

Loaves and Fishes



Ministries

**Emergency Overnight
Shelter and Services**

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

**Transitional Housing
and Services**

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

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

You Are Our Strength

November 2011

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 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 "reporting" Michigan citizens are unemployed (Lansing State Journal, Oct 5, 2011). *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 so we 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



INTRODUCING...BETH YOUNG

What a pleasure it is to be 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 my experiences will help me 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 areas such as 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.

Your generosity in action

by Riheti 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, and from 10-8 am! Our donors keep the mission and vision started 32 years ago to live on and reach a whole new generation of volunteers. Thank you very much for your dedication, and donations.

The information below presents an overview of the guests we served in both our Emergency Overnight Shelter (short term) and in our 2 Transitional (long-term) Houses. 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.** Everything that you do creates a loving and supportive environment and, for some, that kindness is the tonic they needed to flourish!

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), at least 18 acquired jobs.**

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**

Zacchaeus House for Mom's with Kids

- **5 women and 8 children served**
- **4 were working or attending school**
- **2 moved into permanent housing**

2011 Financial Snapshot

(January to October)

By Vern Johnson, Financial Steward/Treasurer

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 \$230,000. 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 revenues over expenses are \$3,350.

CONTRIBUTIONS total \$88,053 and **GRANTS** \$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.*

Michael's Amazing Story by Bombi

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 was 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 our Guest Advocate and case workers from Capital Area Community Services. While Michael was able to make strides with assistance from the great agencies in town, his own 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 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.

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

ASSISTANCE	What we are trying to provide
BETH	Our new Volunteer Coordinator
BOMBI	Our Guest Advocate
BREAKFAST	Free and Yummy every morning
COMMUNITY	Who we serve, what we build
DINNER	Delicious every night
ERMA	Our Fearless Leader (Director)
FAMILY	What we try to be for our guests
HOME	The atmosphere at the shelter
HOMELESS	Those we serve
LAUNDRY	Lots of loads done every day
LIZ	Our Weekday Manager
OVERNIGHT	When our guests stay
PEGGY	Our Weekend Manager
SHELTER	What we can be because of you

Unscramble the letters to find the words described on the right

UVSERTNELO	Those necessary to make the shelter run.
SDBE	We have 10 of them for guests in the emergency shelter.
STSUGE	They are the whole reason we are here.
LKSEU OUHES	One of two transitional housing units.

Not All Fun and Games

We hope you've enjoyed our games, but we all know that homelessness is anything but 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 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 will 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.

See bottom of next column ▶▶▶

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, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Ontario, Canada lost power. The outage only last a few days for most, but for many people 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 themselves on a hot summer afternoon; no heaters to warm themselves on a bitterly cold winter's night. No way to wash clothes or keep a food cold. It's so easy to absentmindedly turn on the light on our night stand, grab the remote and tune into our favorite sitcom, or put our drink in the refrigerator so it will be nice and cold, and forget that not everyone enjoys these privileges. August 14, 2003, was a mere nuisance for most of us, but for the homeless, it is a way of life – another obstacle to overcome, another struggle to endure. Before you flip that next switch or plug in that appliance, will you please pray that everyone will be able to enjoy all of the things that we take for granted including our electricity?

▶▶▶ *Not All Fun and Games...cont'd*

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 p.m., 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're interested, please call our Volunteer Coordinator Beth Young at (517) 482-2099.*



831 N. Sycamore
Lansing, MI 48906

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Barbara Curtis
Angela Fowler
Vern Johnson, Financial Steward/Treasurer
Meri Krause
Donna Stone
Taylor Swan
Mary Tardif, Recorder/Secretary
Joan Tirak, Co-President
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L&F Staff

Erma Chastine, Director
Peggy Farlin, Weekend Facilities Manager
Elizabeth McKay, Weekday Facilities Manager
Riheti Ngubeni (Bombi), Guest Advocate
Beth Young, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Scheduler

Diane Rathmel

Intern

Janet Hetherington



**Our Loaves and Fishes Ministries
Staff and Core Community**



Back row,
left to right:
Riheti
Ngubeni
(Bombi),
Elizabeth
McKay,
Diane
Rathmel,
Joan Tirak,

Donna Stone, Beth Young, Carol Baker, Meri Krause and Vern Johnson.
Front row, left to right: Peggy Farlin, Angela Fowler, Mary Tardif and Erma Chastine.
(Missing from the photo are Barbara Curtis, Jim Veurink and Janet Hetherington.)

*Deep peace of the
running waves to you
Deep peace of the
flowing air to you
Deep peace of the
smiling stars to you
Deep peace of the quiet
earth to you
Deep peace of the
watching shepherds to
you
Deep peace of the Son of
Peace to you!*

(An Irish Blessing)

A Blessed and Joyous Christmas!