



Macomb County Warming Center presents:

7th ANNUAL OCTOBER IRISHFEST

Sunday, October 4 2015
2 P.M. - 5 P.M.

St. Margaret of Scotland Church Gym
21201 Thirteen Mile Rd.
St. Clair Shores, MI 48082
(between I-94 & Harper)

Lots of parking in back of church for gym entrance

Featuring

Charlie Taylor & Larry Larson
Irish, American and Ethnic Music and Fun!

FREE WILL OFFERINGS PLEASE
ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD THIS WINTER'S WARMING
CENTER SHELTERS

❖ FINGER FOODS, INCLUDING FRIED CHICKEN, SALADS,
APPETIZERS, VARIETY OF CHIPS AND DIPS, ETC.
SODA POP, BOTTLED WATER - BUFFET SERVED AT 2:30

✚ NOMINAL FEE FOR BEER
✚ 50/50's
✚ BASKET RAFFLES

Questions: 586 321-0998

Remember

THE FUN BEGINS AT 2 P.M.



To All of Our Supporters and Volunteers:

As some of you may know, the Ray of Hope has been one of the Michigan Benefits Access locations in Macomb County for the past 1 ½ years, which is a partnership between the United Way, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Ray of Hope. What makes us unique is that we are one of only two agencies in Macomb County that are certified as "Navigation Partners" meaning that every employee has been trained and is qualified to provide direct assistance in applying for State of Michigan benefits such as Medicaid, food assistance, state emergency relief, child development care and cash assistance for families and individuals in transition. This has been an exciting endeavor as most of those who need these benefits

IMPORTANT:

**TO ASSURE SAFE DELIVERY, ALL MAIL SHOULD
BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE TWO CROCKER
ADDRESS. WE WILL BE DISCONTINUING OUR
P.O. BOX IN DECEMBER.**

THANK YOU.



are unable to access computers and lack the skills necessary to apply on their own.

We have an identification code that we use which helps to expedite the application almost immediately and I'll share a recent experience with you today.

DL was having lunch at the Salvation Army Citadel in Mt. Clemens near our office yesterday when one of our clients "T-Bone" advised him to come see us for help. After talking with him I learned that he had been sleeping under the bridge adjacent to our parking lot for quite some time but was unaware that help was only a few feet away. He came with a resume since he was eagerly looking for work but had lost his State ID which was making this almost impossible. We put an action plan together to get him going in the right direction which included an MBA application for food and medical benefits. This not only provides the temporary needs for survival but also helps establish a mailing address to use for State ID and ultimately employment and housing. Often, when our client has no phone or address we offer to list our Case Workers as advocates which allows the DHHS Specialist to legally speak with us regarding the client's case. Within 10 minutes of submitting the online application, his case was directed from Lansing to a local Specialist who called the Ray of Hope to verify his situation while he was still here and our Case Worker David was able to quickly speak for him since he was listed as an advocate. After a brief conversation, the Specialist informed him that she would expedite the application and his bridge card will arrive in 3 to 5 days and correspondence for Medicaid would follow shortly. This process can sometimes take a consumer weeks to accomplish.

In summary, after spending about an hour here at our office, DL is well on his way to overcoming his homeless and desperate situation. While Case Worker David was working with him and as he saw things quickly moving in a positive direction, I must have counted at least 3 times him making the comment, "I wish I knew about you guys a long time ago." He shook our hands and left with a smile, positive attitude and a ray of hope.

— Mark Henderson, Case Manager

Guest Story

One day in April, at the end of our shelter season, a young woman came into our day center, and simply stated, "I just didn't know where to start, and someone told me to call

Ray of Hope. They told me you guys could help me." Along with some experienced techniques, such as intensive listening, for redirecting one experiencing homelessness for the first time to stay focused on what we will develop as a plan of action based on risks, needs and priorities, we assisted her with a section 8 housing application, along with an application to receive food assistance. She was very emotional through the whole process, but we stayed on our message, which is if you follow the plan, things will come into place. Many times she came in just to say she doesn't know if she can stay the course. With much encouragement, and many referrals later, she came in to give us all a hug and to let us know how happy she is to be looking for suitable housing since she has received her voucher for section 8.

In virtually all cases the immediate peril is facing homelessness. Our first job is to make sure that appropriate identification is accessible by the individual, and so assist with state id, social security, and birth certificate.

These are the steps you need to follow, and everything will work out fine. We start with your strengths and assets and build from there.

Sometimes in life, all a person really needs when they are doing the right thing, but feeling down and out is another person who can understand what it is like to try to make things in their life work out and continue to face hardships.

Just another person who is willing to listen to the story of one's life struggles can be enough to get them started on the road to self actualization and a new attitude toward self achievement.

— David Hazen, Caseworker

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.

Bank of America 



... 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,

This month I would like to tell you a little about our office staff:



*Kathy Goodrich
Executive Director*

Mark Henderson is our long-time Case Manager at the Ray of Hope and Shelter Coordinator during the shelter season which this year is from November 8, 2015, through April 23, 2016. Mark started in 2006 as Shelter Laundry Manager.

David Hazen is our caseworker who began officially working with us on April 1 this year after volunteering for several months. David is a student at Wayne State University majoring in Social Work and is finding that working at the ROH is an enriching experience. David enjoys helping people and is happy to have found work in his field as he completes his education. We feel blessed to have him with us; as do many of our guests.

Deana Henderson is in her 5th year as our Administrative Assistant who welcomes guests, does all secretarial work such as managing retention of files, information into the computer and assistance with required reporting to our funding sources. During the shelter season Deana works several nights a week as an Intake Coordinator.

We have been working hard in preparation for the coming shelter season and also with our Job Search, Housing assistance and Michigan Benefits Assistance programs. We do all this work all year long at the Ray of Hope. We work with many people here; both homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless. Our goal remains that "Everyone who enters our door will leave with more hope than when they came in." We work hard to see that that happens.

We are taking appointments as much as possible, so if you know someone who could use our help, please have them call 586 329-4046 for an appointment. They never have to wait very long and often can be seen the same day. This avoids making our guests, who often do not drive, having to walk or take the bus here and then find that we are filled with guests for that day.

In case you missed our last newsletter, we moved our office to Mt. Clemens and have found a "good home" here. We are on the Gratiot bus route, 3 blocks and a short bridge crossing from the Salvation Army

and other nearby resource locations for the homeless.

Our new address is 2 Crocker Blvd., Suite 201, Mt. Clemens 48043.

Please feel welcome to drop in if you are in our neighborhood. Our hours remain Monday thru Friday from 9 AM till 4 PM. Because our staff is still rather small, we occasionally have a day or half-day when we close the office; this happens very infrequently but always a good idea to call first and make sure we are open.

When we do not have specific prayer requests, we include all of our friends in our prayer at board meetings. If you read this letter, send a donation, volunteer at one of our shelters or Ray of Hope, or if you pray for us and our guests, you are our friend!

We have been blessed with an abundance of success stories this year! Please read about just a few of them in this newsletter. Also, if you have any questions or want to know more about us, please e-mail me at kathy@macombcountywarmingcenter.org or call 586 329-4046.

...Kathy

We moved in March. Our new Ray of Hope Day Center address is:

2 Crocker Blvd., Ste. 201
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
Office: (586) 329-4046
Fax: (586) 329-4202

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.

If you do not get our emails and you would like to do so, please send an email to:

kathy@macombcountywarmingcenter.org letting us know you would like to be on our mailing list.



Macomb County Warming Center
2 Crocker Blvd., Ste. 201
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 61

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

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



Kathy Goodrich, Executive Director
586 321-0998

Kathy@macombcountywarmingcenter.org

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 ...

Kevin Goodrich, President
Rev. Richard Beattie, Vice President
Keith Carlson, Secretary
Kathy Goodrich
Rev. Dan Heaton
Ron Borgacz
Jack Moy
Michalina Falcitelli-Plesco - Ex Officio
Nancy Panther - Ex Officio



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.

We thank **Munro Printing** . . .

16145 E. 10 Mile Rd.
Eastpointe, MI 48021
586-773-9579

. . . For printing and folding each issue of this newsletter

586-772-3540



Lawrence Finn, D.D.S. P.C.
14036 Stephens Rd., Warren, MI 48089
Day & Evening Appointments

Special thank
you to Art
Van Furniture
for ongoing
support!



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