Dear Friends,

May the blessings of peace, hope and love fill your lives this Holiday Season! As we approach the Holidays – a time in which we gather with families to celebrate our gratitude for one another and for all the many blessings in our lives – we are painfully conscious of the 41,000 Michiganians who were tossed off the welfare rolls with no safety net to protect them – 29,700 of whom are children. (Source: Michigan Department of Human Services)

We are extremely worried, about these sisters and brothers...and about how are our limited shelter programs are going to be able to meet their burgeoning needs? What were our lawmakers thinking? Perhaps we need to listen to Jesus, who said, when advocating on behalf of the poor in his day, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them." (Luke 11:46)

Let’s be clear – the death of Jesus at the hands of the hands of the rich and powerful of his day was because he challenged the system that favored the "haves" and neglected the “have not’s.”

Perhaps some of your own family OR your friends’ family members may be among those affected – perhaps your children or grandchildren. We say, "Woe to our lawmakers and family breakers" as we grieve deeply with and for you as well. Where will help come from in the midst of all the bankruptcies and foreclosures? The familiar retort, "Get a job!" doesn’t work when 11.2% of family breakers” as we grieve deeply with and for you those affected – perhaps your children or grandchildren.

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If you are among those affected, we know that your personal and financial support must go first to your families. Know that our prayers are with you in these dire times.

However, for those of you who are blessed with financial security, we pray that you will once again remember Loaves and Fishes Ministries in your Holiday gift-giving. We are in our 30th year of sheltering the homeless here in Lansing and we plan on being here for many years to come. Without a doubt, we have only been able to do what we do because of YOU.

The GOOD news is that with YOUR generosity, we annually provide hot meals and nightly bed space for 3,650 adults plus some children in our Overnight Shelter, as well as housing and advocacy for added men, women and children in our Zacchaeus and Luke’s transitional living programs where people have from 6 months to 2 years of support in getting their lives on track. “Thanks be to God and to you in whom the Spirit of God lives!”

And we so humbly ask that you help us continue our mission to the homeless by remembering L&F Ministries in your year end gift giving…and in your estate planning. You are our strength! We cannot do this without you!

With our prayers and sincere gratitude ~ from the L&F Core Community & Staff

A Blessed and Joyous Christmas!

(An Irish Blessing)
INTRODUCING...BETH YOUNG

What a pleasure it is to be at Loaves & Fishes Ministries New Volunteer Coordinator. I come here by way of other non-profit organizations which were also dedicated to diverse and underserved populations. For over 20 years I’ve worked with volunteers through event planning, fundraising, youth projects and crisis intervention work. I know many experiences have happened in this position. In the few months I’ve been with L&F, I recognize the hard work which has gone into managing the volunteers. I plan to build on such back and volunteer recognition and create new approaches in areas such as volunteer training. Just working on these two areas will help in volunteer retention and consistency with guests. Over the next few months I will also be working on a current volunteer database. These are only a few of the ideas and projects I have planned.

2011 Financial Snapshot

(January to October)

By Vernon Johnson, Financial Stewardship Coordinator

THANKS to our donors, our grantors, and to the conscientious management by staff, as of October 31, 2011 Loaves & Fishes Ministries is financially in good standing. Our budget for 2011 is $220,000. Total revenues were over $275,000. Total expenses were over $230,000.

TOTAL REVENUES are $189,828 or 82.5% of the budget and EXPENSES are $186,478 or 81.1% of the budget. Net excess revenue over expenses is $3,350.

CONTRIBUTIONS total $88,053 and GRANTS total $90,070 from government agencies, representing almost 94% of the Total Revenues. Our ministry has a strong dependency on contributions and grants to operate. NOTE: Grants from government agencies are expected to be reduced for 2012.

Your generosity in action

by Rhiel Ngubeni (Bombi), Shelter Advocate

What do you say when you have a job that allows you to see the best of people on a regular basis? What kind of blessing is it to see people live out a major verse of the Bible everyday? Working here are Loaves & Fishes Ministries we are blessed to see the volunteers in action, everyday, from 6-10 am! Your donors keep the mission and vision started 32 years ago to see the best of people on a regular basis. We want to thank everyone who has contributed.

The information below presents an overview of the guests we served in both our Emergency Overnight Shelter (short term) and in our Transitional (long-term) Homes. Most of the 5580 meals served were made with the love and care of our meal provider volunteers. Our guests succeeded because there is a whole network of people working and encouraging them to be the best they can be. Our staff is amazing, but again we are nowhere without the dedication from our volunteers.

Overnight Shelter (Short term/emergency)

- Provided a total of 2790 bed nights for 153 guests
- Served 5580 meals
- We saw 10 guests move into housing (and keep it)
- Over the next few months I will also be working on a current volunteer database.

Transitional Housing (6 mos to 2 yrs)

Luke’s House for Men
- 6 men served
- 3 found employment
- 1 moved into permanent housing
- 1 was approved for Social Security benefits

Zachacues House for Mom’s with Kids
- 5 women and 8 children served
- 4 were working or attending school
- 2 moved into permanent housing

Michael was sent to jail because he owed child support and was not able to pay. He had worked for the railroad and drove semis most of his life. Because of his jail sentence he lost his license and once released was unable to get a job driving again. He was guided to the Volunteers of America for assistance. Once there, he kept hearing about Loaves & Fishes as the “Hilton of Homeless Shelters.” He started calling L&F every day and obtained shelter in a short time.

After his initial stay in our Overnight Shelter, he was interviewed and accepted into Luke’s House (our transitional home for men). He was thrilled and filled with gratitude for the assistance he received from the staff at Loaves & Fishes. During his time with us, he was able to connect with other agencies and case managers, working particularly close with both of our Guest Advocate workers from Capital Area Community Services. While Michael was able to make strides with assistance from the great agencies in town, his tenacity and will to succeed made him unique. He was constantly asking questions, following up on leads and referrals. He was also an asset in the Transitional house itself, assisting peers acclimate to the rules, helping them with resources and providing a brotherly guide.

After a short period he got his license back and found a job driving truck. When he called the office about the job lead he had in town, he expressed his excitement in his voice. It was a pleasure to see the hard work and his dedication pay off. We drove out to the interview site and watched him ace the driving test. It was the beginning of his journey back to independence. He was able to start paying child support again and had lots of guidance in budgeting so he wouldn’t find himself in the same position again.

After about a year, Michael was able to go out on his own and was accepted into Luke’s House (our transitional home for men). He was thrilled and filled with gratitude for the assistance he was able to pay. He had worked for the railroad and drove semis most of his life. Because of his jail sentence he lost his license and once released was unable to get a job driving again. He was guided to the Volunteers of America for assistance. Once there, he kept hearing about Loaves & Fishes as the “Hilton of Homeless Shelters.” He started calling L&F every day and obtained shelter in a short time.

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Not All Fun and Games

We hope you’ve enjoyed our games, but we all know that homelessness isn’t fun but games. Each year we attempt to do a little bit more for those in need with a little bit less in resources. We hope that, if you feel called, you will help by completing the enclosed envelope. Whether you are a first-time giver or a life-time giver, your contributions mean the world to us and those we serve.

- A contribution of $25.00 will allow us to shelter one more individual in need for one night.
- A contribution of $36.00 pay the electric bill for one day.
- A contribution of $71.00 will pay for trash pick up for one month.
- Your contribution, large or small, will help us help those in need.

Have fun & learn – Find a word

I M T P L B E T H T B D Y Y E
Q B B H D A U P S H I L G T E
O M A N M G J I U A M N N G I S
B E T O V I N E N Q F H K E N H
N S U X B K N E D A K K P U E
Y L I M A F R R F B U B M L
H O M E L E S S E S A Y H M T
K H R K Y K E R W A W T M T
O B S C V E R U Q O F C R
F G I M P R E K I L V H L Y
F I D L E W F I O R Q T I U X
O P E C N A T S I S S A Z M J
V X R P Q F T O Q X R Z D M A
X L F B O S B X D T I U G J J
M J T X Q O B F Y P Q M I E A

ASSESSMENT

What are we trying to provide
- Our new Volunteer Coordinator
- Our Guest Advocates
- Free and Funny every morning
- Who we serve, what we build
- Our Fearsless Leader (Director)
- Delicious every night
- Our Workforce of guests
- Our Fearless Leader Damen
- The atmosphere at the shelter
- Those we serve
- Our Weekday Manager
- Our Weekend Manager
- Our National Manager
- Those we serve
- Our Neighborhood Manager
- Our Weekday Manager
- Our Weekend Manager
- What we can be because of you

Unscramble the letters to find the words described on the right

SHELTER

Those necessary to make the shelter run.

SDBE

We have 10 of them for guests in the emergency shelter.

STGSE

They are the whole reason we are here.

LKSUE OHUES

One of two transitional housing units.

Considering Electricity

by Meri Krause, Advisory Board/Core Community Member

Do you remember the Northeast Blackout of 2003? Trust me, I know it wasn’t the day President Kennedy was shot or the day man first walked on the moon, so I wouldn’t be surprised if you barely recall it. But on August 14, 2003, most of Michigan, along with New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Ontario, Canada lost power. The outage only lasted a few days for most people, but for some it was an opportunity to experience what it would be like to live without electricity. No air conditioning, heat, computers, televisions, radios, hair dryers, electric razors, curling irons, Xbox 360, refrigerators, washers and dryers, or lamps to read by. For some, this probably seemed like a nice respite from the daily grind – a momentary return to the simple life. But have you ever thought about which of these things you could live without permanently? Have you ever considered that the homeless live without these things every day when they are not in shelter? No air conditioning to cool ourselves on a hot summer afternoon; no heaters to warm ourselves on a bitterly cold winter’s night. No way to wash clothes or keep a food cold. It’s so easy to get accustomed to the luxury of our modern world to us and those we serve.

If you’re interested, please call our Volunteer Coordinator Beth Young at (517) 482-2099.

Not able to give money at this time? We understand! But will you please consider giving of your time? We are always searching for volunteers to assist in serving meals and doing light housework in the evenings from 6 to 10 pm, donating meals, or serving overnight from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the Overnight Shelter (Don’t worry! You can sleep on this shift!). If you are interested, please call our Volunteer Coordinator Beth Young at (517) 482-2699.

Your contribution,

by Bombi, Shelter Advocate
2011 Financial Snapshot (January to October)

By Kern Johnson, Financial Steward/Trainer

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\ vocalist
Q B B H D A U P S H I L G T E
\ L E K U S M J G I U A M N N G I S
B B T O V I N F N Q H K N H N
\ S U X B K N E D A K K P U E
Y L I M A F R R F B B U M L
\ H O M E L E S S E S A Y H M T A K R H Y K E A N P E R V B C L E D U E U F F C R
T G I M P R E K I L V H L Y
F I D L E W F I O R Q T I U X
O P E C N A T S I S S A A M J
V X R P Q F T O Q X R Z D M A
X L F B O S B K D T U I G J J
M J T Q X O B F Y P Q M I E A

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INTRODUCING...BETH YOUNG

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After a short period he got his license back and found a job driving truck. When he called the office about the job lead he had in Corunna, you could hear the excitement in his voice. It was a pleasure to see the hard work and his dedication pay off. We drove out to the interview site and watched him ace the driving test. It was the beginning of his journey back to independence. He was able to start paying child support again and had lots of guidance in budgeting so he wouldn’t find himself in the same position again.

After about a year, Michael was able to go out on his own and was so proud of the accomplishments he was able to make in such a short time. He owes all of this to the staff at Loaves & Fishes, for the continued support of the Lansing community and, of course, our dedicated donors. Michael is now employed in the Upper Peninsula in his dream job, working for the railroad.

CONTRIBUTIONS

- Served 5580 meals
- Provided a total of 2790 bed nights for 153 guests
- 10 guests move into housing (and keep it), at least 18 acquired jobs.
- We saw 10 guests move into housing (and keep it), at least 18 acquired jobs.
- We served 5580 meals
- We have 10 of them for guests in the emergency shelter.

Unscramble the letters to find the words described on the right

**UNVERTELO**
Those necessary to make the shelter run.

**SDBE**
We have 10 of them for guests in the emergency shelter.

**STUGE**
They are the whole reason we are here.

**LKSSEU OUES**
One of two transitional housing units.

Not All Fun and Games

We hope you’ve enjoyed our games, but we all know that homelessness isn’t just fun and games. Each year we attempt to do a little bit more for those in need with a little bit less in resources. We hope that, if you felt called, you will help by completing the enclosed envelope. Whether you are a first-time giver or a life-time giver, your contributions mean the world to us and those we serve.

- A contribution of $25.00 will allow us to shelter one individual in need for one night.
- A contribution of $36.00 will pay the electric bill for one day.
- A contribution of $71.00 will pay for electricity for one night.
- A contribution of $175 will pay for laundry for one month.
- A contribution of $600 will pay for all guests to have a Christmas meal.

We have 100 of them for guests in the emergency shelter.

We have 10 of them for guests in the emergency shelter.

We have 10 of them for guests in the emergency shelter.

We have 10 of them for guests in the emergency shelter.

Find a word

**ASISTANCE**
We are what we are trying to provide

**BETH**
Our Volunteer Coordinator

**BOMBI**
Our Guest Advocate

**BREAKFAST**
Free and funny every morning

**COMUNITY**
Who we serve, what we build

**DINNER**
Delicious every night

**ERMA**
Our Fearless Leader(Director)

**FAMILY**
Who we try to be for our guests

**HOMELESS**
The atmosphere at the shelter

**HOMES**
Those who serve

**LAUNDRY**
Lota, md. Links done every day

**LIL**
Our Weekday Manager

**OVERNIGHT**
When our guests stay

**PEGGY**
Our Weekend Manager

**SHELTER**
What we can be because of you

**ASSISTANCE**
What we are trying to provide

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**Not All Fun and Games...cont'd**

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