



Warming Center News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

AUGUST 2009

MCWC to present Peer Support at statewide conference in Lansing

The successful Peer Support program offered by the Macomb County Warming Center is drawing statewide attention.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority has invited The Warming Center to take part in the fourth annual Summit on Ending Homelessness at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing Oct. 22-23. The summit supports Michigan's 10-year plan to end homelessness.

Peer Support leader Maria DeVoogd and MCWC Director Kathy Goodrich will make a 90-minute presentation explaining the Peer Support concept to those attending the conference.

MCWC's first Peer Support group started in 2008 with five people. Now, Goodrich said, there are three groups with about 30 people participating. A fourth group could be added soon.

"It has been very successful and word is getting around," Goodrich said.

Those accepted in the Peer Support program must show that they are committed to changing their situation. They are required to attend a weekly meeting at the Ray of



Two members of a Peer Support Group use the computer at the Ray of Hope Day Center.

Hope Day Center in East-pointe. Each person shares with the group what they have done in the past week to find employment and/or housing. They also talk about roadblocks and obstacles to success.

"The greatest value is the support participants give each other," Goodrich said. "They share information and keep each other from giving up."

Sometimes participants share information on an employer who is hiring. The information provided at the meetings is accurate, Goodrich said, and that's important to people trying

to move out of homelessness.

"It's better than getting information at the bus stops or the mall," Goodrich said. "If there's any doubt, we help them check it out." DeVoogd has been a group leader since January this year. She agreed that the unique program is gaining steam.

"People are starting to see results," she said. "It has taken time, but more and more are getting to the place where we want them to be."

Housing is the #1 goal,

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Orientation set for this year's host churches

It's warm now but the Macomb County Warming Center shelter season will be here soon and local churches are signing up to help.

Orientation sessions are an important part of the preparation. Save the dates: Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 4-5, location to be announced. The training allows new and experienced teams to share information and new ideas. Warming Center staff will present the essentials and guest speakers will address issues such as security.

Plan to join people from other host churches for an evening of fellowship ... and food.



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 ...'

Summit

Continued from page 1

DeVoogd said, and employment is close behind. Some participants who find a place to stay, and a job, continue to come to the weekly Peer Support meetings for a while, because they value the additional support. And, that's fine with DeVoogd since it keeps them on the right track. Peer Support leaders can help address issues that stand in the way of continued progress.

That might include transportation, child care or resolving minor legal issues. Peer Support leaders are not, however, case managers. DeVoogd said the program takes a different approach to moving people into a sustainable lifestyle.

"Each individual is part of their own solution," she pointed out. "We just provide the environment."

Funding for the Peer Support program is provided by the McGregor Fund.

Salute To The Superstars will be at Andiamo's in 2010

Those who attended the annual dinner for the Macomb County Warming Center in April will remember the great entertainment donated by Steve Baker and Salute to the Superstars. Elvis, The Judds, Bobby Vinton, Brenda Lee and Rod Stewart tribute artists were among those who got the crowd moving. Now, Salute has announced a new joint partnership and home, with the Andiamo Showplace in Warren. The announcement was made in July by Baker, Joe Vicari of Andiamo's and Rick Furtney, whose father started the Superstars shows. Baker said he expects a lot of buzz around town about this partnership.

The shows will begin in January 2010 and continue throughout the year. Twelve shows have been scheduled and some will be



"The King" was one of several entertainers from Salute to the Superstars who got the crowd moving at the Macomb County Warming Center annual dinner this year.

streamed live via the Internet to other states and countries.

Salute to the Superstars and Andiamo will be adding links to their websites for show details and tickets.

Here's what you can do to help the homeless

There are lots of ways you can help the Macomb County Warming Center. Here are a few of them:

◆ Socks

The Warming Center always needs new white cotton socks and new packaged underwear. These items can be dropped off at the Ray of Hope Day Center on Tuesday and Thursday.

◆ Advertise

Help us and help yourself! Advertise your business in this newsletter. It is distributed to more than 600 homes, businesses and organizations in the tri-county area. See the Directory of Services on the back page for more information. You can also help by doing business with those who advertise ... and mention that you

appreciate their support for the Warming Center.

◆ Services

Professionals who are able to donate services to the homeless should contact Executive Director Kathy Goodrich at (586) 321-0998. We would also like to hear from those who can offer work, even part time or temporary jobs, to those in need.

◆ Tell your friends about us

Let your friends know about the good work the Warming Center is doing. Send us their address, and we'll send them our newsletter. Or, send them a link to our web site.

◆ Monetary donations

Your donations help us keep the Warming Center open. Because we

have a 501C3 designation, all donations to the Macomb County Warming Center are tax deductible.

You might also qualify for a state 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:

**Macomb County Warming Center
PO Box 53
Roseville, MI 48066**

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



Ray of Hope, Peer Support groups are busy

July and August are lazy summer months in the minds of many of us; however, The Ray of Hope and the Peer Support Groups are very busy! So many folks are out there on the streets, living in vehicles or doubled up, often in already overcrowded homes. At the Ray of Hope, we do our best to offer helpful referrals and sign some up for our Peer Support Groups when appropriate. So far these past two months, we have referred two families to Solid Ground and one to Amelia Agnes. Another family, who had arranged with their DHS worker and other agencies for a home, needed a place to stay for a few days. We were able to provide a motel room for one of those days. We still, of course work hard to assist the many single homeless adults who continue to arrive at our door!

Our original plan to add a third Peer Support Group in September had to be moved to adding the new group in July. It had become necessary to push up the expansion two months in order to manage the increased number of Peer participants enrolling in the program. We are grateful to the McGregor Fund for supporting our efforts to offer these support groups which are becoming successful beyond our earlier optimistic but guarded expectations. Our semi-annual progress report is almost completed and will be sent to McGregor. We hope to receive permission to share some of that report in our next newsletter

The Warming Center now has

14 churches signed up to provide shelter weeks this coming season. We are already beginning to lay plans for our November Orientation and Training Sessions. The Site Coordination Committee is charged with finding and scheduling shelter churches. Dan, Joe and I are members of this committee and may be calling upon you or your church soon! If you think your church or club, organization, etc. may be able to provide a shelter week, please contact me at (586) 321-0998 or kmac0212@wowway.com.



*Kathy Goodrich
Executive director*

I was happy to see the article spotlighting Diane Lynch, Solid Ground President, in the S.G. newsletter this month! Diane has been a great friend to the MCWC, volunteering at our shelters whenever called upon and assisting us with the new referral process for our guests to be referred to Solid Ground. Diane is a shining star, we love her, and Solid Ground is very blessed to have her as their leader!

Speaking of volunteers, we have some great ones even now in our summer months. Cynthia continues to be an important and popular part of the Ray of Hope. This week, we added another volunteer, Terry Covill. Terry learned about our need for daytime volunteers from her church bulletin. Terry is a

member of Renaissance Unity in Warren. Renaissance Unity has been very supportive of our programs and we are blessed to have them as partners.

I also want to mention Donna Remer, who is, among other things, our newsletter editor. Although not technically a volunteer, she devotes many unpaid hours and trips to us. She drives to our events and takes photos – all photos and layouts you see in the newsletter are created by Donna. She has recently taken a group of photos of a Peer Group meeting to send to The McGregor Fund for their all important annual report, a requirement of our grant. Everything looks so professional now because Donna IS a professional!! She is a professional journalist and administrator of The Society of Professional Journalists, Detroit Chapter. She writes a weekly column for the Free Press, and formerly edited The Voice weekly newspaper in New Baltimore. Her personal and newspaper honors and awards are too numerous to list and I am sure she would edit them out if I tried to list them or said anything more! We are very fortunate and blessed that she has agreed to work with us.

Again, we thank all of you for your support. Please know that you are remembered in our prayers at meetings and at our churches.

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.

Get the latest MCWC news on our website

Want to get the latest information on the Macomb County Warming Center? Check our website.

You'll find the newsletter posted there before it reaches your mailbox. Back issues of the newsletter are

available, too. There's a link for those who want to donate, information on our Peer Support Group, a schedule of host churches and links to news stories about the Warming Center. Photos from all our events, too.



... 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.

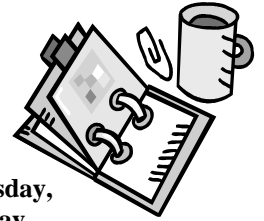
The Ray of Hope Day Center, an extended service of the MCWC, will, in collaboration with like-minded organizations, provide our local homeless and needy individuals and families with referrals and resources in order to supply opportunities to move into secure, productive lifestyles.

OUR BOARD ...

Kevin Goodrich, President
Kathy McKinley-Goodrich, Treasurer
Joanne Matiyow, Secretary

Denise Amenta Michelina Plesco
Patrick Byrne Dan Heaton
Kathy Lancaster Joseph V. Belfiori

Mark your calendar ...



Wednesday, Aug. 12

A spaghetti dinner to benefit the son of Susan Jackson-Payne was held at the Neil Reid VFW Hall on Gratiot in Roseville.

Robbie was injured in an auto accident. Susan is long-time supporter of the Macomb County Warming Center and a former board member. If you receive the newsletter too late to attend

the dinner, please remember her and her family in your prayers.

Thursday, Friday Oct. 22-23

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority holds its Fourth Annual Summit on Ending Homelessness in Lansing. MCWC will present its Peer Support Program.

Wednesday, Thursday, Nov. 4-5

Orientation will be held for churches that plan to host the Macomb County Warming Center shelters this fall and winter. Save the date, location will be announced.



Directory of Services

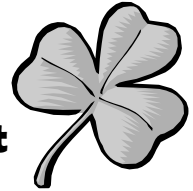
Support those who support the MCWC

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.

Cloverleaf Bar & Restaurant

24443 Gratiot in Eastpointe
(586) 777-5391

Great pizza since 1946!



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