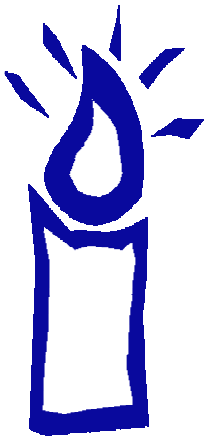


The Flame

SUMMER 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

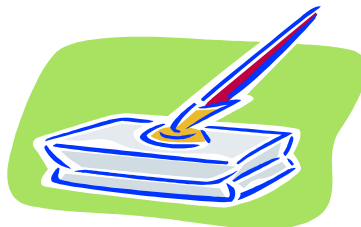
From the Board...

How many times can one say thank you? The Board should have a thank-you stamp and use it on every piece of correspondence we send. There are so many friends of CS that deserve acknowledgment and a thank-you. There is the community that we have counted on for attendance at our garage sales, food drives, golf outings and Go For the Green auctions. They generate the financial support that allows us to keep our doors open to serve the increasing number of people entering our facility looking for help. To the community at large, thank you!

There are our volunteers, an army of devoted people who can be counted on to step up when jobs need to be done. Many of these selfless individuals help us with collecting food, stocking the pantry, sorting donated clothing, building our shelves, helping with our computers, and working on our books. Over 150 people assist CS when needed. To all of our volunteers, I say thank you!

CS counts on the local businesses in Highland and Milford to donate funds, help with drives, and donate items for our auctions. These companies need our support as they struggle to keep ahead of the economic downturn currently gripping Southeast Michigan. We have asked our local businesses for

their support so many times in the past that they now deserve our support more than ever. To these companies we must offer a tangible thank-you!



From a humble beginning to the work-in-progress we are today, the religious community has stood by CS with assistance in many forms. CS depends on the local churches for their continued support and in return opens its doors to people they refer to us for assistance. Our houses of worship are in our prayers. Looks like we will need another new THANK-YOU stamp.

With Gratitude,

Barb Maher, Board Member

Community Sharing Rummage Sale

Community Sharing is having its annual fall garage sale September 17-19 at our location inside Apollo Elementary! We are now accepting household goods, so please bring them by between 10-1 Monday through Thursday or on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. The hours for the sale are 9-4 on Thursday and Friday the 17th & 18th, and 9-2 on Saturday the 19th. Set-up is on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 15th and 16th. Please call the Community Sharing office @ 248-889-0347 if you have some time for fun and to help us prepare for and staff this very important fundraiser.



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?



Mary Zoner of Zoner's Market was kind enough to donate a whole bunch of vegetable starter plants for our clients. We just know they are enjoying their salads as a result of her generosity!

On May 9, the Milford Methodist Church held a food drive at the Milford Post Office. 33 large tubs of non-perishable food items were collected as well as two more tubs donated by the Highland Post Office. Gleaners Food Bank also came through with another 50 cases of food that was delivered on June 2 directly to Community Sharing in support of the food drive. A total of 5,118 pounds of food were donated to CS! Thanks to all involved. You give a whole new meaning to the term "going postal".

Community Sharing's annual golf outing at Beacon Hill was a tremendous success. 100 golfers participated in the event. Mel, Tom, Paul & Matt Boomer won first place. Pam Pierce won the grand prize of an overnight stay at West Branch. The putting contest and the raffle brought in a combined total of \$1,105.00. Our silver sponsors (\$500.00 per sponsor) were Kohl's, Huron Valley State Bank & North Shore Painting and Construction. In total, the outing generated \$7,031.00 for CS and as promised, not one participant mowed their lawn that day!

Donations can be made to CS online through PayPal at our website!! www.community-sharing.org Check out our upcoming events on the calendar page too!

The Clothing Closet at CS is now accepting "back to school" clothes and winter apparel.

Sharon Peterson of Carl's YMCA with the help of the Milford Rotary Club held a "Relay for Community" food drive on the 4th of July. 898 non-perishable food items were collected for our food pantry. Keeping our shelves stocked is so important and you filled a lot of shelf space that day. Great job!

A volunteer is needed to research and schedule educational classes for Community Sharing clients. Please contact the CS office if you would be interested in helping with this need.

A follow up class was held July 29 by Best Source Credit Union to teach clients how to raise their credit score (FICO score).

The Ladies of Laughter held a road rally to benefit CS at which bags of food, pet food, personal care items, cleaning supplies and a cash contribution were collected. Their generosity is no joke, but it sure put a big smile on all of our faces! Thanks girls!

Receive an E-newsletter

Community Sharing is trying to save costs and save resources by offering our newsletter online. If you would like to receive future newsletters via email, please email us with your name, address and email address 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.

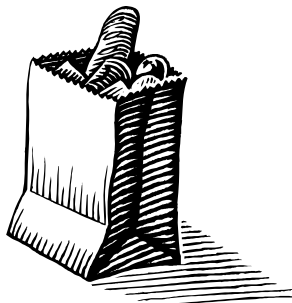
Help Wanted

CS needs a person with federal 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.

CS is still assembling a team to work on and produce the quarterly newsletter. If you like writing, editing, computer design, or production, please call the office or email info@community-sharing.org. No experience required! Come and join the team!

Pantry Needs

- Spaghetti Sauce
- Meal Helpers or Complete Meals
- Canned Meat
- Sloppy Joe Mix
- Jelly or Jam
- Canned pasta
- Kid's Snacks
- Juice Boxes



Client Service Information

Total Volunteer Hours

May- July, 2009 = 2,413

Total volunteers = 163

Individuals served May- July, 2009 = 2,422

Households served = 926

New clients = 49

Average # of individuals per month = 870

Average # of households per month = 387

Average # of new clients = 19

Good News Department

James and Shaun Richardson and Carmen Gibes of the “Cats and the Fiddler” bluegrass band gave a free will donation concert to benefit Community Sharing. The attendance was fantastic, the music was excellent and the collective donation of \$2,395.00 was more than we could have hoped for! CS also thanks the members of the Highland United Methodist Church for their volunteer work and use of their facility as well as the attendees for their generosity.

The Mooseriders Bike Rally held May 30 raised \$413.00 as well as food and clothing for Community Sharing and Freedom Work Opportunities Inc. After the ride, the Holly Moose Lodge provided music, drawings, raffles, and a tasty BBQ chicken dinner to top off the event. It is their goal next year to double the amount of riders and to involve area businesses in the event. Peter Fonda would be proud!

Milford United Methodist Church held a dinner in celebration of Betty and Wes Rice’s 60 years in the funeral home business, the last 30 of which have been with Lynch and Sons Funeral Home. The centerpieces at the dinner were Betty Crocker items like cake mixes and frostings as well as rice products to represent “Betty” and “Rice”. All of these centerpieces were donated to Community Sharing after the dinner. A cash donation was made by both Helen Kavenaugh and Sam and Lucille Watson in their honor. Congratulations to the Rices and thank you!



Carol Dubin and the pet food pantry would like to thank the Mom’s Club for their donation of \$210.00 to purchase pet food, Pet Supplies Plus of Milford and Pet Supplies Plus of Waterford for their pet food donations, Highland Feed and Supplies for their pet food donations and allowing Community Sharing to purchase pet food at cost, and Veterinary Care Specialists of Milford for providing free spay and neutering services to some of our clients’ pets as well as the ongoing medical care they have provided.

The members of Grace Church helped to lighten the load for some of our clients with children by donating backpacks and school supplies to CS.

Diane Broekhuizen lovingly handmade flannel baby blankets. What an original way to show you care about our clients’ babies!

The members of Milford Park Place Independent Senior collected \$30.00 for CS at their picnic. Thank you and we hope you all had fun and wore sun block!

We are so fortunate at CS to have the members of the Milford Garden Club on our side. They made an extremely generous donation of \$1,000.00 to us on June 4. Two green thumbs up!

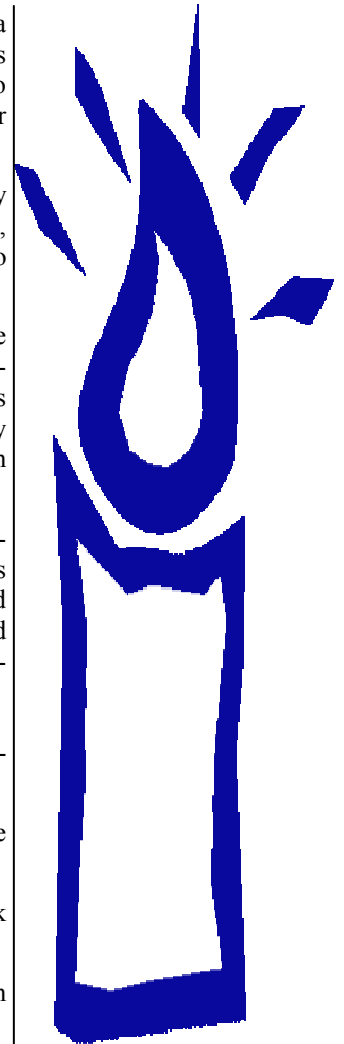
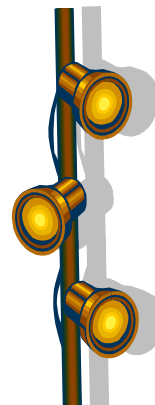
RC Barbers of Highland collected personal care products for CS clients through June and July.

Summer Service Spotlight:

Carol Dubin

Carol Dubin is a special lady, especially if you are a cat or a dog! Retired after 30 years working mainly as a nurse practitioner, she has been married to Howard Dubin for 20 years. Carol’s hobbies are camping, sailboat racing and horseback riding. About 15 months ago Carol walked into Community Sharing to “see what we were all about” and has been with CS every step of the way since. Although she began working in the food pantry, Carol soon found her calling as the “pet lady”. She initiated the pet food program and has been responsible for the organization, supply pick-up, and distri-

bution of pet food since its inception. While being interviewed, Carol was more concerned that we thank the people who give so generously of their goods and services (read Good News above) than she was about being in our spotlight. That demonstrates the kind of person Carol is. Due to her tireless efforts, CS now provides 300 families and 641 animals with pet food as well as avenues for medical care. CS and its clients cannot thank Carol enough for the work that she does to make sure that all members of a family, even the furry four-legged ones, are helped at Community Sharing.



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



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

NON-PROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 74
 HIGHLAND, MI 48357

**The CS Fall Rummage Sale is September 17–19 at the Apollo Center.
 Mark your calendars!**

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:

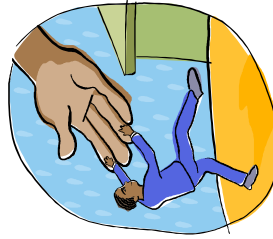
Every Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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