



MACOMB COUNTY WARMING CENTER

& Ray of Hope Day Center

(Mailing address: P.O. Box 53 Roseville, MI 48066)

586 321-0998

As we began the late winter and early spring months of February, March and April, we have finished our 2007-2008 shelter season and are placing more and more emphasis and resources on housing for our guests. All Warming Center and Ray of Hope guests have been made aware of the HARP Program (Homeless Assistance Recovery Program) and been offered an opportunity to apply for housing through that program. So far, we have submitted over 60 applications and are beginning to see the results with several of our guests already being placed into an apartment of their choosing! Others are partway through the process and should be in housing very soon.

We are finding new challenges every day and working with guests to establish utility accounts, prove citizenship in the case of foreign-born citizens, obtain furnishings, etc. This work is interesting and exciting and we especially want to thank Rachel Cilli of the Macomb Homeless Coalition, The many workers at the Department of Human Services, the Macomb Community services Agency , Good Samaritan Coalition, Congressman Sander Levin's office, and others who provide so much assistance to those who are moving from the street and shelters into housing.

While there is much good news, there is also the news of those who have not met the qualifications for this housing. Those with a felony within the past three years, those with a poor credit history, those who make "too much money" - over \$800 gross income per month!! This last item is very discouraging to us and our working guests. Minimum wage of \$7.15/hour at 28 hours per week puts an individual over the income level for free housing. So there will indeed be need for continuing shelters. Also, a good number of our guests were too ill to apply, either because of substance abuse or mental illness or both. Mentally ill guests are referred to the Community Housing Network PATH program, but they do have a waiting list for all but the most urgent cases.

During February, March and April, we were grateful to have been able to provide the following:

Birth Certificates.....	4
State Identification.....	14
Prescription Co-pays.....	20
Doctor Co-pays.....	2
Dentist Visit.....	2
Senior citizen into housing	1
Reading Eyeglasses.....	12
Prescription Eyeglasses.....	10

Prescription eyeglasses were obtained with the assistance of the Mt. Clemens Lion's and Lenscrafter's "Gift of Sight" program.

We feel blessed to have served so many individuals with your assistance, and pray that we may be able to continue serving. .

DAY CENTER CHANGES

The Ray of Hope Day Center will be moving from its current location in Grace Episcopal Church at the end of May. Our last day of services at Grace will be Thursday, May 29.

We have been offered the use of a building in the Southeast part of the county. A group of contractors are looking at the building and conferring with the city. We do hope for this to be our permanent building eventually. Currently, we are looking for temporary office space where we can see guests by appointment. We are also holding our Peer to Peer Support Group meetings every Tuesday evening at Erin Presbyterian Church at 30000 Gratiot in Roseville. Anyone who is interested in the Peer Program may call 586 321-0998 for more information.

OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ADDITIONS

RAY OF HOPE DAY CENTER:

Currently we still have the Project Director, Kathy and a volunteer caseworker. We also are grateful to still have on staff, Carol and Calvin, both from the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) workers.

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During February, Love Life Family Christian Center hosted their first shelter week. We are glad to have them join our team! Next, St. Mark held the second week in February, then, St. Edmund, and finally, Erin Presbyterian finished out the season.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL SHELTER CHURCHES ON BEHALF OF THE WARMING CENTER BOARD, STAFF AND OUR GUESTS!! YOU CARRY THE LIFEBLOOD OF ALL OF US, STAFF AND GUESTS ALIKE, THROUGH YOUR VEINS.

GUEST NEWS:

Just a few stories to illustrate some of our daily struggles and triumphs: The economy, of course, delays the success of so many of our guests. But on a recent Tuesday We had a stream of good news: Nate has been working for several months and has been able to save enough for a security deposit and so should be in housing very soon. Kent, Don, David, Adam, Andrea, Johnny and many, many others have been informed they are in line to receive a "Section 8" voucher. About eight have already moved in to their new housing. Dexter has been working and found an apartment on his own. We were able to help him with some move in expenses, after what the DHS and Others contributed. We do this through our Peer-to Peer Program which does have some funding for that purpose.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to all of them. We will be continuing to assist most of them with future needs until they are fully "on their feet" (or ready to volunteer for us!)

ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISERS:

Our Annual Dinner fundraising event took place on April 17 at DeCarlo's Hall in Warren. We know many of you attended and we thank you and hope you had a great time! We were grateful to raise over \$5,100. THANK YOU TO ALL.

I also want to mention that many of our regular and a few new, friends continue to send their support. This has helped us to continue hosting the Ray of Hope Day center where we do most of our services.

We continue to be active in local homeless community work. We attend Macomb Homeless Coalition and related Committee meetings and we're invited to work on the "Ending Homelessness" Committee for Macomb County. We also have applied for a grant from The United Way for Southeast Michigan. We received an award from FEMA which will amount to \$5,000 with our partnership with Gleaners Food Bank.

News of the United Way decision is now expected in May.

In His Love,

Kathy McKinley-Goodrich
Executive Director

As always, we pray for all of you and ask for your prayers for our Warming Center, our Day Center and our guests.

Please, if you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please contact me or a board member. You can contact us by:

website: www.warmingcenter.org

Phone: 586 321-0998

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