

Loaves and Fishes



Ministries

**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

Summer 2014

**Caring for the Care-Givers
A new perspective on donating**

Since we officially opened in April of 1982, Loaves and Fishes Ministries has lovingly cared for several thousands of homeless sisters and brothers...and is committed to providing food, shelter, clothing, advocacy and a sense of community to the homeless – 365 days a year on into the unforeseeable future.

Currently about 20% of our annual budget comes in the form of public and community organizational grants. This leaves approximately 80% or about \$200,000.00 that we need to raise from personal donations to sustain our day-to-day programs and needs.

Donor organizations often choose to contribute to targeted projects – for which we are deeply grateful, especially since our 3 aging homes have needed much attention of late! *However, it is much more difficult to secure grants to keep the ordinary but absolutely critical aspects of the program running*, such as: food, utilities, plumbing, snow plowing, cleaning supplies, office technology, phone service, office supplies, postage....*PLUS having enough to pay modest salaries and benefits to our small staff.*

Be assured that the compassionate, non-discriminatory service that L&F has provided over the years could never have happened without the selfless dedication of our staff members. So we feel that the time has come...to bring the need to "Care about our Caregivers" out of the shadows and into the light.

At Loaves and Fishes Ministries we highly value our staff, so we try to guarantee that our workers receive a modest living wage plus some basic benefits. *By ensuring them this safety net, we find that they are better able to focus on giving generously of themselves and their talents in serving the homeless poor.*

This tradition goes back to the 1990's when our early Core Group members – inspired by the Gospel call to care for the needs of all – decided that *we should treat both our homeless guests as well as co-workers with dignity.* So, you might say that Loaves and Fishes Ministries was way ahead of the curve that today's Affordable Care Act and minimum wage debates have created. Thanks be to God!

**Help the Care-Givers
Keep Giving**

You can make a difference each month by providing donations toward the annual and monthly cost for our guest programs and the operations of our 3 facilities:
(All numbers rounded)

ANNUAL COST:

Rose Pest Control \$1,379.00

MONTHLY COSTS:

Lansing BWL \$1,000.00

Comcast & internet \$286.00

Groceries & house supplies
\$1,759.00

TDS Phone Service \$620.00

Granger dumpsters \$54.00

Printing \$270.00

Consumers Energy \$1,180.00

Repairs \$100.00

Postage & office supplies
\$335.00

Guest transportation, ID's and
prescriptions \$175.00

**Thank you so much for
considering to help with
these ongoing
expenses!**

Our Cloud of Witnesses...three in our midst

Celebrating our inspiring L&F care-givers

Here are the personal stories of how three folks, so closely woven into our Loaves and Fishes family, followed their path that led them to our ministry. Thanks be to God!

Erma Chastine, Director of Loaves and Fishes



Erma shared some special moments from her childhood. Though they may seem small, small impressions often lead to a life dedicated to caring for those who experience misfortune.

When Erma was nine years old, she received a special red dress from her mother. Wow! What a gift! With it, she felt special, cared for and secured by those who loved her. Erma had a heart for a childhood friend, whom she knew didn't receive the loving attention and gifts she experienced. What did Erma do? Without hesitation, she gave her special red dress to her friend.

Erma grew up poor. This dress was all the more special! Yet she knew in her heart that she had an incredible gift ~ she was embraced by a loving grandma and parents. She saw parents who often took in children on a heartbeat's notice. Erma lives a life knowing she is cared for and extends her care to others. She may have experienced a poverty of possessions, but she had the richness of love freely given. And freely gives.

"I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he's watching me." Erma, thank you for dedicating your life to our guests. You and they teach us how to live more freely like sparrows.



Beth Young, Volunteer Coordinator

When Beth was growing up, her mom worked at Michigan School for the Blind. She worked her necessary hours...her mom was a good, hard worker. But Beth's mom viewed her role as more than a job: it was her calling. Beth's mom would take students home who were boarding at MSB and all too often, forgotten. She would fix up the girls' hair; she would treat them to hearty meals on the holidays.

Beth never forgot her mother's example.

As an adult, Beth faced challenges not of her own making. During some trying times, Beth encountered physical and emotional abuse that left her vulnerable. Yet during these days, she also experienced a deeper love for Christ.

Then Beth worked for the Council Against Domestic Assault (CADA), supporting victims of abuse. As Beth says, "this helped heal me as much as those I sought to help".

"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life for them. Whom shall I send? Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

Continued on next page

Shirley Willis, Longtime Volunteer

Shirley experienced homelessness within her immediate family. Her brother, a Viet Nam veteran, came home physically disabled and plagued with drug and alcohol addictions. As a result of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, he lived without a home on Chicago's streets for 35 years. Yet he went to a food kitchen where a frail older woman took an interest in him.

Not only did she prepare him greens and cornbread, but she looked in his eyes and, as Shirley says, looked deeply into his soul. He saw the love of Christ through the eyes of this older woman. Through her goodness and tender mercies, Shirley's brother experienced God's presence, and mercifully, has been free from his addictions for three years.

Shirley knows she is helping her brother by helping our guests. Shirley thoroughly enjoys visiting with our guests. As she says, God provides through people. Shirley has found her calling by living a life of gratitude by helping others through our Loaves and Fishes ministry.

"Gonna meet my dear old brother, Down by the riverside, Down by the riverside, Down by the riverside. Gonna meet my loving Jesus, Down by the riverside, Gonna study war no more."

*"Blessed are the Merciful...for they shall obtain God's Mercy"
(Matt 5)*

Core Community/Advisory Board

Carol Baker, Co-President
Barbara Curtis, Recorder/Secretary
Jack Finn
Vern Johnson, Financial Steward/Treasurer
Rev. Derrick Knox, Jr.
Rosanna Metoyer
Randy Peeper
Mary Spencer
Donna Stone
Mary Tardif
Joan Tirak, Co-President
Jim Veurink

L&F Staff

Erma Chastine, Director
Jenny Leaf, Guest Advocate
Beth Young, Volunteer Coordinator
Lucille Edelen, Weekday Facilities Manager
Angharad McGaughey, Weekend Facilities Manager.

L&F Newsletter Committee members are Erma Chastine, Joan Tirak & Jim Veurink. If you have comments, questions OR would like to schedule a presentation for your church, community or civic organization, please contact the shelter at 482-2099 or loavesandfishes@voyager.net

JULY: Adopt-a-project

REPAIRS:

Industrial refrigerator in the Gathering Place kitchen needs repair COST \$846.00

The deck, fire-escape and front steps need staining, and some boards in the handicapper ramp need replacing COST \$1,000.00

You can make secure donations NOW through our website www.loavesandfisheslansing.org

Just click on "Donate." Then click the "Network for Good" button to complete your transaction.
(OR simply send your donation along with the enclosed envelope.)



IN GRATITUDE:

*We are most grateful for whatever you can donate to Loaves and Fishes Ministries in response to the options we have listed in our newsletter. **No donation is too small – any amount is greatly appreciated!***

LEGACY GIVING

We humbly ask that you consider naming Loaves and Fishes Ministries as a recipient of your gratitude giving through your will or estate planning.



831 N. Sycamore
Lansing, MI 48906

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

Save the Date!

Volunteer Family Potluck Picnic

Saturday, August 16 – 10am to 3pm

Burchfield Park

881 Grovenburg Road - Holt, MI

Bring a Dish to Pass

*There will be games, prizes, and a lot
of good food & fun!*

RSVP to Beth Young

517-482-2099

By August 1, 2014

SORRY NO ANIMALS ALLOWED!

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME CO-WORKERS WITH US

THE L&F Statement of Purpose

*Inspired by Mother Teresa of Calcutta's
Co-workers Statement*

As Co-workers, we are called:

- ~ To pray together
- ~ To minister to each other
- ~ To recognize the dignity of all people
- ~ To recognize and understand the poor
- ~ To recognize that all things are from God
- ~ To provide loving, free and non-judgmental service
- ~ To depend on God's provision and to share the Gospel
- ~ To respond to the Christian mandate of loving service
- ~ To provide prayerful service
- ~ To love as Christ has loved
- ~ To bring the peace, joy and justice of Christ to our world

~ To love, serve and empower the homeless poor.

Let us pray:

O Holy One, Mother and Father of us all, we pray for our guests – victims of our unjust social structures. Help us truly see them as our sisters and brothers. And help us remember that in serving them, *we serve Christ in the distressing disguise of the poor*. Bless us and all who serve the poor, that we may do so with humility, and with hearts emboldened to work toward a more just world, where all will have what they need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son and our brother. Amen.

