

2024—SPRING NEWSLETTER

Crossover Outreach shows the love of Christ by feeding, clothing, and providing services and programs to those in need, restoring hope and rebuilding lives.

THE ART OF GIVING HOPE



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“People don't buy what you do; they buy why you do it. And what you do simply proves what you believe” - Simon Sinek, Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action

The WHY and HOW of Crossover Outreach is far more important than the WHAT. We are great at giving out the essential items for those struggling to provide them for themselves and their families, but for us, it's more about uplifting them with quality items and ensuring they leave us better than when they came in. We are all just one step away from a life-changing event such as: loss of a job, car breakdown, illness, addiction, mental health struggles, and the list goes on and on, with many of these being life-controlling issues. We strive to meet people right where they are, treating them with love, dignity, and respect, no matter the circumstances surrounding them. That's what makes us different. It's not simply about the services we provide, but about the connection and trust we have with our clients.

One of the first things you notice when you walk into our new building, is the mural painted on the wall. It was so graciously donated by Lacey Harmon and it perfectly captures the very essence of Crossover. We sat down with Lacey recently to ask some questions about our mural and more. Being an artist was in her blood as both her mom and grandma were artists too. She started doing murals at the age of 13 (with no formal training) and has done 100+ and wants to do more! We asked her why she wanted to gift us with this beautiful work of art and she said at one point in her life she was a single mom and it was hard, so she can understand some of the struggles mothers go through and appreciates and loves what our organization does in the community. We wanted something that would grab your attention as you walked in the doors, and really represent the heart of Crossover! Initially we had an idea of what we thought we wanted but thanks to Lacey's creativity and skill, we ended up going a whole different direction. In the end, she really captured the WHY of what we do. If you're interested in getting your own work of art commissioned by Lacey, she does more than murals and can do portraits, draw your favorite pet, and so much more. Feel free to contact her at laceyharon@yahoo.com. And no, that isn't a typo in her email, the “m” was intentionally left out. **THANK YOU LACEY!**



SHOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST | RESTORING HOPE | REBUILDING LIVES



OUR “WHY” IN ACTION

THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS 2023

We are thankful that even through the transition into our new building, we were able to still offer our holiday programs! Holidays are extremely stressful for those in need as the festivities require additional money that may not be available. We strive to relieve this financial burden and give families, especially children, some sense of normalcy and joy on those special days. These programs ensure that families in need will be able to celebrate like their neighbors, with a full stomach, family, and thankfulness! Our goal is always to serve a minimum of 100 families each holiday. We provide families in need with Thanksgiving boxes including all the sides for a typical

Thanksgiving meal, as well as a gift card to purchase a turkey (or protein of choice) at a local grocery store. Christmas bags include (6-8) age-appropriate gifts for all children including games, books, coloring books, crayons, puzzles, crafts, clothes, pajamas, and other toys. Each family receives a set of towels, warm blanket, and each adult receives a gift to ensure they have something to open on Christmas morning as well. This year instead of having families sign up for these programs in house, we partnered with MDHHS and received the names of families in need. Because of YOUR generosity, **113** households (**369** individuals) were blessed with a full Thanksgiving meal to share with their loved ones! For Christmas, **98** families (**319** individuals—many of which were children) were blessed with a Christmas that was merry and bright with everyone in the household receiving gifts. Special thanks to our individual donors, First Presbyterian, Court Street United Methodist, Every Nation, St. Paul’s Episcopal, The Whiting Foundation, Blue Cross Complete, Dort Financial, and HAP CareSource for making these programs possible!



CHILDREN’S BEDDING

One of our lesser known partnerships is one we have with MDHHS. You may have first heard about it back in 2018 when Tim Aumaugher spoke at our May Luncheon. We’ve now been working with them on this particular project for almost six years! Children are placed under the care and supervision of MDHHS by the courts. Did you know that there are currently over 450 children under MDHHS supervision in Genesee County? These children are placed either in relative homes, fictive kin homes, foster homes, or residential facilities, and whenever possible, they try to keep siblings together. The ultimate goal is to eventually reunify the children with their parents.

MDHHS is required to ensure that every child has their own bed to sleep in and purchases hundreds of beds and a great deal of bunk beds and cribs each year! Prior to Covid, the Michigan Department of Correction’s Prison Build Program manufactured wooden bed frames for MDHHS. Unfortunately, the current price of lumber has made MDOC’s frames a cost-prohibitive option. They are now utilizing a metal “mattress platform” frame for children with a durable, two sided mattress.

Here’s where Crossover comes into play. Because of the collaboration we have with our friends from the NGA (National Giving Alliance), we are able to provide the pillows, blankets and sheet sets for the beds as the children are getting placed in their new home. Just like our other programs, we have already seen an increase in the amount of bedding we’ve provided this year. In the first two months of 2024, we have been able to uplift 44 children with new bedding as they transition and adjust to their new living space. We are thankful to be a partner in this amazing program.



“The two most important days in life are the day you born and the day you discover the reason why.” – Mark Twain



We're Back!

It's good to be back! On January 2nd, we officially reopened for client services and donations. We consider this more of a soft opening and look forward to celebrating our official Grand Reopening on April 8th! Because we anticipate a larger crowd for the event, we are hosting an open house from 11 a.m.—2 p.m. Refreshments will be available starting at noon, while staff and board members will be stationed throughout the space to share information about the new building.



Since reopening, we have already seen a drastic increase in numbers served for January and February. For food alone, we saw an increase of **35%** in January and **55%** in February! In two months, we've served 1,462 individuals with food, 1,486 individuals with personals, 984 people received gently used clothing, and 1,119 individuals took home cleaning supplies. Diving further into the statistics, we also found that **66%** of our clients these past two months, were brand new to Crossover! We are thankful to be back serving our neighbors in need.



Unlike our old facility, the new building has a community space which will be used for our community partners, regular support groups, meetings, classes, and provide a home for other nonprofits who may not have a place of their own. Examples of the classes we hope to have include recovery support, healthcare education, job training, nutrition, financial literacy and basic life skills. These resources will allow us to grow deeper relationships with our clients and go beyond the crisis needs of poverty. Our programs and classes are designed to educate our clients how to combat poverty in their own lives and eventually lead them to a self-sustaining life where they no longer need the assistance of Crossover. We have our first group meeting in the space on a weekly basis! The Flint Holistic

Recovery Community meets here every Wednesday at 6pm. FHRC was established with the intention of creating a safe space for holistic modalities and multiple pathways to coexist and be a community support for those in recovery. We've also been fortunate to have some of our community partners; Blue Cross Complete, FACT (Families and Children Together), and Hamilton Community Health on site, building relationships with our clients while also sharing information about the services they offer.

As Crossover continues to grow, this building is just the next step and a much needed addition to what we already do. It's a worthwhile and meaningful investment into the City of Flint, improving the corridor and providing a more robust community center for our neighbors in need. We are able to enhance our intake process, spend more time getting to know our clients, provide peer-to-peer mentorship, host more outreach events, and increase collaboration with other agencies in the community. For the next couple months we have a social work intern, her name is Harmoni, who's helping us get the peer-to-peer program up and running! It's an exciting time for Crossover with the best really yet to come!

“

SERVICE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE BIG AND GRANDIOSE TO BE MEANINGFUL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

”

- Cheryl A. Esplin



With a Grateful Heart

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.

*There was no newsletter after last year's summer edition due to the transition to our new building so this covers gifts from June 2023 through January 2024!

Andrew Mackie: Dave Petro

Barbara Landaal Terry: Jeanette Mansour & Joe Green, Stephen & Kimberly Landaal

Beverly LaRose: Caroline Sanderson

Cal Meyers: James & Jean Florence, David Knapp

Cleo M. Silver & Judy Noye: Bill Piper Family

David George: Margaret George

Diana Boone: Judy Clippard

Don Wolfe: Jean Wolfe-Krchmar

Dr. & Mrs. R.H. Harper: John & Ann Briggs

Edward Snyder: Mary Ohsam, John Hemingway & Connie Palmer, Tim & Connie Pangle, Linda Bentley, Diana Rutherford, Joan Snyder, June Green, Jim & Linda Peters, David & Joanne Panzlau, Denise Theeck, Michael & Michelle Snyder, Constance McKay

Elaine Condon: Jeffrey & Shirley Burchett, William & Karen Condon, Jean Wolfe-Krchmar, Sally & Harry Swartz, Karen Warda, James & Carol Condon, Patricia Noyle-Schoenherr, Jeffery & Christine Lewis, Judy Clippard, Christopher & Maria Czyzio, James & Mary Jarvis, Sue Elder, Steve Calvert

Ginger Matar: Russell Matar

Gloria Williams: Jay & Patricia Gantz, Charles & Linda Evans

Hazen Germaine: Timothy & Kimberly Germaine

Jackie Elliott: Larry Elliott

Jerry & Elaine Condon, Lenore Calvert: Jeffrey & Shirley Burchett

Jim & Cathy Long: John & Joan Kippe

JoAnn Miska: Rene Wexler

Kathryn Sanders: Ken & Carol Smith

Kirk Warner: Robert & Melinda Brewer

Lenore Calvert and Mr and Mrs Gerald Condon: Steve Calvert

Leola Gibson: Craig & Sarah Leavitt

Linda Twardowski: Dave & Rosie Petro

Luke Snider: Aaron Snider

Marge Stuvell: Judy Clippard

Martin Vallee: Michelle Vallee

Mary Ohsam: Lorrie Stogsdill, John & Ann Briggs, Diana Rutherford, Ken & Carol Smith, David & Marie Kibbe, Mary Robinson

Richard Ruhala: Sheryl Biesman, Bryan Stevenson, Richard Ruhala Jr., Retired Men's Fellowship of Greater Flint, Ken & Carol Smith, Ruth Thrash, Richard & Lucinda Weiermiller, Ken & Sharon Wilson, Rick & Lisa Brabbs, Carol Hinterman, Timm & Marchelle Allen, Denise Kirbitz, Sue Elder, Duncan & Dana Beagle, Maureen Carroll, Robert & Suzanne Huebel, Mary Hyde, Elizabeth Malenrich, Ward Chapman, Judy Clippard, Clyde & Mary Lamberson-Allard, Lionel & Sue Wernette, Richard Mucha, Dorothy Makranyi, Kenneth & Joanne Cathey, Wayne & Carol Ruhala, Douglas Wenger, Carol Streur, Pat Mucha

Richard Ruhala & Scott Amrhein: Carl & Linda Leser

Robert & Della Grieve: Alan & Debra Smith, Mark & Jane Smith, Ken & Carol Smith, John & Andrea Hardaker, Jim & Vickie Smith

Robert Forst: Janet Forst

Ruth Cox: Janet Williamson, Judy Clippard, Richard Randels, Caroline Sanderson

Ruth Scott, Al Cook & Elizabeth Barnhart: Jane Bingham

Teresa Wyatt & Rose Marie MacLean: Dr. Dennis Wyatt

“Find your WHY and you’ll find your WAY.”—John C. Maxwell

TP Bowl XII

The Kansas City Chiefs may be Super Bowl Champs, again, but Court Street United Methodist is our MVP! Each year the Genesis Sunday School class challenges the rest of the congregation in what’s become



known as the TP Bowl. After the results were tallied this year, the congregation was crowned victorious! 5,832 rolls of toilet paper were generously brought in to Crossover! Many individuals and families will be blessed thanks to this good hearted competition!



Gifts of Honor & Celebration

Thank you for helping those less fortunate while honoring loved ones or celebrating the milestones in these people’s lives.

Richard & Arlene Ruhala: In Honor of their 65th Wedding Anniversary—Much Love, Your Children & Grandchildren

Caroline Sanderson: Court Street United Methodist Church

Linda Bentley: In Honor of Linda’s Birthday—Reba Walling, Bill Piper, & the Lunch Bunch

Mary Kirkpatrick: Judith Chambers

Judy Clippard: Bill Piper, Denise Diller

Doug & Barb Mercer: Megan McCully, Robert, Laura Min, Paxton, Kaia and Bone

Lionel & Sue Wernette: Samuel Nock

Samuel Nock: Lionel & Sue Wernette, Ken & Margie Clausen

Charlie and Cheryl Hite: Kirk & Charlotte Forr

Staff of Ruth Mott Foundation: Connie Palmer

Urgent Needs:

- ◆ Men’s Shoes
- ◆ Bedding (all sizes)
- ◆ Towels & Washcloths
- ◆ Women’s Jeans (sizes 0-8)
- ◆ Boy’s Pants (sizes 8 and up)

URGENT

We Need YOUR Help!

Please help us fill Easter baskets for our kids by donating:

- Chocolate Easter Bunnies
- Candy/Toy Filled Easter Eggs
- Individually Wrapped Candy
- Bubbles/Bubble Wands
- Jump Ropes
- Sidewalk Chalk

Save The Date:

Join us for fun, fellowship & inspiration as we celebrate **YOU** with our

May Fundraiser Luncheon!

Friday, May 17, 2023
 First Presbyterian Church
 11:30am - 1pm
 Seating is Limited
 First Come, First Serve
 More Details Coming Soon!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

We are in need of volunteers to help sort and label the gently used clothing we receive each week, pack groceries for our clients, assist with annual programs, and more!

INTERESTED? CALL US AT (810) 234-2479 TO SIGN UP TODAY!



CROSSOVER OUTREACH
414 W. Court Street | Flint, MI 48503
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HOW CROSSOVER GAVE HOPE IN 2023!

2023 may have looked a little different than years past as we transitioned into our new building but thanks to YOU we were still able to ensure that those struggling financially had a place to receive a helping hand.

- ◆ 3,273 people were blessed with personal hygiene products (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant razors, toilet paper)
- ◆ 1,872 people were blessed with cleaning supplies (laundry detergent, antibacterial cleanser, dish soap, and scrubbies)
- ◆ 5,484 people received food in house and 3,518 people received food via mobile food giveaways!
- ◆ 3,939 people received gently used clothing
- ◆ 230 people were provided with household items for their new home
- ◆ 1,307 babies had clean diapers
- ◆ 273 people had a free ride home thanks to our bus pass program
- ◆ 110 families had a delicious Easter dinner and all the kids in the household received Easter baskets (322 kids)
- ◆ 33 children (16 to Junior Camp & 17 to Middle Camp) attended camp at Camp Chickigami
- ◆ 193 kids went Back to School with everything needed for success (new backpack, supplies, clothes, underwear, socks, shoes)
- ◆ 369 people had a traditional Thanksgiving feast through our Thanksgiving program
- ◆ 98 families (319 individuals—many of which were children) celebrated a Christmas that was merry & bright
- ◆ 88 kids received NEW winter coats plus six received NEW boots too!
- ◆ 69 kids received new bedding