

# Warming Center News

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2012

## ON THE COLD STREETS OF JANUARY...

It is a very cold morning and I just got back from the Ray of Hope to drop off some supplies, as this is a Sunday and we are closed. On the way back, I noticed a man in front of a store a few blocks from the ROH. He was holding a sign and waving it to attract attention to prospective customers for the store. Knowing that many of our homeless folks do this type of work, I drove around the block trying to think of a way to offer him information about our shelter and day center without insulting him. Finally, I stopped and asked if this was his shop. He was friendly and said no, it was his boss's shop. He just worked there. I told him we're just down the street and offered him a shelter schedule and ROH flyer. He had on a light jacket but assured me he does

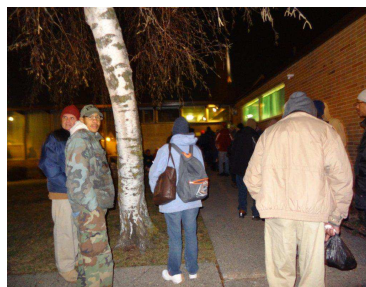
"own a warmer one." He thanked me for the flyer and schedule and as I left, I noticed he went into the shop to look at them. A few blocks further down 9 Mile, there was a man, looked about 70, sitting on a stoop. I see him often as he walks up and down 9 Mile. I would guess his actual age to be more like 55. The streets age you quickly!

Later this afternoon, I will drive down Gratiot and will see so many more homeless folks on the street. And tonight, once again, I will have some trouble falling asleep in my warm home and bed. I am glad a warming center church is feeding and sheltering the homeless, the cold, the ill, the addicted, and often those who are just a little slower than the rest of us and so unable, through no fault of theirs, to take proper care of their needs.

These thoughts, while they may stay on my mind, cause me to be grateful for the emergency shelter the community helps us to offer. I say a prayer, as I know many of you do, that no one will suffer in the cold on this night.

### Shelter Wish List

Paper towels  
Bathroom tissue  
Paper plates  
Cups  
Plastic cutlery  
Copy paper & ink cartridges  
Other office supplies  
If possible, please bring to Ray of Hope, 16546 Nine Mile in Eastpointe, Mon, Tues & Thurs 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or call 586-321-0998.



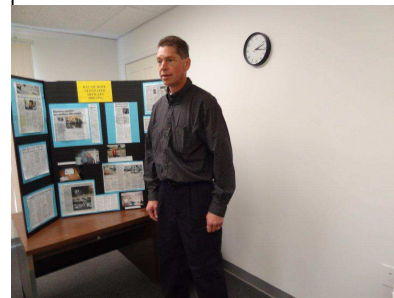
Above: Waiting outside Zion United Church of Christ, January 8, 2012. Below: Settling in for the night at Grace Episcopal, prior week.



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### MCWC Presents Programs to Macomb Interagency Council



Mark and Kathy presented information about the Warming Center, Peer Support Group and Ray of Hope programs to the Macomb Interagency Council on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Topics discussed were shelter procedures, history and current caseload; Peer Support Group meetings and progress and services provided by the Ray of Hope. Information was given that the shelter is entering its' eleventh year of service and the Ray of Hope and Peer Support groups have been active since 2006 and 2008 respectively. Many questions were asked and audience later remarked that the presentation was very interesting and informative.

(Continued on p. 3)



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 ...

## Show Support for MCWC



We know you support the mission of the Macomb County Warming Center, now you can let others know it, too!

For the first time the MCWC is offering a membership for a minimum donation of \$35 per year.

Not only will you have the satisfaction of contributing to a worthwhile organization, but you will also get a free polo shirt printed with MCWC logo on the front and back.

Sweatshirts and t-shirts are also available. Shirts are navy with logos printed in white ;see photo at left.

Members have the opportunity to work alongside administrative staff in various projects and to represent the MCWC at city council meetings and other events, as requested.

For more information on the membership program, call the Warming Center at 586-321-0998.

Or, just clip and send the coupon below along with your donation to:

MCWC  
P.O. Box 53  
Roseville, MI 48066

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Polo shirt(s) & size \_\_\_\_\_ Sweatshirt(s) & size \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt(s) & size \_\_\_\_\_

Size(s): S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_\_\_

## Make your prayer request to MCWC today

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.

Just fill out the form below and mail it in the enclosed envelope, 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.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like someone to contact you? If so, include your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



... 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,

When you read this, we will have just finished our 10<sup>th</sup> shelter week this season and we have 9 more to go until April 7, our final night for this season. We have served more individuals and they are staying in the shelter for a longer time. For example, the increase in "shelter nights" is 19% as I write this in mid January. (A shelter night is 1 person per night. So if we have 70 guests and each stays for the full 7 day week, then that means that we would have 490 shelter days for that week.)

The Ray of Hope Day Center continues to assist guests from the neighborhood, the shelter and from other agencies and shelters through their referrals. We have served between 35 – 40 guests during each of the past 5 months. This does not mean we provided only 35 – 40 visits - most of the day center guests return many times during the months.

Our recent annual Gleaners/Serv-Safe Audit went very well; all necessary postings were displayed and equipment was properly maintained. Thanks to Mark for keeping all these items up to date!

Our Peer Support Group is ongoing, but on a somewhat smaller scale due to budget adjustments. Currently we have 2 groups, one on-site and the other at Christian Trinity Assembly of God Church in Eastpointe.



*Kathy Goodrich  
Executive Director*

We often get calls asking how the caller can help. Here are some ways you can help, even if you do not have a lot to give:

- Help make our annual dinner a success. Ask your favorite restaurant, barber or hairdresser, retail stores, a favorite vacation place, some

not-to-be-used frequent flyer miles, or almost anything from anyplace where you do business, if they would donate a gift card for our annual dinner silent auction packages. This would greatly help us to have a successful fundraising dinner.

If you would be willing and able to do any of these things and you would like more information, do not hesitate to contact me at 586-321-0998 or [kmac0212@wowway.com](mailto:kmac0212@wowway.com). If no answer on the phone, please be sure to leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

And please let us know if you have other suggestions to help raise funds, we would love to hear your ideas.

A special thanks for you for all you do,

*...Kathy*

**THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS!  
WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU.**

## MCWC Presents (continued from p. 1)

As a result of an issue brought up in the questions discussion, a new committee was formed to look into improving communications regarding the state policy on free identification for indigent individuals. Mark was invited to join that committee. We were honored to be invited to present and learned so much by talking with the council members. (Note: The Macomb County Warming Center is also a member of this group.)

## Letters from Our Guests & Notes from the Shelters

I was an individual on the street and without proof of ID. This place took me in and helped me see that you only get what you put into life and now I got a job and ID. Plus I am working on housing. — George

Thanks. This and all these churches have saved me from sleeping in the cold, and from going hungry. (Did not sign name)

This guy [Mark] has done more for us in an hour [at the Ray of Hope] than the other place [mental health inpatient home] did for us (hospital roommate and I) in a month.

— Anthony

All letters are available for your review at the Ray of Hope. Most guests have approved using their names. Any future guests who do not want their names used will remain anonymous, but their letters will still be here for your review.

Macomb County Warming Center  
P.O. Box 53  
Roseville, MI 48066

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Roseville, MI  
Permit No. 61

We're on the Web!

[www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org)

## Macomb County Warming Center and Ray of Hope Day Center



Kathy Goodrich, Executive Director  
(586) 321-0998  
Email: [kmac0212@wowway.com](mailto:kmac0212@wowway.com)

### 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 to 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 ...

Kevin Goodrich, President  
Kathy McKinley-Goodrich, Treasurer  
Joannie Matiyow, Secretary  
Joseph V. Belfiori, Patrick Byrne  
Dan Heaton, Kathy Lancaster  
Micheline Plesco, Rev. Terri Bracy

## Mark your calendar ...

February 9 and 23 and March 8 and 22: Fundraising Committee meetings will be held on alternate Thursdays. Please call or e-mail before coming to make sure there have not been any changes in this schedule.

March 16: Community Connection Day. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. M.A.T.T.S./Salvation Army - 24140 Mound Rd. Warren. County-wide forum for homeless and citizens in need, with on-site assistance, clothing, lunch, haircuts, etc.



### Directory of Services

Support those who support the MCWC

This newsletter is distributed to more than 900 homes, businesses, churches and social service agencies in the tri-county area. For a donation of at least \$100 you can list your advertisement here. Call (586) 321-0998 or send a business card with your donation.



Exceptional Service - Every Member, Every Time.

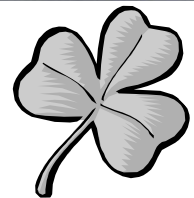
*Joe Sowerby*  
ANTON, ZORN & SOWERBY  
79 Macomb Place  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043  
(586) 469-8888 phone  
(586) 469-3049 fax

"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts!"



**Cloverleaf Bar & Restaurant**  
24443 Gratiot in Eastpointe

(586) 777-5391  
Great pizza since 1946!



### The Chrysler Foundation



### AGNES C. SZUTKOWSKI

ACCOUNTANT

25689 Kelly Road, Suite C-8  
Roseville, MI 48066-4993  
Tele (586) 774-2666

