



The Flame

www.community-sharing.org

Winter 2019

5061 Duck Lake Rd.
Highland, MI 48356

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Board of Directors

President:
David Bell

Vice President:
Claudia Schimetz

Treasurer:
Mary Krebs

Secretary:
Chris Burke

Directors at Large:

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

Member Emeritus:

Mel Boomer

Upcoming Fundraisers

Trivia Night
February 1, 2020
7:30 p.m.
Bakers of Milford

Spring Garage Sale
April 16-18, 2020

May 29, 2020
Golf Fundraiser
Mystic Creek Golf Course



New Board President Pledges to Build on Predecessor's Initiatives to Help Families in Need

Dear Friends,

This past June, when Bob Willard stepped aside after five years as our board president, I was very humbled by the board's action to elect me as the new president. Through his hard work and dedication, Bob had propelled Community Sharing (CS) into an even greater organization. He worked tirelessly to develop relationships with Huron Valley School administrators, secure the Duck Lake Center facility and coordinate a major move from the Apollo Center. He was also instrumental in creating a home improvement program and obtaining significant donations to CS, including commercial freezers, refrigerators, a truck and two vans.

As president, I will continue Bob's efforts to help struggling families in our community. By working with CS's strong network of volunteers, we can nurture current programs and find new ways to support our clients. The behind-the-scenes knowledge that I have gained as CS's pantry manager since 2015 will help me recommend ways to reduce costs, spend wisely and increase our footprint in the community.

It is also important to increase awareness of what Community Sharing is doing for families in need. The board is developing new communication tools to help establish our brand and initiate dialogue with members of local governments, churches and schools. For example, a video is being produced that will explain our mission and success stories. New decals on our trucks now identify CS volunteers when they are in the community collecting donations and making food deliveries. As we move forward, we will dig deeper and strengthen ties with community members. Elementary, middle and high school principals and staff are especially important because they know which students are struggling and how we can help with supplemental food, tutoring and clothing.

My efforts are fueled by memories of CS's co-founder, Barb Maher, which constantly remind me of what you can accomplish with a whole lot of energy and enthusiasm for our mission. We will do great things by following three guiding principles:

1. Respect our clients and their life challenges.
2. Respect our donors for their support.
3. Respect our volunteers for their time, ideals and effort.

Sincerely,

David Bell





Community Sharing Helps Young Mother Regain Independence - She Helps Community Sharing

Lynette was a new mother with a two-year-old daughter when the violence started. Her home became a danger zone instead of a sanctuary. The one person who should have been the protector became instead her attacker. Lynette and her husband tried to work it out. She went to counseling and he enrolled in a batterer’s program. Sadly, he was unable to control his temper. When Lynette gained enough confidence, she fled with nothing but her daughter and a few items of clothing, while her husband kept everything they owned. Fortunately, she was able to move in with her sister.

Lynette discovered CS’s services during an online search for assistance. For 2.5 years she received the help she needed to recharge her life and provide for her daughter. “CS provided more than a financial lifeline. Volunteers were there for me when I needed comfort, clothes and food. It’s a network of community members that are willing to lend their support,” says Lynette. “My daughter had dietary problems so the pantry of choice allowed us to select foods that she could eat. When I was looking for a job, they provided interview outfits.”

Today, Lynette is independent with a full-time teaching job. She has given back to the community by volunteering and has passed her spirit of giving on to her daughter. At ages 11, 12 and 13 her daughter hosted holiday gift parties to collect donations of personal products, hats, gloves and toys for young family members of CS clients.

This is truly a success story. We asked Lynette and her daughter if they would share their story of support from CS, not just here but in our upcoming video. The answer was yes and we are thrilled. Helping people like Lynette is proof that the support services and volunteers of CS can make a difference.

Watch for Community Sharing’s video on our website in early 2020. It’s about our history and services.

A Project with Great Purpose

A vision of helping those less fortunate inspired Tod Verville, Jr., to organize a canned food drive as his Eagle Scout Service Project.

Tod’s goal was to collect 1,000 cans of food for Community Sharing. This was a huge undertaking. He created a plan but things didn’t come together as he had hoped. As a resourceful person, Tod reached out to friends and family to create a team to help with his project. With this support, he was able to meet his goal. He’s such an inspiration.

When Tod is sitting at the dinner table with his family, his food will taste sweeter, knowing he took the time to care and help ease the hunger of families in our community.



Tod Verville, Jr. - Eagle Scout Candidate - Delivering Food to CS

Community Sharing

Huge! Fundraiser

Garage Sale



NEW DAYS & TIMES!

**Thursday, April 16, Pre-Sale, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
(\$5 admission for Pre-Sale Only)**
Friday, April 17, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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

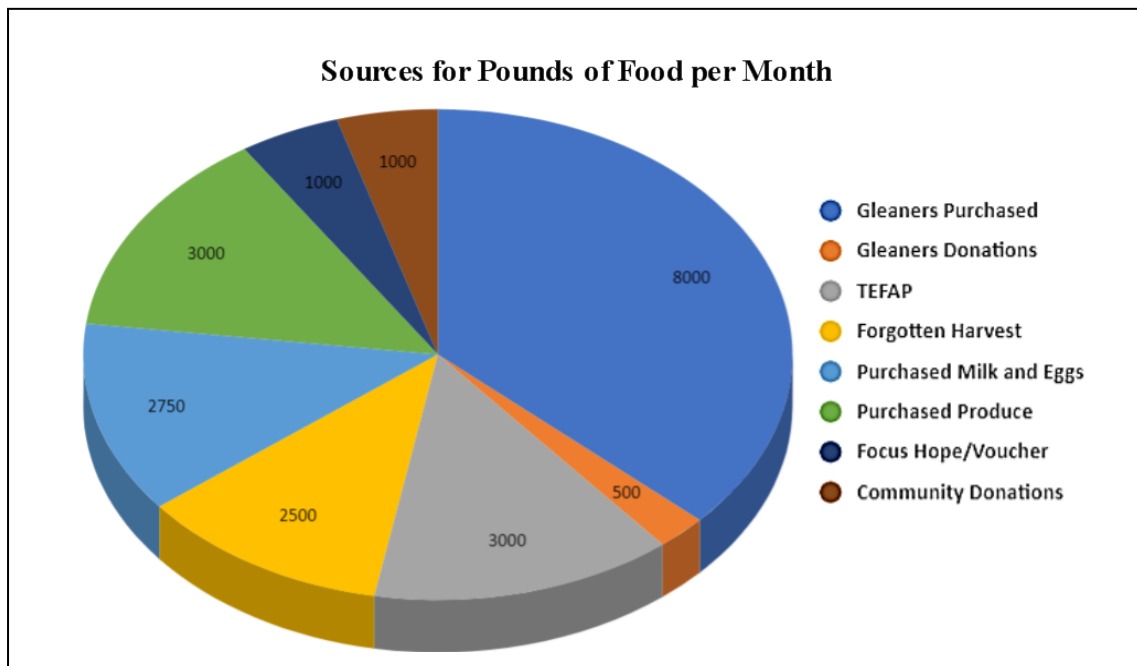
For more info, visit www.csgaragesale.org or call 248-889-0347
Community Sharing is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charity

Thanks to You, Community Sharing’s Commitment for 2019 Has Been Realized

As we reflect on our accomplishments of 2019, we want to share with you, our volunteers and supporters, the services we provided (Part I) and the fundraising events (Part II) that allowed Community Sharing to have a great year.

Part I - Services Provided

In each of the last twelve months, Community Sharing (CS) managed approximately 21,750 lbs. of food (see chart below) to supplement the groceries for an average of 275 families per month. Purchasing food for the pantry is complex, but at the heart of it is community generosity. Fundraising and monetary donations provide the funds to purchase the bulk of our food from Gleaners Community Food Bank, as well as local sources for fresh produce, milk and eggs. Other sources of food include generous community food drives, along with government assistance from *The Emergency Food Assistance Program* (TEFAP), and *Focus HOPE* (Federal and State Government). CS is also fortunate to receive food from Forgotten Harvest, a surplus food rescue program in Detroit.



Each year, the children are foremost on our minds as we plan in what services we should provide. For example, this past summer we made certain that 14 children enjoyed CS scholarships for YMCA summer camp. To help with lunches when school is out, children of clients who receive government sponsored lunch during the school year, received 20 bags of easy-to-prepare food and snacks each month. Volunteer Corkie Sprague, says, "Our clients make it very clear how much this program is appreciated." In addition, the Back to School clothing program was a great success this year. A record 160 children were provided new and gently used clothes and shoes, new underwear and socks, and free haircuts.

Summer was soon over and attention turned to helping the children stay warm during the school year. Just then we received over 50 new winter coats, compliments of the Knights of Columbus, Milford Council #7444. To supplement this wonderful gift, CS purchased snow pants, boots, gloves and hats for clients' children. Currently, the Joy of Giving Christmas program is in full swing, with the support of you, our generous community. This year clients will choose from donated gifts, allowing them to wrap and give personally selected gifts to their children on Christmas morning.

CS also provided financial help to clients, assisting with housing problems that cause financial strains. For example, helping with rent, finding short-term housing for the homeless, and subsidizing a few energy bills that could have devastated struggling families. CS funds also helped replace a water softener, repair a frozen pipe, clean a malfunctioning septic tank, pay some medical prescription bills and repair a few cars to enable individuals to get to work. "It's been a busy and very full year at the Duck Lake Center," says Claudia Schimetz, board vice president.

(continued from page 3)

Part II: Fundraising Events

Raising funds to provide food, clothing and emergency financial assistance is vital to keeping our doors open. Because of your support and that of our volunteers, we are thrilled to report fundraising efforts were a great success in 2019. It began with Trivia Night in February which is always a crowd favorite. "Although this isn't the biggest fundraiser CS holds, it has the reputation as being the most fun one," says volunteer Marcia Black. She asks that you begin to recruit your team now for the 2020 sixth annual Trivia Night. It will be held at Bakers of Milford once again, on Saturday, February 1st at 7:30 p.m. (See flyer opposite page.)

The fundraising momentum continued with a huge garage sale in April featuring gently used furniture, bikes, linens, kitchen goods, toys, home décor, and more. A repeat sale was held in September, with each event raising enough to fill the pantry for three months. We can't thank you enough for your donations of new and/or gently used items - they are vital to this cornerstone fundraiser. Save the dates of April 16th - 18th and September 17th - 19th for some shopping.

Since May, 19 business owners signed up for the new Sponsor-A-Shelf program. Volunteer Marilyn Stepanek says "Many of these business owners signed on for lengthy periods of time once they became aware of how the program directly fulfills the needs of our clients. They experience such joy in giving." (To learn about Sponsor-A-Shelf, visit our website or contact Stepanek at marilynstepanek@community-sharing.org to arrange a personal pantry tour.)

100 Eggs/Month for One Year - Clarkston Legal



In June, over 100 golfers teed off at Dunham Hills Golf Club for the 2019 CS Golf Fundraiser. Steve Pardikes, volunteer, said it was an "absolutely perfect golf day - blue skies, a slight breeze and green grass - the best!" Pardikes would like you to know that registration will open in March for the May 29th outing to be held at Mystic Creek Golf Course. Watch for Facebook notices and plan to join the 2020 outing.



Throughout the fall, artists painted and crafted bowls for the Empty Bowl Main Event fundraiser which was held November 3rd at Bakers of Milford. More than 100 volunteers worked the event to serve soup and bread donated by local restaurants to nearly 450 attendees. "The community has been tremendously supportive in each of the five years the event has been held," says Marge LaRuffa, chairperson of the project. "However, the support we received this year from our donors, volunteers and attendees was unparalleled. When you are involved with the event in anyway, you cannot help but be touched and proud of the generosity and caring within our community. Looking forward to 2020."

Community Sharing's Commitment was completed in 2019 because of you, our volunteers and supporters. Thank you for your open hearts and generosity!

Community Sharing Commitment

"To provide food, clothing and emergency financial assistance to those in need while respecting their dignity and fostering their independence"



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6TH ANNUAL

TRIVIA NIGHT

JOIN US AT

BAKERS OF MILFORD

2025 S. Milford Road, Milford, MI 48381

Banquet Hall Entrance

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020

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



Musing from our new president the morning of the Empty Bowl Main Event, November 3, 2019.

"You may have heard of the poem 'Footprints in the Sand'.

Let me share with you about 'Handprints in the Clay'.

Not so long ago most bowls were made out of clay.

Imagine a child so hungry that when they hold on to that clay bowl,

so tightly and for so long, they leave their handprint in the clay.

It should be our desire to take that empty bowl, and fill it so full,

that we have to hold it tightly and leave our handprint in the clay.

We should do so, not to leave our handprint, but to eliminate the child's handprint.

We should do it so often, that the clay becomes so hard, that a hungry child can never leave their handprint in the clay again."

db

*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 us for special pick-up
arrangements for your donations.**

*Happy
New
Year!*

Newsletter Team:

Marcia Black, Beth Frydlewicz, Doris Landry-Kruse, Claudia Schimetz, Jennifer Shoemaker and Jennifer Wohletz

Email story ideas to: dlandrykruse@community-sharing.org

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