

**Emergency Overnight
Shelter and Services**

831 N. Sycamore St.
(Corner of Oakland & Sycamore)
Lansing, MI 48906

Loaves and Fishes



Ministries

**Transitional Housing
and Services**

Zacchaeus House for women
with children
Luke's House for single men

Telephone (517) 482-2099 Fax (517) 482-6848

Summer 2015

Ever wonder what L&F does...and the Challenges we face?

Loaves and Fishes Ministries Mission



"Loaves and Fishes Ministries provides emergency short-term housing, advocacy and support services for homeless men, women and children, and long-term transitional housing, advocacy and support services for mothers with children and individual men in a caring Christian environment. Our purpose is to serve, not convert, respecting each person's spiritual path, different though that may be from ours. All are welcome who are in need regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnicity, country of origin, mental ability or physical ability."

Services Provided

- Emergency short term housing for single adults (occasionally accompanied by a child)
- Caring, competent, professionally trained staff
- Compassionate, non-judgmental, non-discriminatory advocacy and mentoring services
- Financial assistance with securing personal ID's and purchasing needed prescriptions
- Help with travel to/from appointments
- Support in finding housing and jobs where available
- Safe, clean environment, beds and bedding, daily meals and personal laundry services
- Dedicated, professionally trained volunteers who cover daily 6-10 and overnight 10-7 shifts, providing personal support plus hot breakfasts and dinners
- Weekly AA meetings – open to all
- Small 2-room apartments plus shared space with kitchen, laundry, bathrooms, visiting area and storage for 3 single women families (2-3 children) in Zacchaeus House
- Personal bedrooms plus shared housing amenities for 3 single men in Luke's House
- In-service support group meetings to address parenting, personal finance, job hunting, personal hygiene, school, etc.
- Mentoring support in completing GED's, going to college, or obtaining jobs

Challenges in working with Homeless

- Dealing with all levels of mental illness and unaddressed substance abuse issues
- Addressing underlying causes of homelessness
- Helping guests deal with social, medical and systemic challenges
- Responding to complex lists of guest needs, making referrals as needed
- Balancing staff responsibilities to guests along with management responsibilities
- Dealing with the challenges that severe weather brings - ice, snow, excessive heat
- Recruiting, training and scheduling reliable volunteers to work 365 days a year

See page 3 for Loaves and Fishes Ministries' Financial Challenges



From the desk of our New Director: Jenny Leaf

My Vision and my Hope for the Future of L&F Ministries

When I think about all that Loaves and Fishes Ministries has accomplished since opening their doors in 1981, I am overwhelmed. Think about it – the guests; the volunteers; the meals served; the additions, both structural and programs; involvement in the community; and many more. All of this work could not have been accomplished without the love and support of the community.

When I think about the future for the Ministry, I am also overwhelmed. How do we continue the work of Jesus in serving our sisters and brothers experiencing homelessness in this time of budget cuts and declining grant fund opportunities? My hope is that together, we look forward and we gather information and we make plans and we commit to doing this work, all the while remembering our history and our mission.

As I settle in to my new position here at the Ministry, my hope and vision for the future includes structural improvements/repairs; financial sustainability through creative fundraising efforts and long-term plans; recruiting and maintaining a wide and diverse base of volunteers; and increasing our involvement in the community. We need to grow and adapt to the ever-changing needs of our guests with care and caution as well as courage and boldness. Just as our guests need help and support from the Ministry, the Ministry needs help and support from you. We look forward to working together to continue to provide shelter and services to guests in the respectful and caring way that has come to be known throughout the community.

CELEBRATION April 18th

RED LETTER DAY FESTIVITIES

By Mary Tardif, CC Board of Directors Member

Erma Chastine – Thank you for your years of leadership as you move into retirement.

Jenny Leaf – Welcome into leadership as the New Director. The baton is passed on and the legacy continues. The program honoring Erma and Jenny can be captured by these words:

Grateful for the blessings you have brought to us in the past and those to come. Everyone who walks through the door – guests, volunteers, staff – all know that they are welcome and are in a safe place.

Really? Really!! This band of volunteer brothers and sisters along with the L&F staff served 49,020 meals and provided 16,340 bed nights for homeless people in the past 5 years!

Always looking for ways to improve our programs to enhance the quality of life for our guests. It is a never ending journey.

To believe in a tomorrow that will enhance the dignity and opportunities for each person.

Enjoyed our shared sung Irish blessing and the feeling of gratitude.

Filled the room! Family and friends packed the dining room, standing room only. Don Leaf, one of our former L&F directors, was delighted to see his daughter Jenny take the helm of this shelter. Erma's young grandson wrapped up the program stating aloud. *"I always knew my Grandma was SPECIAL!"*

Unified in our work as we do the Mission of Jesus. It is not easy and we face many challenges. However, we know that we are soaked in God's grace.

Lots of good food, appetizers, dips, fruit, dream cake, cupcakes, cookies, conversation and laughter! And we ended in a very special way...by breaking bread together. It was a Red Letter Day indeed!!

NEW CORE COMMUNITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS: THEIR PASSION & VISION



Volunteer Karenia Randle

I am extremely excited to be a part of the Core Community Board of Directors and work in collaboration with individuals who are passionate about bringing hope and faith to the community. Loaves and Fishes has been a blessing to my life and I am

Lansing community. Joining the CC Board of Directors is an honor and I look forward to contributing any way I can. To the Core Community, I bring my past experience working in the non-profit arena in the areas of community outreach, public relations, marketing and fundraising. I look forward to utilizing these skills and experience in the capacity of the Core Community.

I came to Loaves and Fishes as a 6-10 pm Volunteer over a year ago and never looked back since. The guests have completely enriched my life and sometimes I believe they help me more than I am of assistance to them. This ministry has been a blessing to my life and has ignited a passion to be the change I want to see in the community. Serving dinner, fellowshiping, doing laundry or just offering a words of encouragement eases the burdens of life for our guests. It warms my heart to see guests who have come through our doors and have completely changed their lives.

This opportunity to serve on the Core Community Board of Directors inspires me to contribute every talent I have to continue to serve the Loaves and Fishes guests and the community.



Former L&F Guest Mary Waire

I come from a humble background which taught me the importance of serving others. I watched my parents as they shared what they had with others. Those childhood memories stayed with me, and now as an adult, I also have the

compassion to help those that are in need of assistance.

Years later, I would personally experience the homeless system, and learn how important it was to have someone to assist me during those difficult times. I was blessed to have Loaves and Fishes Ministries there for me as I walked those long dark roads, in becoming self-sufficient again.

I have since been invited to become a member of the CC Board of Directors. This is unbelievable to be working on this ministry from a different perspective. Being part of L&F is therapeutic for me. Working on the Board of Directors, will not only enable me to help others in need, but also will help me to continue to heal from my experience as I focus on the needs of our surrounding community. I appreciate Loaves and Fishes for believing in me and asking me to be part of an already great ministry. I will bring my extensive skills and experience, my education in business and leadership skills, my dedication and commitment, along with a humble spirit, my experience, knowledge, and volunteer work with several outreach ministries...and with much prayer I will make an impact. In fact, as I was reading L&F's Mission Statement, I had to stop and refocus, for I thought I was reading something I had written. I was astounded at how much of my personal beliefs parallel that of L&F Ministries. *"Wherever I go, I make a difference."*

L&F MINISTRIES' FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

- Providing for overall physical and fiscal longevity of Loaves & Fishes Ministries
- Having enough money to hire, train and pay staff fair wages and basic benefits
- Maintaining buildings and grounds to insure the safety and security of the guests
- Having enough money to repair or replace the furniture and appliances as needed
- Dealing with the economic pressures that negatively affect personal, church, local, state and organizational donations and grants
- Finding volunteer fundraising partners who can help L&F keep out of the red as grants and donations go down (*Call 482-2099 to volunteer on the fundraising committee.*)



ONE UNIQUE WAY YOU CAN HELP L&F IS BY SHOPPING ON AmazonSmile For Program Details – go to

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/pd.html/ref=smi_se_saas_pd_pd

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the

AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the eligible charitable organization of your choice. Just select Loaves and Fishes Ministries, Lansing, MI as the recipient organization.

God bless you!



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Lansing, MI 48906

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BECOME A VOLUNTEER AT LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRIES!

Join us in serving the homeless of
the greater Lansing area.

Opportunities include:

- Serving guests from 6 to 10pm
- Doing overnight shifts 10 pm to 7 am
- Helping with newsletter mailings
- Writing thank you letters
- Cutting lawn, grooming flower beds
- Shoveling or snow blowing in winter
- Doing small maintenance & repairs

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Beth Young at
volunteer@loavesandfisheslansing.org
OR call 517-482-2099.

WE NEED YOU!

CURRENT RESIDENT OR



Gratitude Gathering ...Celebrating Erma, Jenny & the Volunteers

April 18th was a great day! Over 75 gathered to bid farewell to Erma Chastine for her 5+ years as Director, AND to welcome Jenny Leaf as she transitioned from Guest Advocate to Director of L&F Ministries. See more on pg. 2.

(Photo by Mary Spencer: L to R – Jenny Leaf, Erma Chastine.)

Of course, Loaves and Fishes Ministries would not have been able to exist without the hundreds of volunteers who have served in so many capacities over the past nearly 35 years. Muchas Gracias!

Nothing says it better then surprise notes from our guests like this one:
"I am writing this letter with tremendous gratitude for your full-time staff, Theresa and Jen. Their kind and thoughtful demeanor met me from my initial telephone call to my final goodbye. I was so appreciative of the way they both went out of their way to make me feel comfortable. After my painful and ugly divorce, the last thing I was in need of was anyone making me feel lower. I got the exact opposite from Theresa and Jen!"

The facilities were immaculately clean, the volunteers clearly and properly trained in the ways of compassion and goodwill, and the food was surprisingly delicious. Although it may seem unlikely to find this kind of gem right here in Lansing, MI, it is absolutely true. I have never in my life had to stay in a shelter before, and like many of us, I was afraid and believed the stories I'd heard. But because of the unlikely safety, humanity, and professionalism I experienced at L&F – I am compelled to write this 'Thank You!' letter." (May 11, 2015)

