannot replace or make up for any lack of connection with loved ones, we do our best to let our guests know we care and value them. Our volunteers don’t just serve meals, wash dishes and do a load of laundry (which isn’t to say those things aren’t important!). No, the most important time spent is visiting with the guests. They sit and talk during and after dinner to lend an ear and share laughter or sometimes tears. They share stories and make connections as human beings, not as housed and homeless. Because of this and all that our volunteers and donors provide, whether it’s a tube of toothpaste, a warm coat, or a financial donation, our guests feel like guests. And maybe for a moment or two, the weight of being without a home of their own is lifted from their shoulders...and they, and we, realize that even though we might appear to be worlds apart, we are in fact the same.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the beauty of the season and honor the birth of Jesus Christ. I am truly blessed to be a part of this Ministry and to continue the work of Jesus along with all of you.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)



Working together to address causes of homelessness

Loaves and Fishes Ministries is proud to be a member of the Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network (GLHRN), the Continuum of Care (CoC) for Ingham County.

The GLHRN is a group of agencies that work together to address the causes of homelessness as well as to resolve issues that people experiencing homelessness face in finding permanent and sustainable housing. We do this through:

- collaboration
- coordinating sharing information and services
- sharing resources.

Loaves and Fishes Ministries has been an active member of the GLHRN for many years, as both an agency and serving on the Board of Directors.

We are grateful to have this network of helping agencies in our community stand together supporting one another in the fight to end homelessness. ☀

Partner with L&F in caring for our homeless people

There is no greater gift than to love one another as God has loved us!



ONE UNIQUE WAY YOU CAN HELP L&F IS BY DOING YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING ON AmazonSmile

For Program Details – go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2407196>

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible charitable organization of your choice. Be sure to select Loaves and Fishes Ministries, Lansing, MI to have 0.5% of your purchases donated directly to L&F. Thank you!

Another idea: “ADOPT THE SHELTER”



HERE ARE SOME OPTIONS

Invite L&F staff to talk with your church or group members about:

- Sponsoring an annual fundraiser for L&F
- Inviting members to become volunteers
- Adopting a suite in one of our Transitional Homes
- Adopting a project, e.g., landscaping, snow blowing/plowing, painting, small maintenance jobs, etc.
- Helping with mailings and other office work
- Sponsoring a collection of needed items, e.g., toilet paper, Kleenex, tampons, men & women’s underwear & socks, white towels & washcloths, white single bed sheet sets, non-allergic hand soap & laundry soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers

Contact Jenny Leaf, Director 517-482-2099 or loavesandfishes@voyager.net

Send your Holiday Donation in the enclosed envelope.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

You can also make secure donations through our website whenever you wish. Go to www.loavesandfisheslansing.org. Click on “Donate,” then click the “Network for Good” button.



Shape 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. **May God bless you.**



831 N. Sycamore
Lansing, MI 48906

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Organization
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Lansing, MI
Permit No. 362



*May the peace of the Lord
be always with you,
And may you and your loved ones be
abundantly blessed during
the Holiday Season &
in the New Year!*

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



Businesses Partnering with L&F...Join the action!

**Playmakers
Holiday
Classic Charity
5K Run/Walk**



**Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec 24, 9 to 11 am
Eagle Eye Golf Course, 15500 Chandler Rd. Bath, MI 48808**

This Fun Run & Walk is the perfect combination of Holiday Cheer, Spartan Spirit and Charitable Giving. ****Register today and join the fun!**

For complete info, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/MI/Bath/PlaymakersHolidayClassic5kRunWalk#event-73604> - **Questions?** Contact the race director at andy@playmakers.com

****Can't participate in the event but are interested in making a donation?**
Even if you can't participate in the 5K Run Walk, you can still select Loaves & Fishes Ministries as Playmakers Fitness Foundation (PFF) Classic Charity for this event and donate online to help L&F. Just go to the above website, click on **DONATE**, then scroll down and click on the **L&F Ministries Logo** before posting your donation.

Donation Goal is \$1,000 ~ Let's Help Make This Happen!!

**Dine with our Holiday
Fundraising Partners
through Dec 31**

WOODY'S OASIS
1050 Trowbridge Rd, East Lansing
(517) 351-2280

WOODY'S OKEMOS
2398 Jolly Rd in Okemos
(517) 853-1331

This is the **2nd year** the owners of our local Woody's restaurants have graciously agreed to sponsor our L&F *Help the Homeless Fundraiser*.

BOTH LOCATIONS are renowned for their delicious Mediterranean food, prepared fresh daily. So please plan to **DINE & DONATE (\$1 or more) to L&F Ministries** between now and Dec 31st to help support our dedicated work with our sisters and brothers who are experiencing homelessness.