



5061 Duck Lake Rd.
Highland, MI 48356

Mail: P. O. Box 405
Highland, MI 48357

248-889-0347

info@community-sharing.org

Board of Directors

President:
Bob Willard

Vice President:
Claudia Schimetz

Treasurer:
Mary Krebs

Secretary:
Chris Burke

Directors at Large:

David Bell
Tom Connelly
David Dickey
Jaqi Kupfer
Marge LaRuffa
Cheryl Soden
Bob Swanson
Erin Welsh

Member Emeritus:

Mel Boomer

Coming Events

Trivia Night

Bakers of Milford
February 2, 2019

Spring Garage Sale

Community Sharing
April 17 - 20, 2019

Golf Fundraiser

Dunham Hills
June 7, 2019

The Flame

www.community-sharing.org

Winter 2018

Clients Shop for Their Family, Their Tastes, Their Needs



When it comes to giving, people get the most satisfaction from donating items they enjoy themselves. That tendency is highly apparent when students host cereal drives for Community Sharing's food pantry.

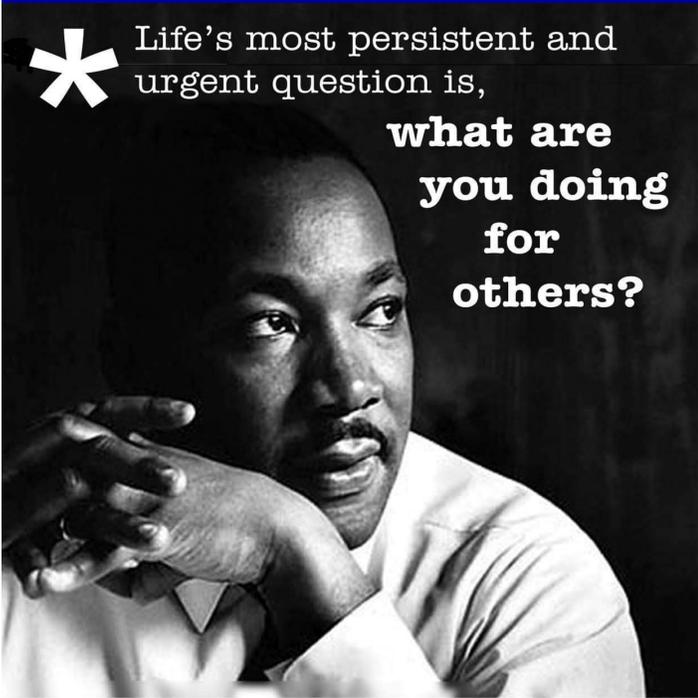
"Kids enjoy picking out fun stuff to donate and our clients enjoy receiving it," says Community Sharing (CS) pantry coordinator David Bell. "Clients especially love 'shopping' for varieties of boxed breakfast cereal after a school food drive because students donate their favorite brands. Sometimes I get comments about 'kid-friendly' cereals, but my response is if a child will eat it, it is better than a generic, bland cereal that they won't eat."

What does "shopping" at a food pantry mean? It means that no two families have to get the same food items, ever. One family may love chicken and rice but another loves potatoes and beef. Some kids

enjoy green beans and others absolutely hate them. This is one reason why CS decided to operate as a *Pantry of Choice*! Clients are allowed to "shop," based on family size, to meet their own tastes and familiar recipes. Plus, donations of non-perishable canned goods – canned meals, tuna, chicken and soups – expand options for clients. And CS choices are healthy. Fresh milk, eggs, bread, produce, USDA meats and six varieties of canned fruits, soups or vegetables can be offered because of generous donors like you.

The ability to "shop" for groceries sets CS's pantry apart from most other nonprofits and makes life much easier for CS clients. "Kids smile when they get to choose the cereal and fresh fruit they like best. And since these items can be expensive, it helps their parents too because they do not have to purchase them on their own," says Bell. Parents enjoy watching their children enjoy eating.

(continued on page 2)



Creative Giving: Martin Luther King 'Day of Service' to Support Pantry

Community Sharing has always been the lucky recipient of local teacher Isaac Perry's "creative giving." This year will be no different.

The Lakeland High School English and Computer Science teacher organizes the Martin Luther King Day March in Milford for Huron Valley Schools. Since 2005, he has also strived to create ways to help local families in need as part of the celebration. Early on, he asked for contributions of non-perishable food at the end of the march for Community Sharing's pantry. As time "marched" on Perry expanded his request by adding an MLK Day of Service where community families could come together and participate in a "giving project."

Once again local shoppers will be asked to donate soup ingredients. There will be a food list and bins at major food stores in the area for several weeks prior to MLK Day. In addition, there will be collection bins at frequented places for Milford and Highland residents such as the Carls Family YMCA and River's Edge Brewery. The non-perishable ingredients will be sorted at the Suzanne Haskew Art Center (The SHAC) at 125 S. Main St. in Milford on January 21, 2019, from 4 to 7 p.m. Bags will be painted, colored and decorated by local kids and the bags will be filled with soup ingredients along with a pre-printed recipe card. Everyone is invited to donate and participate on January 21st.

In 2018 Perry delivered over 100 bags of soup. He hopes to do even more in 2019. For more information go to: www.hvmlkday.org. (Isaac Perry is the English Department Head as well as teacher at Lakeland High School.)

(continued from page 1)

Clients Shop for Their Family, Their Tastes, Their Needs



"Pre-packaged boxes are 'old fashion' and make clients feel like they are given a handout," says Bell who works with a team of 25+ volunteers to

create a welcoming pantry experience for local families in need. "We do pack and deliver boxes for homebound clients, but when they are able to come visit the pantry, they feel empowered when they can shop to meet their family's particular needs."

Having a *Pantry of Choice* does not go unnoticed by clients. Earlier this year, a single, full-time working mom was derailed when she had to take an unpaid medical leave. She was not only thankful for Community Sharing's support but to be able to select foods that she was comfortable cooking for her family was a great relief.

(Want to help? Donate any name brand cereal, canned meals, canned chicken or tuna and soups. These items bring smiles.)

We just had to share this note...

September, 2018

To all the staff and volunteers at Community Sharing,

Thank you all so much for the incredible Back To School event. We can't tell you enough what that meant to our kiddos to have such nice stuff and the haircuts were awesome. (We were treated so kindly and professionally at JKlips, they have gained new clients.) With 7 children in 3 different schools, your event truly eased the burden and made going back to school more exciting instead of stressing over how we could afford everything they needed. Not to mention the event was so well organized and the staff/volunteers were so cheerful and positive. Thank you again, we truly appreciated everything.

*All the best.
The "I" Family*



5061 N. Duck Lake Rd
Highland, MI 48356
248-889-0347
community-sharing.org



5TH ANNUAL

TRIVIA NIGHT

JOIN US AT

BAKERS OF MILFORD

2025 S. Milford Road, Milford, MI 48381
Banquet Hall Entrance

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019

7:30 PM - TICKETS \$25 EACH

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OUTREACH CENTER**
- **ON-LINE: WWW.COMMUNITY-SHARING.ORG**
(see TRIVIA NIGHT UNDER "FUNDRAISERS")



FOOD & BEVERAGES
Available for purchase starting at 7pm

TEAMS OF 10 PEOPLE
Come with your own team or join
new friends to create a winning team!

PRIZES FOR THE WINNING TABLE!

All Proceeds Benefit Community Sharing Outreach Center ~ A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization



Community Sharing Fundraiser

Huge!

Garage Sale



Wednesday, April 17, *Pre-Sale*, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(\$5 admission for Pre-Sale Only)

Thursday & Friday, April 18 & 19, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Duck Lake Center
5061 N. Duck Lake Rd., Highland**

For more info, visit www.csgaragesale.org or call 248-889-0347
Community Sharing is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charity

More Than Just A Food Pantry

On a cold, blustery day this November, four Community Sharing volunteers built a handicap ramp for a client's mobile home, allowing her easy entry and exit. Volunteers went beyond just food to help. Thanks to you, our supporters and volunteers, CS can be so much more than a food pantry.

We supplied her with emergency food, and set up a pantry schedule. Funds were found to provide a needed exterminator. The family had no bedding, so the garage sale volunteers stepped in and found what was needed in our donations room. Whether items are given to a family directly, or sold to provide funding, your donations of gently used household items benefit our clients, and are very much appreciated.



We are able to offer financial assistance when a family is in desperate circumstances, whether due to bad luck or a bad decision. We can offer help with eviction, lack of heat, a transportation dilemma or emergency food and clothing when the individual or family qualifies for assistance from CS. Sometimes providing support is less urgent, but still needed, such as assistance with education expenses to help someone escape the cycle of poverty. Then there are cases where the need is so overwhelming that a client doesn't know where to begin.

Imagine being a single senior and called upon to care full time for four grandchildren! This isn't about visiting or spending a weekend – it's about full-time care where these children have no other relative to take them in. This woman attempted to manage the challenges of a household that grew from one to five, with the same amount of income. She soon found out it was very difficult and she was overwhelmed, in dire need of a helping hand. She came to CS and shared her story with the caseworker, who verified and documented what this new family of five needed.

Many food pantries have just food, but CS has a Clothing Closet available for clients to choose clean, seasonal clothing, donated by supporters like you. The clothing volunteers sort the many bags of donated clothing, and examine each item for cleanliness and wearability. Clothing is hung by size and gender so clients can select items once per month to supplement their wardrobe. In colder weather, we also have coats, hats, and gloves to keep everyone warm. Again, thanks to you, our donors.

Some teens in the Huron Valley School District struggle with education and attend Harbor High, the alternative high school in the district. Many times these teens are in financial distress and in

need of food, and CS steps in to help. Brian Dawson, Harbor High's Social Worker, said "It is amazing how many kids come to school hungry." Mr. Dawson praises Harbor High's relationship with CS, saying "It seems like every week or so we get a donation of fruit, crackers, and juice boxes. Because of CS, the kids can stop by and grab some food between classes." CS also donates deodorant, t-shirts, hoodies, and even gas cards for students or parents who don't have gasoline to get the kids to school. When it's cold, we deliver blankets as well. All of this can happen because of your financial support. You enable us to help these kids continue their education and hopefully escape the cycle of poverty.

So you see - we are much more than just a food pantry, thanks to you, our supporters and volunteers.

Note: The handicap ramp was built for a client who is wheelchair bound, living on disability. She lost her spouse several years ago and has very little family or support. She does not ask for much - it was the least we could do.



*We hope this Christmas enriches your life;
May each day be happy and bright,
Overflowing with pleasure and love;
May your Christmas be filled with delight.*



5061 Duck Lake Rd.
Highland, MI 48356

Community Sharing Golf Outing Fundraiser



Dunham Hills
Golf Club
13561 Dunham Road
Hartland, Michigan

Register Online:
www.community-sharing.org

June 7, 2019

Registration: 8:04 - 9 a.m.
Chuck-a-putt: 9:09 a.m.
Shotgun Start: 9:29 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
Luncheon Following Golf
Fee: \$100/Player
Lunch only: \$25

*We are available to accept your
donations of food, clothing and
garage sale items
on...*

Monday through Thursday
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

2nd & 4th Tuesday
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

2nd Saturday of each month
10 a.m. - Noon

Milford & Highland Seniors

Contact the office for special pick-up
arrangements for your donations.

Newsletter Editorial Team:

Marcia Black, Doris Landry-Kruse, Claudia Schimetz, Jennifer Shoemaker, Jennifer Wohletz
Email story ideas to: dlandrykruse@community-sharing.org

Printed by:

