



# Warming Center News

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## Ray of Hope moves to new site

The Ray of Hope Day Center has moved to a new location at 16546 Nine Mile in Eastpointe.

“As demand for services grew, we needed more space,” said Kathy Goodrich, executive director for the Macomb County Warming Center. “We have been searching for a suitable and affordable building for more than six months.”

Ray of Hope is not a “drop-in” center. Instead, it helps those who are homeless by making referrals to agencies that can assist.

In addition, MCWC staff will help fill out applications and assist people with making appointments. Representatives from some agencies will schedule meetings on-site.

The center’s address can be used by those who are homeless when they fill out applications. Workstations at the center provide internet access to search for work or to fill out an application for assistance.

“A great plus at this new location is the wall space for job postings,” Goodrich said. “We have room for tables and for displays with reference materials.”

“Now a person can walk in, look around and find pamphlets, flyers, all kinds of materials with helpful information.”

The day center offers



The new location is on the south side of Nine Mile Road, just east of Gratiot in Eastpointe.

medical, dental and mental health referrals as well as access to substance abuse treatment.

Pastoral and spiritual counseling is available, if requested, and the new site has separate rooms for privacy during such meetings.

“This year, the need is greater than ever,” Goodrich said.

Offices for the MCWC have been moved to the new building and Peer Support groups now meet there. Peer Support groups offer person-to-person tips and encouragement to those actively seeking work and a place to live. The first groups started in 2006.

A storeroom at the new site has space to hold donated food, office supplies

and other staples. This allows the MCWC to accept more donations.

“We are very happy with the extra, much needed space,” Goodrich said.

More than 1,000 people have been served at Ray of Hope this year and numbers at the shelters continue to surpass those of last year at this time.

“This will be our busiest year,” Goodrich said. She invited supporters to come by and see the new facility.

The building is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Other times can be scheduled, as needed.

More information on programs offered at the site can be found at [www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org).

## McGregor Fund grant will match donations

The Macomb County Warming Center has received a \$10,000 challenge grant from The McGregor Fund. Each dollar donated by an individual or household through April 2011 will be matched.

“This is an exciting opportunity,” said Kathy Goodrich, executive director for the MCWC. “We hope those who are able to donate even a small amount will do it now. In effect, their donation will count double!” Donations can be made using the envelope inside this newsletter. Donors can also use a credit card to contribute through the MCWC website at [www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org).



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 ...'



## Warming Center supporters get together for Irish fun

The need is greater than ever this year and supporters of the Macomb County Warming Center turned out last October for a fund-raising "Irishfest" at St. Margaret's. Music was provided by Larry Larson, Charlie Taylor and George Chirota. The event raised more than \$2,000 to help provide shelter for the homeless in Macomb County.

Photos by Mark Henderson

## Here's how you can help those in need

The need is greater than ever this year as the Macomb County Warming Center works to provide a warm, safe place to sleep for those who are in need. Fortunately, all the spaces on the shelter-year calendar have been filled through March 2011.

When they arrive at a shelter hosted by a local church, guests receive two blankets, a pillow, and floor space to sleep for the night. A simple supper is also provided by volunteers from the church. Guests arrive at 8 p.m. and leave by 7 a.m. after a light breakfast.

We are grateful to all those who have come forward to offer this life-saving service. This year, a Christmas dinner is being planned by Northpointe Baptist Church and Discover Church/Redemption Center.

"Each had planned a dinner, so they joined hands and worked together," said Kathy Goodrich, executive director of the Macomb County Warming Center. "This is North-

pointe's first year with us and they have found so many blessings with this ministry. We are blessed that they joined us, as well as our other first time churches and, of course, our returning churches!"

The ongoing shelter program is the heart of the MCWC and there are many things individuals can do to support it. Here are a few:

**Donations of money** are always appreciated. The Warming Center depends on your donations to provide service to the homeless.

With a grant from the McGregor Foundation, donations made before April 30, 2011, will be matched.

"Each gift will count as two," said Goodrich. "Donations of any amount are appreciated."

Mail yours to the MCWC, PO Box 53, Roseville MI 48066. You can also use the enclosed envelope or make a donation by credit card using the Pay Pal feature on our website at

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

Since the Warming Center is a 501C3 non-profit organization, your donation may be tax deductible. Consult your tax professional for more information.

**Letters of support** are important to the Warming Center for the grant application process. If you would like to offer one, contact Goodrich for more information at 586-321-0998 or [kmac0212@wowway.net](mailto:kmac0212@wowway.net).

**Gift cards** to fast food restaurants are always needed. Other items in demand are packages of **new socks and underwear**. Winter **boots** are also needed right now.

**Donations of services** such as hair-cuts and dental work are appreciated.

Please let us know if you have a paid **job assignment**, temporary or permanent, and we will post it.



... 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. '

# Blessings of the season, hope for new year

**I would like to begin** by mentioning the overwhelming support of so many who attended and helped with our Irishfest on Oct. 3 at St. Margaret of Scotland Church!

This was a wonderful event with great entertainment contributed to the Warming Center by well known musicians: Larry Larson, Charlie Taylor and George Chirota.

Decorations were supplied by Karen Marozi and her talented team, and food was brought in and served by our faithful volunteers, too many to list but you, and the 200 folks in attendance, know who you are, and we love and appreciate every one of you!

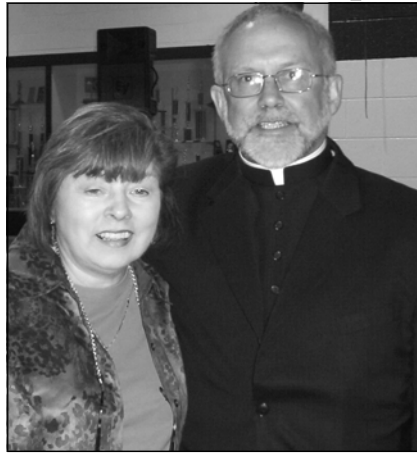
A special word of thanks also to Fr. DeHondt, for allowing us to use the large gym at St. Margaret's and to Larry Casler, Paul DesJardins and Kevin Goodrich for the St. Margaret's Men's Club support. We were blessed to receive over \$2,300 in revenue which will go a long way toward purchasing supplies for the shelter as well as the Ray of Hope.

THANKS TO ALL and we trust you had a great time!!

**We are settling in** to our new facility at 16546 Nine Mile. Please stop by and visit if you are in the area on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday!

We now have room for our shelter food and supplies as well as the many files we need to keep on hand for assistance to our guests. Also, our shelter is in full swing and we are happy to welcome four new churches this year: Christ United Methodist in Fraser; Northpointe Baptist, Warren; St. Martin de Porres, Warren; Bethesda Community Church in Eastpointe.

We are so very pleased that you, as churches devoted to serving each other as the Bible commands, have decided to join in our ministry to the homeless, and we welcome you



MCWC Executive Director Kathy Goodrich and Fr. DeHondt at the Irishfest last October.

to our partnership of loving shelter churches!

**This is the time of year** we reflect on the love and support of so many of the friends of the homeless who show their love by sacrificing to keep our shelters and day center in operation.

I realize that many of our financial donors do not want their names published and so I will just let you know that we are fully aware and appreciative of all you do!

Our volunteers are the very heart of the MCWC. The only words of gratitude that seems even close to adequate are: To those who volunteer at our shelters and to those who send financial support, please know that you are saving lives, as surely as if you had tossed a life raft to a drowning person!

**We would like to offer** special thanks this month to The Warren Crime Commission, Mayor Jim Fouts, and City Council President Mary Kamp for organizing a drive to supply us with blankets, socks, warm hats and scarves and many other items.

We are so grateful for their special work and kindness, and our guests will be reminded of these gifts,

**"To those who volunteer at our shelters and to those who send financial support, please know that you are saving lives, as surely as if you had tossed a life raft to a drowning person."**

... Kathy Goodrich

given in love, throughout the winter season. Our prayers are with these loving donors.

**We have been blessed** to be invited, by Eastpointe Mayor Suzanne Pixley, to the December Eastpointe Networking Forum meeting where we will be presenting to this community minded group of the city's public officials, churches and businesses.

We are proud to maintain our offices and Ray of Hope Day Center in Eastpointe and feel honored by this invitation.

**Now, in this holy season,** we wish you all the blessings of the holidays and sincere wishes for a new year full of hope and promise. We are praying that jobs will be back for so many of us and our families will be sustained until that time.

Working with so many homeless reminds us daily that we are called to assist those who still wait for the blessings some of us enjoy.

We - the board and staff of MCWC and the Ray of Hope - feel blessed to be a part of this opportunity to serve.

...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.*

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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  
Michalina Plesco

## In the News ...

"Warming centers and shelters are expecting potential record numbers of families this winter as Michigan's homeless population has swelled to historic highs."

...Detroit News, Dec. 13, story by Katherine Jun featuring the Macomb County Warming Center. A link to her story is on our website. Click the "media" button at [www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org)



Elizabeth Conley photographed the shelter at Christ United Methodist Church for the Detroit News.



## Directory of Services

Support those who support the MCWC

This newsletter is distributed to more than 700 homes, businesses, churches and social service agencies in the tri-county area. For \$300 you can list your advertisement here. Call (586) 321-0998.



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