

# Warming Center News



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OCTOBER 2011

## ‘Charity Challenge’ helps MCWC

The Macomb County Warming Center was among 50 Michigan nonprofits awarded grants in the Art Van Million Dollar Charity Challenge last month.

This year, the awards were given to charities that focus on children, health and human services programs. The grants are designed as challenge gifts in order to encourage others to donate and to maximize fundraising opportunities.

In the past two years, the Art Van Million Dollar Charity Challenge has raised \$7 million.

“People who know me know how passionate I am about community work,” said Art Van Elslander, founder and chairman of Art Van Furniture.

“It’s just what we’re supposed to do. All of us at Art Van Furniture feel the same way. People helping people, that’s what it’s all about – strengthening lives, making homes, building communities.”

Representatives and supporters of the winning charities filled the stores to hear the announcements. Kathy Goodrich, director, and the Rev. Terri Bracy, trustee, represented the MCWC and received the oversized check for \$20,000.

“We shelter an average of 500 guests a year,” said



Above: Gary Van Elslander, Kathy Goodrich and The Rev. Terri Bracy hold the check. At left, Rev. Bracy poses with Art Van Elslander and a Charity Bear.

Photos by Donna Remer

Goodrich. “Our Ray of Hope Day Center serves homeless guests by offering the use of our phone, fax and mailing address.”

She said the center helps people obtain ID and birth certificates – necessary first steps for job and apartment-seeking. Local job openings are posted and referrals to other agencies can be made.

Goodrich also pointed to the Peer-to-Peer Support Group Project which provides guidance and feedback for motivated homeless individuals looking for permanent housing, employment and

mainstream activities.

At the press conference, Art Van also introduced Charity Bear, a cuddly stuffed animal that will retail at all Art Van Furniture locations for \$39.95. Proceeds benefit the Million Dollar Charity recipient of the owner’s choice.

The Art Van website, [www.artvan.com](http://www.artvan.com), has information on all the award recipients including the Macomb County Warming Center.

Those who visit the website are able to make a donation and link to our own website at [www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org)

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## Join us for some Irish fun Oct. 16

No need to make a reservation — but mark the calendar and join us on Sunday, Oct. 16, at St. Margaret of Scotland Church for some Irish music and a good time!

Folk singer and guitarist Larry Larson with famed Irish tenor Charlie Taylor and “Fiddlin’ George” Chirota will return again this year in a program to benefit the Macomb County Warming Center.

Show starts at 2 p.m. No admission fee, but a free will donation will be received. Free finger foods and cider. Small charge for beer and wine.

The church is located on 13 Mile Road between I-94 and Harper. Lots of parking at the back near the gym entrance.

Plan to sing along and have a hand-clapping good time while helping the Warming Center!



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 the Warming Center 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 Warming Center 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Size for shirts: 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. '

# Shelter season begins Nov. 27 this year

The Warming Center Shelter is entering its active season. This year, as in the past, we will begin the weekly shelters on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, which this year falls on Nov. 27.



*Kathy Goodrich*

As is traditional, we begin the season at St. Louis Church in Clinton Township.

We welcome back our churches

from the last year and we are very pleased to welcome three additional churches to our rotation this year:

- **St. Clair Shores Assembly of God**, 24905 Manhattan, St. Clair Shores
- **Renaissance Unity**, 11200 Eleven Mile (I-696 Serv Drive), Warren
- **Church of the Master**, 30200 Schoenherr, Warren

Our annual orientation and training sessions will take place on Nov. 7 and 10. Please see the calendar on the back page for places and times. Anyone who is

interested in volunteering in any of the shelters is invited.

We thank Art Van for including us in their 3rd Annual Charity Challenge and for their generous award and numerous opportunities for making our programs known to an ever wider population!

In His Love, and thank you for all you do,

*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.*

## Volunteers remember helping the homeless

The Macomb County Warming Center relies on churches and other organizations to host the shelter each week during cold weather. It's an experience that many volunteers find very rewarding. Here are comments from a few people from St. Paul United Church of Christ, who helped during the last shelter season:

**On the first night** of hosting the shelter, we had a heavy snowstorm and I had to send out the guests at 7 a.m. into at least 10 inches of snow. When I went to my car after closing, I discovered it was covered on three sides with snow drifts in addition to the 10 inches on top and in front.

It took me an hour to shovel out my car and I was exhausted. However, as I was pulling out of the driveway onto Mound Road, it suddenly hit me that our guests were trudging through all that snow for miles and hours and it put my experience into perspective.

I also remember two of the guests in particular. One was K. who was the first in line every day. He always checked in his new bottle of Pepsi to be kept overnight, and he always

thanked me for the food and fellowship he got at St. Paul.

The other guest I especially remember was D. who was deaf but could communicate with his hands and his smile better than some of our guests with no handicap.

We also had three of our guests who spent part of that week in the hospital due to respiratory problems or other conditions. Living on the street is not for the faint of heart. .

*Marge Murrell*

**My reflection** of the Warming Center: J. came in late each night to the Warming Center this week as he had just started a new job that required a split shift. This was the second week for his job.

J. grew up in my community at the same time as my children, went to the same schools, studied at the same city library and lived in a subdivision just a short distance from ours. He spent four years in the Navy right out of high school and then worked as a welder. He became homeless after a divorce and settlement of debts.

The highlight of our week came late the last evening when he told me

this would be his last night with us as he was able to now afford a shared-rent apartment. J. is one of the success stories from the Warming Center program.

*Dick Schuster*

**It was an honor** to serve those in need by preparing warm and nutritional meals. One evening as I was limping around, I had one of our guests come up to me very concerned, wondering if I was alright. How touched I was to have someone so concerned and caring how I was.

I found most of our guests so appreciative and thanking us over and over. Trying to think up some special treat for them, I came up with ice cream cups, something we take for granted. Oh my, what a treat it was to them, they almost mobbed me to get one. Truly a blessing to be able to help serve and give those in need.

*Barbara Stephens*

Can your church or organization help this year? Call Kathy Goodrich at 586-321-0998 for more information.

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 ...

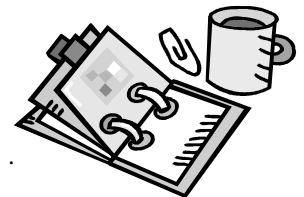
Macomb County Warming Center seeks, along with our partner churches, to provide a safe, warm place to spend the night and simple, nourishing meals to those who would otherwise have no shelter.

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, Rev. Terri Bracy  
Patrick Byrne, Dan Heaton, David Hire  
Kathy Lancaster, Michelina Plesco

## Mark your calendar ...



**Sunday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m.**

An "Irish Octoberfest" will be held at St. Margaret of Scotland school gym, St. Clair Shores. No admission. Free finger foods. Small charge for beer, wine. Free will offering taken for MCWC.

Entertainment by Larry Larson, Charlie Taylor and

George Chirota. Irish favorites and folk music.

**Monday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

Shelter Orientation and Training - Christian Trinity Assembly of God 21770

Kelly, Eastpointe. Refreshments served.

**Thursday, Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m.**

Shelter Orientation and Training - St. Blase Church, 12151 Fifteen Mile Road in Sterling Heights. Refreshments served.



## 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.

**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

Fax (586) 774-2826 Email [aggiecs@aol.com](mailto:aggiecs@aol.com)

