



# Warming Center News

## Irish fun to benefit MCWC

Larry Larson loves his music.

He also believes in giving back.

"When you get to heaven, the person at the gate won't ask: 'How much money did you make?'" Larry said. "They might ask 'Did you do some good? Did you make someone smile?'"

Larry, along with tenor Charlie Taylor and "Fiddlin' George" Chirotta will present a rollicking St. Patrick's Day performance to benefit the Macomb County Warming Center on March 22.

The three Detroit-area musicians team up to entertain with traditional Irish and American music and may even encourage a sing-along or two.

Charlie was trained in opera in Milan, and will likely treat the audience to "Sorrento" in addition to traditional Irish favorites. Both Larry and Charlie are regular performers at the Gaelic League of Detroit.

Fiddlin' George, a master of old-time fiddle music in all genres, will join them for this unique performance.

"He has a great love of music, going back centuries," said Larry.

Larry teaches animation at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. His animation has been included in "Evil Dead 2" and lots of television commercials. He's also an oil



Larry Larson and Charlie Taylor, shown here, will be joined by Fiddlin' George for the March 22 performance at St. Blasé.

painter, with a gallery of work on his website [larrylarsonart.com](http://larrylarsonart.com).

"Life has been a lot better than I expected it to be when I was younger," Larry said. "Here's what I think life is for: Pick the coolest thing you can think of and do it!"

That's exactly what he's done.

His new CD, "One 12-String Guitar," features "The Detroit Song" and other originals. It was released this month. Larry includes among his influences musicians from Beethoven to Leadbelly.

"The Detroit Song" laments the loss of Vernors, Crowley's, Sanders and other Detroit favorites.

"When Detroit was hale and hearty, Strohs could throw a party ... but the

party's over. Stroh's has locked the door," Larry sings.

The party's not over for Larry as he explains in "That's The Way It's Gonna Be."

"I'll walk along with my head held high. I've got a song and I'll sing it to the sky ... I got a will - and a thousand ways."

Paddy Bryne, a board member for the Macomb County Warming Center and a member of St. Blasé parish, organized the fundraiser. It's a good match for an organization that also has "a will and a thousand ways."

St. Blasé is one of the local churches that support the MCWC by hosting the homeless shelter during the winter. This year, the

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### Think taxes

Because we have a 501C3 designation, all donations to the Macomb County Warming Center are tax deductible. You might also qualify for a state or federal tax credit because we are an organization dedicated to helping the homeless. Consult your tax professional for details.

A gift of just \$22 will keep a homeless person warm and nourished for one week this winter. Your contribution will help prevent extreme weather deaths while bringing hope to the hopeless. Send tax-deductible contributions to:

**MCWC**  
**PO Box 53**  
**Roseville, MI 48066**

Make checks payable to MCWC. Thank you and may God bless your generosity to those less fortunate.



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 ...'

# Visit Chili's or donate a car to help the MCWC

From cake to cars, you can support the Macomb County Warming Center in creative ways.

Chili's, on Gratiot in front of Macomb Mall, will donate 10 percent of your check to the Macomb County Warming Center every Wednesday during April and May. Hours for the donation are 4-11 p.m.

Chili's is known for their fire-grilled favorites like Big Mouth Burgers or Baby Back Ribs. Save room for dessert – try the White Chocolate Molten Cake. Bring your family and friends ... and come hungry!

"It's our way of giving back to the community," said Connie McAlister of Chili's.

Bring the flyer, available at the Ray of Hope Day Center on Gratiot in Eastpointe, or just present this newsletter to the server to get the discount.

If you have a car that you no longer need, the MCWC will benefit from your donation to Charity Motors. The Macomb County Warming Center will receive 70 % of the sale price of your car ... and you will receive 100% of the sale price as a tax deduction.

Charity Motors will sell your vehicle, at a discount, to someone in need. This can mean a lot to individuals who are struggling to find transportation to work.

When you make the donation, you can designate which

non-profit organization will benefit from the sale. Be sure to list the Macomb County Warming Center on the donation form.

Call Charity Motors to schedule a free pick-up: (313) 255-1000. Or, you can drop off your car at the Charity Motors Detroit, 10421 Grand River.

If you're looking for a car, the lot at that location offers both retail sales Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a weekly auction every Saturday at noon. To find out more, call (888) 908-CARS.

Prices range, on average, from \$100 to \$1,000. All vehicles are sold "as is." No financing available but you may leave a deposit to hold a vehicle for three (3) days, before paying for it in full. In keeping with Charity Motors' mission of helping local income individuals with transportation, pre-qualified individuals can get a

discount of up to 50% off the fair market value at the Detroit car lot.

Kathy Goodrich, director of the Macomb County Warming Center, said donations like these have made it possible to provide services to more people than ever this year.

"We've been very busy," Goodrich said. "These last few weeks have been incredible."

Goodrich expects the number of people served by the shelter to top 600 this year.

"Donations like this are a big part of our funding," she said. "We thank all those who are so generous ... we need every cent."



## Mark your calendar ...

### March 8-14

The MCWC shelter will be hosted by Christian Trinity Church on Kelly in Eastpointe.

### March 15-21

The MCWC shelter will be hosted by Bethel Temple on Bay Street in New Baltimore.

### Sunday, March 22

A concert will be held at St. Blase Catholic Church 12151 15 Mile Road in Sterling Heights. Irish and American music by Charley Taylor, Larry Larson and Fiddlin' George, performing together for this one-time special event

for the benefit of the Macomb County Warming Center. Begins at 3 p.m. Free will donations accepted. Beer, wine and refreshments at reasonable cost.

### March 22-28

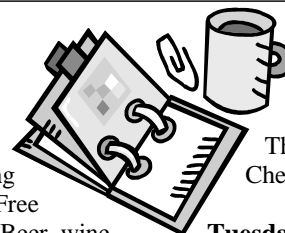
The MCWC shelter will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church on Cass in Mount Clemens.

### March 26-29

Texas Hold-em at Pampa Lanes noon to 2 a.m. Refreshments available.

### March 29 to April 3

The MCWC shelter will be hosted by



The Well on Gratiot Avenue in Chesterfield Township.

### Tuesday, April 14

Shelter "Wrap-Up" for church coordinators and volunteers. To be held at St. Edmund Church at 7 p.m. Refreshments.

### Thursday, April 30

April 30, MCWC annual dinner. Dinner, cash bar, raffles, silent auction. Entertainment by Steve Baker and Salute to the Super Stars. Tickets: \$30. Order by mail, P.O. Box 53, Roseville MI 48066; or call (586) 321-0998; or on our website: [www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org).



# Look forward to spring, with hope

**Greetings and best wishes** to all our friends! We are nearing March, and although it is still cold and snow is on the ground, we look forward to spring, better weather and hopeful days ahead for those searching for employment and affordable housing.

**The Macomb County** Warming Center (MCWC) is well into our 13th week of the shelter season. We have served over 400 guests so far and every day that number rises. Jobs are hard to find and, well, we all know what the current economic picture is like. But we still see so many hopeful people, temporarily out of housing but searching, praying and believing that their lives will turn around.

**That is the belief** of the MCWC and Ray of Hope Day Center as well. We believe that there is hope for our guests and are praying and working alongside each other. Our Peer Support program, especially, is a real "Ray of Hope" for many. We have our existing group meetings on Tuesdays at 2:00 P.M. and have added a new group which meets at 5:00 P.M., also on Tuesdays. All meetings take place at the day center at 24450 Gratiot in Eastpointe. We are blessed to have Maria leading the new group. Maria has brought new, innovative ideas and will be soon be announcing a special forum to introduce local agencies to the Peer Support Program.

**We also welcomed** two new board members and a new Advisory Panel member since the last newsletter: Joseph Belfiori, a real estate broker with J.V.Belfiori Real Estate and member of St. Sylvester Parish; and Dan Heaton, a ministerial student and member of



Sen. Mike Switalski

Erin Presbyterian Church have both joined our board, and we extend them a most hearty welcome! Michigan State Senator Mickey Switalski and Realtor, Joseph Sowerby of Anton, Zorn, Sowerby, Inc. have graciously agreed to sit on our advisory Panel.



Kathy Goodrich  
Executive director

We are honored to have these new members and very helpful supporters on board!

**There are so** many thank yous to express that I am almost hesitant to begin for fear I will inadvertently omit some very important folks; but, in addition to the above new members, I want to give special thanks to:

- ☆ **The After Hours** Car Club members for assuming the laundry transport duties for most of January and all of February! A big thanks to these great guys for good work with a tough job.
- ☆ **Clinton Valley Assembly** of God which continues to support us on a monthly basis;
- ☆ **St. Therese** of Lisieux, St. Blasé, St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Athanasius, St. Lawrence, St. John Vianney, Trinity United Methodist, Christ Lutheran of Warren, and many more wonderful churches.

**Renaissance Unity** is holding a Drive to Benefit the Macomb County Warming Center, which will continue running through March. We have received many gifts so far from their efforts! Renaissance Unity also sent over a dozen members in response to our call for volunteers to keep the Ray of Hope open daily the week of February 23 – 27. We could not have done it without all you great R.U. volunteers!

**Of course, as always,** we want to thank our partner churches and members who venture out to shelter and feed our homeless guests through cold and often bitter, winter nights.

**The January newsletter** contained some letters from our guests. One was from Cheryl who said she had been homeless since October 18. It is a pleasure to announce that Cheryl, a Peer Support Group member, has begun collecting unemployment benefits after losing her job, and has found an apartment. Warming Center volunteers were able to provide Cheryl with a refrigerator and stove for her new apartment.

**On a much sadder note,** you may remember the letter from Rose. Rose wrote a very good essay on what it means to be homeless. Rose passed away on February 11 after a long battle with cancer. The blessing is that she was able to spend her last few weeks in her own apartment after being awarded a section 8 voucher. We love you Rose; and will not forget you!

**To our friends, volunteers** and supporters: We can never adequately express our appreciation for all you do. So often I meet people and am introduced as "the one who does so much for the homeless"; but I am always humbled when I hear that because I, of all people, know that this can never be a "one-person", or even a "few person" ministry. The assistance of those in need is something all of us do together.

**We are looking forward** to our upcoming events which are listed in this newsletter. These will be interesting, enjoyable, and will help greatly to support our continuing efforts. Please keep us in your prayers.

...Kathy

*Kathy Goodrich is executive director for the Macomb County Warming Center. Reach her by e-mail: kmac0212@wowway.com or call (586) 321-0998. Send mail to our post office box: PO Box 53, Roseville, MI 48066.*

... 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. '

# Macomb County Warming Center and Ray of Hope Day Center



Kathy Goodrich, Executive Director  
(586) 321-0998  
Email: 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.

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

# St. Pat's benefit

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church volunteered for the third week of January, a very busy week.

"Some people don't realize the extent of the work done by the Macomb County Warming Center and the Ray of Hope Day Center," Paddy said.

The MCWC enlists the help of local churches to provide night shelter for homeless adults. Each guest gets two blankets, a pillow and a warm, safe place to sleep. The evening meal consists of soup, sometimes with a sandwich or cookies.

Ray of Hope Day Center in Eastpointe is open two days a week to provide other services, including a peer support group and

referrals to agencies that can help meet specific needs.

Join the fun on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m. for the best Irish music this side of the Emerald Isle. All proceeds from a free will "green" donation will support the work of the MCWC. Snacks, dessert, coffee and cash bar will be available. Tables can be reserved for groups of 8-10.

"It's never too late to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, especially for such a great cause," Paddy said, noting that the warmth and hospitality of the Irish are legend. "A special Irish blessing for anyone who donates an appetizer or dessert for this festive occasion."

Contact him at (586) 296-2091 for more information or to reserve a table.

... By Donna Remer



# Directory of Services

Support those who support the MCWC

This newsletter is distributed to more than 600 homes, businesses, churches and social service agencies in the tri-county area. For \$300 you can list your advertisement here. Call (586) 321-0998.

**AGNES C. SZUTKOWSKI**  
**ACCOUNTANT**

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The Chrysler Foundation



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