



Announcing the Launch of Our New Website!

We are pleased to announce the launch of our brand new website! After several months of collaboration, hard work, and dedication, we are delighted to officially announce the launch and share the link to our new website. The web address url is the same to make sure that the people who need us can continue to find us at warmingcenter.org.

Our goal with the new website is to provide our visitors an easier way to learn about The Macomb County Warming Center's services and resources in a fresh and updated new way. It also allows the visitor to browse information in a more organized fashion. The new website is interactive and gives better access to About Us, Give Help, Get Help, News and Events, and Contact Us. Our homeless population as well as potential donors will find useful information about our services on the homepage of our website. The Stories of Hope help supporters understand how our services help those in need – in their own words.

Among the new features, the site contains an integrated social media button to Facebook to foster improved communication with our clients and supporters. We will be constantly updating our content with helpful information, newsletters, announcements and client successes. And online giving has never been easier with our Donate button at the top right of every page.

While you are there, please update your contact information in the News and Events/Newsletter section.

We hope you find the new website to be fresh and easy to access. Our wish is to establish this portal as a source of information and hope for those who need it most.

Thank you to the McGregor Fund for awarding us a grant to assist us to gain long increased sustainability for our shelter program

McGREGOR FUND



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 ...'

Am I Really Home?

It may come as a surprise to you but many of those who have been homeless for many years often find it difficult and at times frightening when they finally get into their own apartment in accepting the fact that this is home. This stems from the fear of losing everything again and can be nearly as stressful as living on the streets because let's face it, when you have nothing, you certainly can't lose it.

I'd like to share a recent experience with you that I have seen many times which describes what I'm talking about.

About three months ago one of our long-time homeless guests was approved for a government subsidy for housing which at first caused a feeling of happiness and relief for him. After weeks of being turned down for apartments due to various reasons such as credit and lack of rental history, this man became depressed again and began thinking that he would be homeless for the rest of his life. In other words, he began to lose hope. I kept telling him to stay positive because I'm coming over for coffee when you get your own place.

Finally, after many hours of searching, we found a local apartment complex that was willing to work with him and we both got excited. I sent him directly there to complete an application and he was immediately accepted! He moved in a week later and we had that cup of coffee at his kitchen table. One would expect him to be in the best mood of his life, but that was not the case. He was nervous and almost in denial that his homelessness was actually over. When I asked what was wrong he opened up to me and shared his feelings of the fear of losing the apart-

ment and not feeling confident in calling it home. He said, "I just don't feel like this is real. I keep thinking I'm going to wake up and still be sleeping in the park, I'm just not ready to call this home yet." So I shared with him the fact that he was not alone and that it was very common to have these feelings and to give it some time.

As of yesterday, he has been there for two months so he stopped by the Ray of Hope to say hi and ask a few questions regarding other matters. He seemed to be a new person with confidence and a reborn purpose. When we were finished he stood up, smiled and said, "Thanks for all of your help. I think I'll go home now."

Mark Henderson, Case Manager



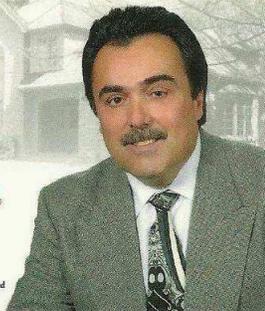
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Make Your Prayer Request

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.

Although the usual form does not appear in this issue, we are still asking for requests, 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.

We partner with churches of many denominations and would be happy to refer readers for counseling and other ministries. If you are interested, please contact us with your email, street address or phone number. No reason for your request is needed, just let us know you would like a church contact and your preferred denomination.



... 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,

We are looking toward a shelter season that has every indication of being very busy. Since the middle of July we have received numerous calls for shelter. With the coming cold weather, we expect even more need.



*Kathy Goodrich
Executive Director*

Again, we appreciate so much your donations as the shelter season begins because the costs are high and the need is so great. This year, we are working very hard with our newly funded Development & Communications team to gain more financial support so that we can continue our work. We housed so many shelter guests this year, but still so many are in need.

We are in need of churches to host some shelter weeks, so if you know of a church that might be interested, please let us know. An easy way to do that is with our "contacts" feature with several ways to easily write or call us on our new website, which you can read more about in this newsletter.

Thank you for your caring about the homeless and for your interest in our work. And send in any suggestions you have.

Just a quick note: we get many offers of handmade and other items for our shelters. Unfortunately, we are very limited in space and staff, both of which are necessary to store, sort and put to use many of these items. We do purchase our shelter needs, and

most meals are provided by our churches. When guests need showers or clothing, we refer them to the places those are available. (We usually help them with transportation there as well, if needed.)

You can fax us at 586 329-4202. or call 586 329-4046.

God bless all of you for all you do.

...Kathy

P.S.: Our Kroger shoppers have increased by 20% this quarter - thank you! When shopping at Kroger's part of your purchase price is sent to the Warming Center. Since so many of us shop at a Kroger's anyway, it is a perfect way to donate and still save your money. You can sign up for the Warming Center on:

Kroger.com (go to Community, scroll down to Community Rewards)

Or to sign up by phone have your Kroger Card handy and call 1 800 576-4377.

Please visit our website at www.warmingcenter.org. It is updated periodically and hopefully you like it. We would be very happy to hear of any suggestions you have as to what you would like to

see on the website, how it could be improved, etc.

Please send your comments (good or bad) and ideas for the site or the newsletter. We want to make our website and newsletter full of the information and features that you most need and enjoy. Thanks for your input.



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We're on the Web!
www.warmingcenter.org

Macomb County Warming Center,
Inc., and Ray of Hope Day Center



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 for 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 ...

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Directory of Services Support those who support the MCWC

This newsletter is distributed to more than 1,000 homes, businesses, churches and social service agencies in the tri-county area. For a donation of at least \$100 you can list your advertisement. Call (586) 321-0998 or send a business card with your donation. More supporters are listed on other pages of this newsletter.



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