

# Warming Center News



## OUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WARMING CENTER/RAY OF HOPE SUSTAINABILITY FUND APPEAL

We have come a long way since January 2001 when we first began planning for a shelter program. **This year, we have obtained partial funding for the Warming Center and follow up services, and now it is time to make sure we can sustain our services for as long as needed.** Today, there is much discussion in the government about “ending homelessness”, a worthy goal. But what we see is the reality that there are many needs, especially for the chronically homeless – the majority of our guests - to obtain that goal of housing. We need to assist so many to deal with obstacles like mental illness, often untreated physical illness and addiction as well as those who have learned survival skills for living on the streets. Many have not learned how to maintain independence in what most of us consider a normal setting: a home, employment and bills to pay. Some of the ways we work to help our guests obtain the skills to live independently include assisting them with:

Picture ID

Bridge Card

Health insurance (We partner with The Department of Human Services so that our guests can apply for the above items from our office.)

Birth Certificate

Basic work skills (referrals to appropriate agencies that specialize in this, especially Macomb Community College, Baker College, etc.)

A resume’ – and some references they may not even have thought of.

How to have some non-violent misdemeanors expunged from their record so they can more easily find work and housing.

Finding Job Opportunities

Transportation to apply for and interview for jobs

Citizenship papers/green cards for immigrants

Assistance with rental applications and fees

Direct referrals (and often transportation) to Churches and other desired places of faith, clergy, mental health, substance abuse and health care facilities.

Listening, caring, moral support.

### And frequent weekly emergencies:

Pregnant woman, (appropriate shelters are usually full, and were full this time): Dial- a- ride, or we drive if necessary to a safe and helping place.

Guest becomes seriously ill in our office (we call 911 and sit and wait with ill person)

Guest with Alzheimer’s needs help with directions to his shelter (we drive this fragile guest)

Mr. W. is a gentleman in his middle years who has some mild mental health issues. He walks the street waiting for our shelter to open, and usually stops into the Ray of Hope each day. He wears a cross around his neck all the time; but never mentions it. This week while walking, he ran into his godchild – a young woman now grown. She called her mother, Mr. W’s old friend from when he lived in another city. Mark spoke to the old friend today when she called the Ray of Hope, and she, a professional woman in the mental health field, is driving down to our office to pick up Mr. W at about 6 PM this evening. Mark says he will wait after work to be with Mr. W, meet his friend, and see him off. Thanks be to God, another success story. Did this chance meeting have anything to do with Mr. W’s faith? Can’t prove it; but just saying.

We brag about none of these; we do this because God helps us and has called us. We just want to share a realistic picture of our jobs.

**The Sustainability Fund** will be dollars set aside for needs we still have to fill:

**Operations Leader/CEO/CFO:** We do not have a budget for a paid Executive Director. This position – in brief - currently includes overseeing all operations, budgeting, grants and other fundraising efforts as well as accounting functions.

Our current E.D. is a volunteer.

**Bookkeeper/Accountant** - could be part time for a well educated and/or experienced person.

### Part time driver for delivery and pick ups

**A Rainy Day Fund.** Government money will not hold out forever and is already beginning to slip away this year with some sizeable cuts, especially for shelters. We have some wonderful foundations – you can identify most of them by looking for the logos throughout our newsletter. Most are regular funders. But we have to request every year, and cannot ever count on be re-funded.

(continued on p. 2)



Comments from our guests: 'It's nice to know there are kind people ... I need to make change ... I feel welcome ... My fear is a little gone ...'

### Guest Stories

In mid-July a couple in their mid-sixties was brought to The Ray of Hope by a long-time supporter who happened upon them at a county government building. They lost their home to foreclosure and were facing homelessness for the first time in their lives. This happened on a late Friday afternoon and both of the area shelters were full. The supporter made a substantial donation which allowed us to put the couple up in a motel for the weekend and we also provided funds for them to be able to eat since there are no community meals available on Saturdays. By the following Tuesday, we were able to get them into a shelter program and began the process of helping them apply for social security and begin to rebuild their lives.

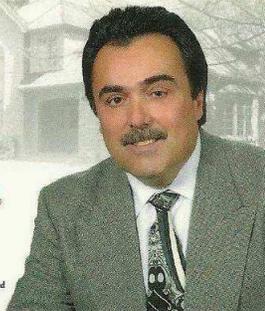
Homelessness can happen to anyone, even those who spent their whole lives working hard and doing all of the right things as these two examples describe, so it is up to us as a community to assist those who are facing a difficult situation and guide them back to a stable lifestyle.

Currently, one of our cases includes Mr. A, who is 76 years old and was brought to us in January by a former client who found him living on the streets. We quickly learned that he was not collecting social security and hadn't had a state ID in over 10 years. After some difficulty, we were able to obtain his birth certificate, school records and other documents in order to help him get re-established. He seems to have lost his memory except for bits here and there. His background, that we (continued on p. 3)



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### Sustainability (continued from p. 1)

**Community donations were down 35.9% last year, and it is looking as if they will be down even more this year.** I realize donations are down in other places as well, and we just always blame the economy. Not sure if that is what to blame entirely, but they are down.

**The Shelter:** No matter how much we and other agencies do to help the homeless get back on their feet, we first have to keep them alive and healthy – warm at night and fed – so that they can do what needs to be done in all the next days. Last year we had what almost amounted to a payless payday for our shelter staff. We must have a security staff to keep proper order and allow our churches to continue hosting. **The Rainy Day Fund** would avoid payless paydays.

**A generous benefactor has started the Rainy Day Fund for us with a donation a few months ago. I am asking for others who are able, to join in.**

### Make Your Prayer Request

The Macomb County Warming Center is a faith-based, non-denominational organization dedicated to caring for those who need a safe, warm place to stay during the winter months.

We are like a family. We share our hopes and our prayers.

If you have a special prayer request, we would like to know.

Although the usual form does not appear in this issue, we are still asking for requests, no donation necessary.

“We will be glad to include your requests in our prayers at the Ray of Hope and board meetings, and in our quiet times of prayer,” said Kathy Goodrich, executive director.

We partner with churches of many denominations and would be happy to refer readers for counseling and other ministries. If you are interested, please contact us with your email, street address or phone number. No reason for your request is needed, just let us know you would like a church contact and your preferred denomination.



... I'm tired of being sick and tired ... People here are very kind and polite ... I hope someday to be able to give back ... God bless and thank you.

## From the Director . . .

Dear Friends,



*Kathy Goodrich  
Executive Director*

We have completed our 14th shelter season (November 8, 2015 – April 23, 2016) and had our Shelter Wrap-up Session in May at Christ United Methodist Church. It was an evening where we learned so much about the inner workings of our partner churches during their shelter week. We look at “what worked” and where could we improve” and then exchanged ideas for some minor changes for next year. We do plan to begin our shelter weeks on November 6 this coming year, but we still need churches for the week of Thanksgiving and the week before Christmas. So if you know of any churches that might want to participate, please let me know. Again, many thanks to Christ UMC for their hospitality at the Wrap-up!

We also want to announce that we had a wonderful Spring for the Homeless again this year! Please look for some pictures on our website and Facebook! We did make money, but are still looking for ways to increase our fundraising revenues.

We have been happy to welcome our interns: Mina, Julie and Amanda so far this spring and summer; and welcomed their valuable work with our guests; helping them obtain documents and knowledge needed for gaining independent lives. This included helping them to locate job opportunities, and training for and becoming certified in the MBA Program and updating county resources listings.

### “Friend” Description”

If you read the newsletters, send a donation, volunteer at one of our shelters or Ray of Hope, or if you pray for us and our guests, you are our friend! We include all friends in our prayers, including our opening prayer at each

board meeting.

We have been blessed with more success stories this year! Please read about just a few of them in this newsletter. Also, if you have any questions or want to know more about us, please e-mail me at [kathy@macombcountywarmingcenter.org](mailto:kathy@macombcountywarmingcenter.org) or fax us at 586 329-4202. or call 586 329-4046.

*...Kathy*

We moved in March 2015. Our new Ray of Hope Day Center address is:  
2 Crocker Blvd., Ste. 201  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043  
Office: (586) 329-4046  
Fax: (586) 329-4202

Please visit our website at [www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org). It is updated periodically and hopefully you like it. We would be very happy to hear of any suggestions you have as to what you would like to see on the website, how it could be improved, etc.

Please send your comments (good or bad) and ideas for the site or the newsletter. We want to make our website and newsletter full of the information and features that you most need and enjoy. Thanks for your input.

If you do not get our emails and you would like to do so, please send an email to:

[kathy@macombcountywarmingcenter.org](mailto:kathy@macombcountywarmingcenter.org) letting us know you would like to be on our mailing list.

## Guest Story

(continued from p. 2)

were able to assemble, shows a man from a middle-class family; he remembers attending college in New York and his school records show him graduating from a high school in an upscale suburb of Detroit. He apparently had a good job because his SS benefits are in a fairly high range.

Mark, our case manager, has arranged for a nice senior apartment where he has been accepted and is waiting for an apartment to open up. One of our partners, a 90-day shelter has agreed to allow him to enter and remain until his apartment is available.

One of the things we often stress is that it really takes a lot of “little things” to help a homeless person to get back on his or her feet.



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We're on the Web!  
[www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org)

Macomb County Warming Center,  
Inc., and Ray of Hope Day Center



OUR MISSION ...

Macomb County Warming Center seeks, along with our partner churches, to provide a safe, warm place to spend the night and simple, nourishing meals for those who would otherwise have no shelter.

The Ray of Hope Day Center, an extended service of the MCWC, will, in collaboration with like-minded organizations, provide our local homeless and needy individuals and families with referrals and resources in order to supply opportunities to move into secure, productive lifestyles.

OUR BOARD ...

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Rev. Richard Beattie, Vice President  
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Kathy Goodrich  
Rev. Dan Heaton  
Ron Borgacz  
Jack Moy  
Michael Marsden  
Timothy Aiello  
Michelina Falcitelli-Plesco - Ex Officio  
Nancy Panther - Ex Officio



Directory of Services  
*Support those who support the MCWC*

This newsletter is distributed to more than 1,000 homes, businesses, churches and social service agencies in the tri-county area. For a donation of at least \$100 you can list your advertisement. Call (586) 321-0998 or send a business card with your donation. More supporters are listed on other pages of this newsletter.



**DTE Energy**  
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