

The Helping Hand



Mobile Food 2020

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MISSION STATEMENT

Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministry is a faith-based, interdenominational mission established to provide free emergency food, clothing, household, personal items, and youth programs to those most in need in our community. Providing faith based services and programs showing the love of Christ, restoring hope, and rebuilding lives.

Serving Food During a Pandemic

This year, we've been blessed to put on multiple Mobile Food Giveaways. Thanks to your amazing generosity, in addition to our in-house pantry services, we were able to provide 7,519 people with food directly in areas lacking resources! Even in a normal year, these Mobile Food Giveaways provide much needed food assistance, however, adding a global pandemic to the equation makes this non-contact resource all the more vital. In a time where transportation to our building isn't easy to find, our mobile food giveaways allow us to reach more clients needs while still meeting social/physical distancing guidelines.

We will continue to host Mobile Food Giveaways as needed.



**Thank you for the GENEROUS donations by individuals, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Flint Fresh Food Hub, Westside Church, West Court Street Church of God, Love INC, St. Jude's Episcopal Church, Fenton Chamber of Commerce, AFL-CIO, United Way, Communities First, Landaal Packaging Systems, UAW Local 659, the Urban Renaissance Center, Crim Fitness Foundation, and the Greater Flint Urgent Relief Fund. YOU made this happen!*

1st Annual Mindful Kayak!

This fall, we were excited to partner with the Flint River Watershed Coalition, Crim Fitness Foundation, Kayak Flint and MTA–Flint for our 1st ever Flint Mindful Kayaking event! The event was free for teens ages 14-16 to experience mindfulness while appreciating the beauty of the Flint River! Thank you to everyone who made this happen, we're already looking forward to the next one!



BEDDING FOR KIDS



Although our children's camp program had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19, we're excited to share a new opportunity that presented itself to serve our children in a new and different way!

St. Francis Prayer Center received a large donation of beds from Central Michigan University (Fire Up Chips!) but they were in need of bedding! We are blessed to partner with them and, thanks to YOU and your generosity, 160 children in need now have complete sheet sets and warm blankets for their new beds!

*Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
Angels watch me through the night,
And wake me with the morning light.*



CRAIG'S CORNER

After 8 years of service to the Flint community, our Executive Director, Craig Leavitt, will be retiring as of January 1st, 2021.



It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Director at Crossover. When you serve in a community like Flint in the basic needs space, providing food, clothing and personal care items for our communities most vulnerable folks, you learn right away who's heart is being educated. You also gain the understanding of just how powerful these basic human needs items are. I have literally seen food dry the tears from the eyes of a hungry child and watched as the stress left their mothers face. I have been blessed many times by mothers and fathers as we provided new school clothes or new winter coats for their children. It is here where we meet our humanity. As our client's Executive Director, because the clients are who I really worked for, my most sacred responsibility was to be their voice!



A few community members had some thoughts to share reflecting on Craig's work:

"While it is sad to see him "retire" his legacy will live on through the amazing team he has assembled. Another example of his modeling the way of true servant leadership." -Steve Wolbert, Firestone Center

"Craig, thank you for your leadership and service in our community. Thank you for your friendly spirit of collaboration. May God's wisdom and grace carry you onward in the days ahead, and may your days be filled with health, peace, and joy!" -Dallas Gatlin, Carriage Town Ministries

"Without question, the hallmark of Craig's tenure as Executive Director at Crossover was his unrelenting focus on caring for those in need. His ability to do this day-in and day-out was a result of his deep and abiding faith in God and his ability to love each and every client regardless of the day or situation. His spirit, his energy, his dedication and his graciousness will be missed." -Lionel Wernette, Crossover's Board President



Thank You Staff!



Gifts of Memory

We offer our deepest sympathies to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one and we are truly grateful for the loving donations in their memory.

Sarah Minkler: by Craig & Sarah Leavitt, and Gloria Williams

Linda Charney: by Gene & Beth Dolby

Rev. Gary Sanderson: by Caroline Sanderson

Ginger Matar: by Russell Matar

Martin Vallee: by Michelle Vallee

Lee Matthews: by Mark & Elaine Parson

Betty Hamilton: by Mary & Floyd Robinson,

Jr., Shannon & Maryanna Langley, Ellin

Kohlmann, Kenneth & Carol Smith, Janet

Williamson, Leonard & Sharon Thomas, Lei

Tobias, Diane Sanglier, Sandy Clay

Kathy Dick: by Caroline Sanderson, Shannon & Maryanna Langley

Scott Amrhein: by Carl & Linda Leser

Dr. Byron Schoolfield: by Karen McGuire

Patricia Minshall: by Steve & Janice Baillie

Andy Bentley: by Leonard & Sharon Thomas, Kenneth & Carol Smith

Kleta Baldwin: by Leonard & Sharon Thomas

Virginia Digard: by Lei Tobias

William "Bill" Ertel: by Robert & Melinda Brewer

Ron Cruppenink: by Kenneth & Carol Smith

Gifts of Honor & Celebration

Thank you for helping those less fortunate while honoring loved ones or celebrating the milestones in these peoples lives:

Janet Williamson's 86th Birthday: by Laura Gayan

Fred & Odette Jones: by Joseph & Ruth Thrash

Cal Myers: by David Knapp

Linda Gibbs Birthday: by Bill & Peggy Anderson, David & Janet Nyholm

In Celebration of the Marriage of Bob Shaw & Ellie Sharrow: by Katy Sanders

In a time when we were unable to have many volunteers in the building, our amazing staff stepped up, risking their lives to ensure our clients got what they needed! We are so blessed to have such amazing individuals represent our organization. THANK YOU ALL!!!

We wanted to take this time to show you the amazing people you meet when you step through our doors*!



Karen Dukes

Karen has worked here for 27 years and knows every inch of Crossover! She is our Center Coordinator and the true heart of Crossover ♥ ♥ ♥!



Andre Brown

Andre is one of our amazing floor and dock workers and helps both our donors and our clients! He is a blessing!



Marc Light

Marc is another amazing dock and floor worker who just joined us this past summer! We are so excited to have such a great worker come on board.



Jerry Johnson

Jerry helps out all around Crossover but does an especially great job of maintaining our men's clothing area! He is an amazing help!



Marcus Person

Marcus does our deliveries, food pickup, and maintenance on our building. Marcus has a heart of gold and we are so thankful to have him on our team!

*Masks were worn at all times besides the time of photo.



Due to COVID-19, we have sadly decided to cancel our annual Comedy for Crossover. Although we would love to gather with you all, we must keep the safety of YOU, our staff, and our clients as our top priority. Please consider supporting us this upcoming Giving Tuesday using the enclosed envelope or donating online. Thank you for continuing to uplift our neighbors in these difficult times!

Give Thanks 2020

Each year, because of friends like you, we are able to bless 100 families and 20 senior citizens with a full Thanksgiving meal so they may enjoy fellowship and love with their families without worrying where the money for the extra food will come from.

How can you help provide **HOPE** this Thanksgiving?

1. Sponsor a family. *(Your gift of \$50 provides a complete Thanksgiving meal for a family in need—please use the enclosed envelope to make your donation!)*
2. Donate non-perishable food items! *(What makes Thanksgiving dinner special to you? Sweet potatoes, gravy, corn, green bean casserole, stuffing? Additional items are always needed!)*



Thank you for giving HOPE this season!

Back to School Success!

Did you know that over 41% of Flint Residents live below the federal poverty level? 60% of those residents are CHILDREN! With your help, Crossover strives to provide items to make the school year successful to children who might otherwise go without. With LOVE, and YOUR help, we MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the lives of children, one child at a time!

Thanks to you, so far this year **170** children in need began school safely and with a smile & confidence!



Each child received 2 masks, 2 new outfits including 6 new pairs of underwear and socks, a new pair of shoes, and a new backpack filled with school supplies.

THANK YOU!



**Thank you for the GENEROUS donations by individuals, our Supporting Churches, the Jennings Memorial Foundation, the Rotary Club of Greater Flint Sunrise, the Stella & Frederick Loeb Charitable Trust! Thank you also to the Needlework Guild of America (NGA) for your generous in-kind donations!*

Give Hope this Christmas

It takes many hands and many hearts to provide for 100 families each Christmas. New toys, books, and pajamas for children in need, something small for mom and dad, and blankets and towels for the family help make the season blessed in households where even the basics are hard to come by! **With YOUR help, we provide HOPE for these families.**

How can you help? There are many ways:

SPONSOR A FAMILY

(you and your loved ones can shop for a specific family)

MAKE A MONETARY GIFT*

(\$150 purchases gifts for an entire family and we'll do the shopping for you!)

DONATE TIME

(we always need help wrapping gifts!)

**We will be arranging safe & socially distanced ways to wrap gifts.*

If you are interested in giving HOPE this Christmas, please call Crossover at (810) 234-2479. **Envelope Enclosed*



CROSSOVER DOWNTOWN OUTREACH MINISTRY
414 W. Court St. • Flint, MI 48503

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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crossoverministryflint.org

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- Interim Executive Director**
Denise Diller
- Development Officer**
Elisabeth Hamilton
- Center Coordinator**
Karen Dukes

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Urgent Needs...

THANKSGIVING NEEDS:

Stuffing Mix, Canned Green Beans, Canned Gravy or Packets, Canned Cranberry Sauce/Cranberries, Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes

HOUSEHOLD: Washcloths

CLOTHING: Women's Winter Sweaters , Jeans - ALL sizes
Children's Clothes: Girls size 4, Boys size 16+

FOOD: Vegetables

Thank You!

Reverse Advent Calendar

During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. Many families enjoy opening the doors of a chocolate advent calendar to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Why not try a Reverse advent calendar this year (who says you can't do both?).

The reverse advent calendar works by you filling them every day with items of food or clothing that can then be brought to Crossover in order to help those less fortunate that are struggling at Christmas time. Your gifts would help us restock our pantry after our busiest time of the year, preparing for January 2021!