

The Flame

SPRING 2009

All the darkness in the world cannot put out the light from one small candle. Community Sharing is striving to be that candle.



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A Newsletter from:

Community Sharing

From the Board...

I sit in awe as I look at what Community Sharing has become today. It seems like just yesterday that I was banging my head under a staircase moving groceries around at one of the local churches as a porter for Community Resource Sharing. We were helping about 50 families and 150 individuals then. A small group of people rallied around the idea of expanding CRS and Community Sharing was born.

Currently, our efforts are touching the lives of over 300 families which mean we help

feed and clothe roughly 850 individuals on a monthly basis. We continue to help with rents and utilities and the tutoring program is still going strong. The number of volunteers has grown to over 100 people who give of their time and talents, and to me this has been a true blessing.

The building CS occupies allows us to really make things happen for our clients; better than we ever dreamed of. More people are being helped and more people are helping. Our little community has embraced us and supports us through food drives, financial donations and by attending impor-

tant fundraisers like Go for the Green in March and the Golf outing in July.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to help make CS a viable resource to those who need that extra boost. Our job is not finished and will never cease to be done because those in need will always be with us. The help and support of the many will help to assure that Community Sharing will always be around to answer the call. God Bless.

Mel Boomer
President

Community Sharing Golf Outing

Pssst. Has anybody told you yet? It's almost time for Community Sharing's 5th Annual Golf Outing. It's being held on Monday, July 13th at Beacon Hill Golf Club's beautiful facility in Commerce Township.

You get to enjoy a continental breakfast, play your favorite sport, take part in all the fun contests and try to win in the raffle! In other words, you get to have a blast while helping Community Sharing reach its goals. **To reserve your team's spot, fill out the enclosed form on page 5 and send it back with your payment to Community Sharing today!** If you would like to sponsor a hole and advertise your business, we also have various sponsorship levels available. **Just fill out the form on page 5 and return it with your payment to Community Sharing today!**

What? You say you can't hit a basketball with a tennis racket let alone a golf ball? We don't care! We want you there anyway! We also have tickets available for the luncheon only. **Just fill out the form on page 5 and return it with your payment to Community Sharing today!**

Oh, and if that's not incentive enough, here's the best part. We at Community Sharing do solemnly swear that while you are attending this event, you will **NOT** be mowing your lawn or doing housework! We promise!!

Through the generous donations of the local community, the light of Community Sharing burns bright and provides help to those in need

Have You Heard?



Community Sharing would like to send out a heartfelt thanks to the client who returned the Steve Yzerman jersey that was donated to CS for the silent auction and mistakenly picked it up during a visit to our clothing department. His honesty and integrity touched us all.

Individuals or groups looking for a unique way to support Community Sharing can help out with kid friendly items to help feed and entertain our school age clients during their summer vacation. Mac and Cheese, canned pasta, ramen noodles, cereal, juice and juice boxes and peanut butter and jelly are easy foods for kids to prepare. Activity/coloring books, crayons, children's books and puzzles (no drum sets please) also help to entertain them during the summer months.

A Community Sharing craft show is being contemplated, but we are uncertain of the level of interest in the community. Any crafters willing to help kick off this event are urged to call us at 248-889-0347 or send an e-mail to info@community-sharing.org.

CS needs a person with grant writing experience who is willing to help Community Sharing with the grant writing process. If you are interested, please call and ask for Barb Maher at Community Sharing or e-mail her at bmaher@community-sharing.org.

The Community Sharing Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be May 20th @ 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall for volunteers and a guest. Invitations will be in the mail soon.

Kurtz Elementary School and 11 Milford restaurants will sponsor the "Grub Crawl" on June 11, from 5pm to 9pm. Tickets are \$35 and are available at Kurtz Elementary school. The ticket price includes lots of food and you also receive a tee shirt for participation. All proceeds will be donated to CS. For more information, please call Dale Phillips at (248) 684-8025.

On April 21st, thirteen CS clients attended a financial planning class on how to improve their credit scores sponsored by Best Source Credit Union of Waterford. Because of the positive feedback, there will be a follow-up class in June.

Be a Part of the Transition

Community Sharing's clientele, volunteer and charitable donor base keeps getting bigger every day and so has our newsletter readership! It is so exciting for us to be able to share all of our good news and events with you. We also want to make you aware of our website and online newsletter. You can find us online at www.community-sharing.org. This site can be accessed by anyone and it contains the same information and articles as our paper newsletter as well as an event calendar and donations page.

As our readership expands, so do our publishing costs like paper, ink, and postage. We are looking for ways to reduce costs while still reaching our readers. We believe that a gradual transition from print to on-line readership by those who have easy access to the Internet will help us cut our publishing costs by half. The money saved will go toward furthering our ability to serve our growing list of clients' needs. If you would like to be a part of the transition and receive future newsletter's via email, please email us at:

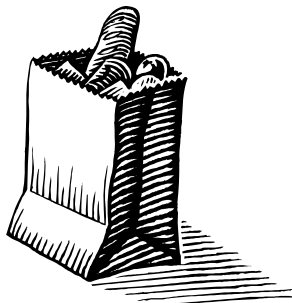
newsletter@community-sharing.org

We understand that all do not have easy access to the Internet. We will gladly continue sending our newsletter through the mail to those who wish to receive it in that format.



Pantry Needs

- Spaghetti Sauce
- Meal Helpers or Complete Meals
- Canned Meat
- Sloppy Joe Mix
- Jelly or Jam



Client Service Information

Total Volunteer Hours

February– April, 2009 = 3,472

Total volunteers = 159

Individuals served February– April, 2009 = 2,360

Households served = 907

New clients = 55

Average # of individuals per month = 787

Average # of households per month = 302

Average # of new clients = 18

Good News Department

Kids and food are a great combination! The 3rd and 4th grade classes at West Highland Christian Academy collected and donated 96 cans of food for CS in March. You all get an A+ in generosity!

Hats off to the Leadership Class at Oak Valley Middle School. They raised \$229.08 for CS in March by having a “Hats for Heat” day at their school. Students donated money for the privilege of wearing a hat to school for the day.

Highland Middle School raised \$500 for CS during their 3 on 3 basketball tournament in March. Special thanks to Principal Martin Lindberg and to Lisa Smith for coordinating this event. There were 84 basketball players in one gym at the same time! The kids showed what working together and playing together can accomplish.

Kevin Lupinacci is a teenage member of our community who is working toward his Eagle Scout badge. As one of his projects, he collected 1,542 pounds of food for CS. **THAT’S A LOT OF FOOD!** What a great way to honor Scouting and help others! Thanks Kevin!



BRIDGE, the youth group at Milford United Methodist Church, participated in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring Event. As a result, CS was chosen to receive 99 non-perishable food items for our pantry. **THAT’S A LOT OF FOOD TOO!** Kids like you are what community is all about. Great job!

WHO ROCKS? KIDS ROCK!!!! And so does Tom Zakarian and the “Half-Whacked” band for donating 3 large boxes of food to our pantry as well as \$20 to Community Sharing. Rock on fellas!

Murray Goodwin and Pet Supplies Plus has been providing ongoing support for our pet pantry. Many of our clients were worried about how they were going to feed their beloved pets in these hard economic times. Your generosity has eased many burdens, and CS cannot express our gratitude enough. On behalf of our canine and feline friends, we say Arf Arf and Meow (that means yum yum and thanks)

Janel King, Melanie Whitney and the members of Curves for Women in Highland have been doing more than just working out in April. They’ve been collecting food for CS! 850 pounds of it in fact! You know what they say; real women have curves! They also have kind, caring hearts! Thanks again ladies!

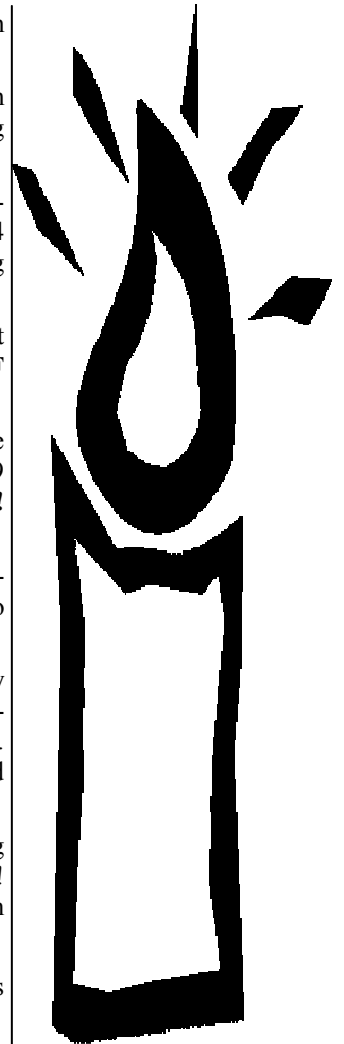
CS received an award of \$500 from Fifth Third Bank. Denise Sanborn of the Milford Office is a volunteer at CS and entered our organization in the Employee Community Involvement Program.

CS has received a grant from the United Way-Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Spring Service Spotlight: *Ron Shell*

Our Spring Service Spotlight shines on Ron Shell. Ron is a retired mechanical engineer who has been with CS since October of 2008. His organizational skills are put to great use in our pantry storage area. His main responsibility is to sort, date and store food donations. He not only volunteers during normal pantry hours, but is also a welcome addition on Mondays when he shores up any unfinished work and accepts new donations. This frees up the office staff to function in an administrative capacity without interruption.

When he is not giving us his time, he is giving it to others. He is also a volunteer for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Group, Meals on Wheels, and the Community Emergency Response Team, which serves in an auxiliary capacity to the Fire Department. Thank you Ron! Your dedication to CS and the community as a whole is inspiring and we are so blessed to have you on our team!



**Community
Assistance for
those in
Need to
Develop
Life skills and
Empowerment**

New Board Members Elected

Community Sharing has expanded its Board of Directors to fourteen members. At the Annual Meeting on February 26, 2009, five new members were elected and four sitting members were re-elected to all serve two-year terms. The 2009 Community Sharing Board of Directors are: Bob Swanson, Mary Krebs, Amy Szabo, Joyce Turner, Barb Maher, Mel Boomer, Claudia Schimetz, Dave Dickey, Jay Gordinier, Ron McComas, John Schimetz, Tom Zakarian, Deb Schornack, and Brian Cox. The new board selected the following persons as officers for 2009: Mel Boomer, *President*, Claudia Schimetz, *Vice President*, Amy Szabo, *Secretary*, and Mary Krebs, *Treasurer*.

Spring Garage Sale a Success

The spring garage sale was held April 16 - April 18 and was a huge success. This year's sale brought in revenue in excess of \$15,000. The gym at Apollo was filled with treasures of all kinds and sizes that attracted many shoppers with open wallets. The donations from the community were overwhelming and each of you deserves a big thank you for making this so successful. Thanks again to all the volunteers who worked so hard setting up the sale and working during those three busy days. A heartfelt thank you is extended to the co-chairs of the event Tom and Diane Mosier for their hard work.



Moose Riders Charity Motorcycle Run

THERE'S A MOOSE ON THE LOOSE? ON A MOTORCYCLE?

OK, now that we have your attention, we can tell you about the Moose Riders Charity Motorcycle Run on May 30th. Five Moose Lodges (Holly, Lapeer, Durand, Birch Run, and Flushing) are having a bike rally, dinner and donation competition. The proceeds, donated food, household goods and furniture collected will go to support both Community Sharing and Freedom Work Opportunities Inc.

Registration for the bike run is at 10:00 a.m. at the Lapeer Moose Lodge at 2190 Lapeer Rd in Lapeer. The run itself begins at 11:00 a.m. sharp. The \$20 registration fee includes dinner at the Holly Moose Lodge, located at 210 S. Broad St. at 5:00 p.m.



Those who can't make the run but would still like to be a part of this event can attend the dinner for \$20 per person. There will also be 50/50 drawings, prizes and raffles. The lodge that collects the most donations will be announced at the dinner as well.

Memorials and Honorariums

Community Sharing has received a number of special gifts honoring friends and loved ones. All gifts are used as directed by the donor. The honoree, or their family, is notified that the gift has been made in their name if requested.

Memorials

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| To Hatti Bolak | From Donna & Larry Pandoff |
| To Janet Fleming | From John Kadwell |
| To William Corben | From Barbara Kalirz |
| To Dan Pierce | From Mark & Joan Pierce Hunt |
| To Carla Phuhl | From the Third Tuesday Pinochle Club |
| To Carla Phuhl | From the Second Tuesday Card Club |
| To Elizabeth Whitebeck | From Emil & Sue Tomillo |
| To Pete Peponis | From Donna & Larry Pandoff |
| To Earl Detweiler | From Frank & Lindsay Bateman |

In Honor of

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Aria Justice Cronin | From Carol Cronin |
| Karyn Hopp's Birthday | From Lisa Damone |

COMMUNITY SHARING

5th ANNUAL GOLF FUNDRAISER

*Beacon Hill Golf Club
6011 Majestic Oaks Dr.
Commerce, MI*



Schedule

8:00 am: Registration and Continental Breakfast Begins
9:00 am: Shotgun Start
Hot Dog, Chips, Pop at Turn
Immediately Following Golf:

Luncheon and prizes.
RAFFLE & DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES DURING LUNCHEON

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

Golf Format

Best ball scramble. Each team must use at least 1 drive of each player. Event will be played regardless of weather.

Come Join the Fun! Community Sharing Golf Outing Monday, July 13, 2009

- Yes, I have a foursome.
- Yes, I want to play, but don't have a foursome. Please place me with a team.

Golfer #1
Main Contact
Name _____
Address _____
Phone # _____

Golfer #2
Name _____
Address _____
Phone # _____

Golfer #3
Name _____
Address _____
Phone # _____

Golfer #4
Name _____
Address _____
Phone # _____

Register Early

Please enclose a check or money order (payable to Community Sharing) to guarantee your registration.

Entry Fee - \$100 per player
\$25/lunch only

Sponsorship Opportunities

*Gold Sponsor
\$1,000

*Includes one foursome and sign on tee-box

*Silver Sponsor
\$500

*Includes one twosome and sign on tee-box

*Bronze Sponsor
\$250

*Includes sign on tee-box

Door prizes are always needed.

Sponsorship Level: _____

Name for Signage: _____

Contact Name: _____

Telephone Number _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please enclose a check (payable to Community Sharing) to guarantee your sponsorship.

Send this form with payment to:
Community Sharing
P.O. Box 405, Highland, MI 48357



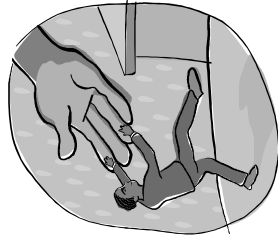
Community Sharing
P.O. Box 405
Highland, MI 48357

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 HIGHLAND, MI 48357

About Community Sharing

Community Sharing is a 501 (c) (3) corporation which provides food, clothing, assistance with evictions and utility shut-offs, referrals, advocacy, and tutoring (K-12) for eligible Milford and Highland residents regardless of race, gender or religious affiliation. Our goal is to help our clients achieve financial independence.

Hours of Operation:
 Every Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Donations:
 Food and clothing donations are accepted Mon-Wed. and every 2nd & 4th Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Please Help Us to Help Others

- Volunteer your time and services
- Donate food and clothing
- Organize a food or clothing drive
- Host a special fundraiser
- Include us in your special events
- Make a monetary donation
- Tell others about Community Sharing

*Building Address: 2029 N. Milford Road
 Highland, MI 48357
 Phone: (248) 889-0347
 Fax: (248) 889-0349
 Web address: www.community-sharing.org*

The 5th Annual CS Golf Outing is July 13 at Beacon Hill Golf Club!
 Registration form inside!!