

The Flame

www.community-sharing.org

February 2024

A Note from the President



This month we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the existence of Community Sharing Outreach Center. It has been an amazing adventure since starting out as a small food pantry to the wonderful operation we have today.

However, there are two sides to this commemoration. We are saddened by the fact that after 20 years our community continues to struggle with hunger. In fact, 2023 saw a 50% increase in the number of visitors seeking assistance. We have also seen twice the need for emergency financial help with housing and utilities.

As much as the need has grown, so has the outpouring of support. The engagement by local businesses, civic groups, churches, schools and individuals during 2023 was inspiring to witness. Our community truly cares about one another.

And speaking about caring, I cannot say enough about the many volunteers who work tirelessly to make our pantry function so efficiently. Many hands do whatever it takes to be sure that our clients get what they need.

How can you help? The number one thing that you can do is SPREAD THE WORD! Tell everyone you know about Community Sharing. Share the news about the work being done here. Perhaps the person you talk to needs some help or they are willing to share their resources. You never know whose heart you may touch.

We offer a big "Thank You" for your generosity and continued support.

Sincerely, Dave Bell, Board President

400 Beach Farm Circle Highland, MI 48356

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

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Coming Events

Trivia NightAmerican Legion
April 6, 2024

Spring Garage Sale Community Sharing May 4 & 5, 2024

Golf Fundraiser Brentwood Golf Club June 7, 2024 The Flame Page 2

UPCOMIN

TRIVIA NIGHT



Community Sharing's 8th Annual Trivia Night fundraiser will be Saturday, April 6, 2024. The fundraiser will be at the Milford American Legion, 510 W Commerce Rd, Milford MI. Registration begins at 6:00pm and the game starts at 7:00pm. This event is led by a local trivia "expert" with a variety of questions. The entire table collaborates on the answers to the trivia

questions, so no one is on their own to come up with the answers. No cell phones or any other devices are allowed to help obtain the answers. Attendees can set up their own table of 8, or they can join in with another table. The trivia winner is the table with the most correct answers to the trivia questions. A 50/50 raffle and gift basket raffle are also part of the evening. Pay for a table for 8 players by March 20th, and get 8 free 50/50 tickets. Tickets are \$30 per person (\$240 for table for 8) and can be purchased online at www.community-sharing.org (See "Trivia Night" under "Fundraisers", please reference Trivia Night on your order). Prizes are awarded to the members of the 1st and 2nd place winning tables. Snacks and a cash bar will be available. All proceeds from this event benefit Community Sharing.

Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5

Community Sharing Outreach Center Fundraiser Spring Garage Sale

We need CLEAN and USABLE items for the sale!

PLEASE, YES

- √ Games, Puzzles & Legos
- √ Home Décor
- ✓ Kitchen Wares
- New Items
- ✓ Purses
- ✓ Small Appliances
- ✓ Tools
- ✓ Sporting equipment
- Craft items

PLEASE, NO

- X Plastic Toys, Stuffed Animals
- X CLOTHING
- X Luggage
- X VHS Tapes

- √ Linens (no throw pillows)
- ✓ Bikes
- ✓ Books (Fiction Only)
- ✓ CDs/DVDs
- ✓ Dishes, mugs & glasses
- √ Framed Pictures
- √ Furniture ** See exceptions on NO list



- X Electronics (inc. TVs & Computers)
- X ** No Entertainment Centers or Hutches
- X Christmas Trees & Decorations
- X Exercise equipment

Items may be dropped off Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

at Community Sharing Outreach Center 400 Beach Farm Cir., Highland

For more info call 248-889-0347 Community Sharing is a 501 (c)(3) organization The Flame Page 3



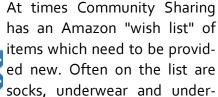
The holidays are a difficult time for many families. This past year, Community Sharing provided 142 families a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner and 137 families a lovely Christmas dinner.

In addition we provided Christmas help to 201 children, up to age 18. Each parent/guardian was given a gift card, which allowed them to pick out exactly what their child needed.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community for your help in making sure residents in our community had a happy holiday.



amazon



No time to shop but want to donate to Community Sharing?

shirts for all ages. Simply select the items you want to purchase and it will be delivered to our door. A great way to make someone smile!

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/ wishlist/35oCSO1S5T3JA/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1

PET PANTRY

Can you imagine having to lose your pet because of a job loss, reduced income or other unfortunate circumstance. This is the reason the Pet Pantry was created... we want families to keep their pets as we know it increases mental and physical health.

The Pet Pantry is housed within the building of Community Sharing Outreach Center and is inde-

pendently run with its own volunteers and donations. Help pets stay with their families, we accept donations of: Dog Food, Cat Food, Cat Litter, Beds & Blankets, Scratching Posts, Leashes, Collars, Treats and Toys.



OTHER ITEMS NEEDED

HYGIENE PRODUCTS



Personal items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper and feminine hygiene products are

examples of needed items.

Household cleaning products and toilet paper are necessary items and often in short supply. These items may not be purchased with SNAP and as a result become last on the list of expenses for families in need.

Diapers, especially toddler size, are often in short supply and sorely needed.



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SAVE THE DATE

Newsletter printed by:



We are available to accept your donations of food 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.