

2023—FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



BRINGING
WARMTH
TO THE
COMMUNITY

Crossover Outreach shows the love of Christ by feeding, clothing, and providing services and programs to those in need, restoring hope and rebuilding lives.

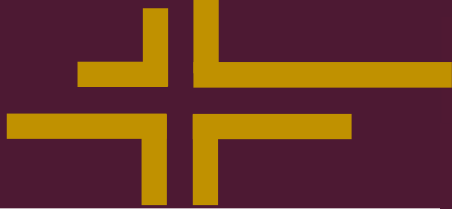
Throughout the year we offer annual programs that uplift children and families. One of the most important is our winter coat program. This program is vital for the community because as we know, Michigan winters can get brutal. We've been fortunate to have a mild winter so far, but we've still had bitterly cold days. At the beginning of November we kicked off the program by distributing NEW winter coats to **ANY** child that has need, as well as gently used coats for adults. Along with the coat, each child receives a new hat and gloves, and if available, a new pair of winter boots. Thanks to the continued support of this community, and a generous grant from the Child Welfare Society in Flint, **832** individuals have received warm winter coats since the start of the program. Of these individuals, **518** of them have been children. The photo above represents just one of the many families who received warmth and comfort so far this season. Having a warm winter coat makes a huge difference and allows our clients who have need, to stay warm and dry during these colder months. We are blessed to have the opportunity to provide this program for our families and will continue it until the end of March. As you start cleaning out your closets to make room for new items received at Christmas, please consider donating any gently used winter gear to Crossover.

Have you ever wondered what happens to those wonderful donations? This story may from a few years ago but tells the tale of how impactful our programs are. A gentleman came in (the temperature was 28 and dropping) wearing a coat that was held together by packing tape. He was wearing dishwashing gloves on his hands because that's all he had. That day he not only walked away with a coat that was warm and in great condition, a new hat and gloves, but he also received HOPE and was shown love and respect. This is what your gifts do every day at Crossover. Thank you for uplifting our neighbors in need with your loving donations!

Thank you for helping us keep our neighbors in need warm and dry this season!



SHOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST | RESTORING HOPE | REBUILDING LIVES



SERVICE IN ACTION

Christmas 2022

Each Christmas, we are blessed with the opportunity to sponsor families in need. This year, because of YOUR generosity, our Christmas program was once again a resounding success. Through the support we received from our partnering churches, community partners and donors like you, we served 105 families—389 individuals, many of which were children. These children received toys, games, crafts, clothing, pajamas, but more importantly, they experienced a Christmas filled with love and joy. Special thanks to all of our individuals donors, those who sponsored families, First Presbyterian Church, Court Street United Methodist, St. Paul’s Episcopal, Every Nation Church and Dort Financial for making this program possible!



Gifts of Honor & Celebration

Thank you for helping those less fortunate while honoring loved ones or celebrating the milestones in these people’s lives.

- Staff & Volunteers of Crossover:** Doris Sain
- Ken Smith:** Carl & Linda Leser
- Samuel Nock:** Lionel & Sue Wernette
- Andre Brown:** Michael & Teresa Munley
- Lionel & Sue Wernette:** Samuel Nock
- Jane Somers & Carolyn Fortier:** John & Joan Kippe

PEOPLE OF CROSSOVER

This is why we do what we do. One of our clients had this to say when asked why she was thankful for Crossover.

“They have supplied smiles, food, and support. Everything I’ve lost and thought I could not get back. Thank you!” - Sylvia Case

Thank YOU for helping us uplift the people of Flint & Genesee County!

Save The Date:

Join us for fun, fellowship & inspiration as we celebrate YOU with our

May Fundraiser Luncheon

Friday, May 5, 2023 | 11:30am - 1pm | First Presbyterian Church
More Details Coming Soon! | Seating is Limited | First Come, First Serve



“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new” - Socrates

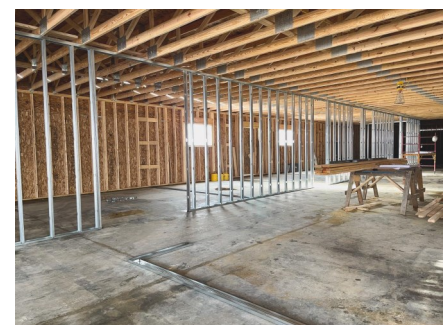


Crossover Building Update:

If you've driven by Crossover in the last several months, you'll have noticed some significant changes. It's like we blinked and a building appeared! These progress pictures show you how it started and how it's currently going. This winter weather has been so good to us and lots has been accomplished since construction began in October.

When you initially looked out the window, you saw green grass and a mound of dirt. Now when you look out, you see an enclosed building,

with interior walls being put in! Fun fact: it took roughly 100 yards or roughly 10 trucks of concrete to make our floor. We are extremely excited about this new season for Crossover and what it means for the community. We are bracing ourselves for big changes. Change itself can be scary, but it can also be beautiful. Is it scary to think we won't be serving out of this house anymore? Absolutely. The beautiful thing about this change is what it will allow us to do for Flint & Genesee County. Poverty continues to be one of the most persistent problems in our community and according to welfareinfo.org, the poverty rate for Flint in 2021 was 35.5%. It's estimated that 28,884 individuals (out of a population of 81,417) are living in poverty today. In addition to providing more space to store and distribute food, clothing, personal hygiene and household goods, the new facility will provide us the opportunity to expand programming and host classes that include topics like health care, literacy, job training, nutrition/healthy cooking, and financial literacy. These classes will be provided by partner organizations and enable Crossover to address the root causes of poverty. We are currently working with students from UM-Flint to help us create and implement a peer-to-peer mentorship program that will allow us to form deeper relationships with our clients, better assess their needs and walk alongside them as they strive to improve their quality of life and achieve self-sufficiency. The new building will also greatly increase energy efficiency and will help sustain Crossover's services in the future. Thank you to everyone who has committed so much to make this dream a reality! We are excited to celebrate with you later this year when the project is complete!



DID YOU KNOW?

Daily Services

When we talk about our daily services, have you ever wondered what those actually are? Our daily services are designed to serve those individuals and families marginalized by poverty in the Flint & Genesee County area. We want to ensure that everyone in the community has access to the essential items needed to survive, whether that's help with emergency food, personal hygiene items, clothing, cleaning supplies or household goods. We might look at those items and think nothing of them, these everyday items that most of us have readily available. To those that struggle financially, these basic necessities are sometimes seen as a luxury that few can afford. We are here to carry our clients through their time of need and fill in the gap with food, clothing, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and household items. Our food pantry remains one of our foundational services, as it is oftentimes people's primary need. Our families take with them (2-3) days of well-rounded meals, consisting of breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack for everyone in the household. We also offer personal hygiene items; toothbrush, toothpaste, razors, soap, shampoo, deodorant and toilet paper. Those services are offered once every 30 days. Clients are able to shop for clothing (3 outfits) and take home cleaning supplies; laundry detergent, dish soap, disinfectant cleaner, once every 60 days. One of the most impactful services we offer is a one-time service of household items. In 2022, **287** individuals were provided with a fresh start as they moved into their new homes. Some of the items they receive are dishes, pots, pans, cups, silverware, bedding and towels for everyone in the household, and other small items based on availability. We are thankful to partner with so many great community organizations, our supporting churches, and have the best donors around who make these services possible for those struggling financially in the community. We are always accepting donations of gently used clothing, items to stock our pantry, personal hygiene and cleaning supplies and household goods. The back of the newsletter gives a breakdown of how we were able to provide hope to our clients in 2022!



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SERVICE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE BIG AND GRANDIOSE TO BE MEANINGFUL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

”

- Cheryl A. Esplin

“Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve”
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK Day of Service | A Day On, Not A Day Off

For nearly 30 years, the University of Michigan—Flint, has honored the memory and continuing legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a “Day of Service”. Special thanks to the students from Kettering and the University of Michigan—Flint who helped us get our winter coat area organized and started prepping for our Easter program. Thank you for your hard work, and for honoring Dr. King with your time and talents!



Interested in volunteering with Crossover? | CALL TODAY!
We need helpers to sort and label clothing, bag up personals and more!

Gifts of Memory

We offer our deepest sympathies to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one and we are truly grateful for the loving donations in their memory.

- Joe Thrash:** Ruth Thrash, Rev. Paul & Luz Ytterock
Roberta Hibbeln: Ken & Carol Smith
Janet Cotton: Chantel Cotton Gaines
Patrick Knight: Lauren & Sam Knight
Dave George: Margaret George
Martin Vallee: Charles & Kathryn Hollitt, Lance Lambert
Diane Meier: Roger Meier
Jeanne Dobes: Denise Diller, Ken & Carol Smith
Dr. Bobbi Schoolfield: Susan Boyd
Millie Janka: Judy Clippard
Hazen & Shirley Germaine: Timothy & Kimberly Germaine, Lisa Kennedy
Arden Carpenter: Mark & Maria Fauss
David J. Rogers: Craig & Sarah Leavitt
Don Wolfe: Jean Wolfe
Liz & Darrell Stevens: Robert & Melinda Brewer
Dr. & Mrs. R.H. Harper: John & Ann Briggs
Ginger Matar & Jackie Elliott: Jane Bingham
Teresa Marie Wyatt & Rose Marie MacLean: Dr. Dennis Wyatt
Barbara Landaal Terry: Jeanette Mansour, Steve and Kimbery Landaal
Beth Dolby: Patricia Alexander



Easter Program

It's hard to believe, but we're getting ready for Easter! Would you like to help? Last year we blessed 92 families with all the essentials for an Easter meal, AND every child in the home received a small Easter basket filled with candy and little gifts. As we prepare and get ready to celebrate, we hope you'll join us to ensure that children and families who are struggling financially are able to celebrate as we all do!

Donations of chocolate bunnies, prefilled Easter eggs, candy, small toys, etc...or \$ for us to buy them is greatly appreciated!

Thank you!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! These are just some of the urgent needs for Crossover. Please help if you can!

- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Peanut Butter
- ◆ Canned Fruit, Veggies & Meat
- ◆ Women's pajamas
- ◆ Women's pants size 0-8 (jeans, sweats, leggings)



CROSSOVER OUTREACH

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HOW CROSSOVER GAVE HOPE IN 2022!

We continued to uplift our neighbors in need in Flint & Genesee County in 2022. Thanks to YOU we were able to ensure that those struggling financially had a place to receive a helping hand.

- ◆ 5,677 people were blessed with personal hygiene products (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant razors, toilet paper)
- ◆ 3,758 people were blessed with cleaning supplies (laundry detergent, antibacterial cleanser, dish soap, scrubbies)
- ◆ 5,963 people received food here and 463 people received food via mobile food giveaways!
- ◆ 4,445 people received gently used clothing
- ◆ 287 people were provided with household items for their new home
- ◆ 1,053 babies had clean diapers
- ◆ 311 people had a free ride home thanks to our bus pass program
- ◆ 92 families had a delicious Easter dinner and all the kids in the household received Easter baskets (265 kids)
- ◆ 17 children (12 to Junior Camp & 5 to Middle Camp) attended camp at Camp Chickigami
- ◆ 243 kids went Back to School with everything needed for success (new backpack, supplies, clothes, underwear, socks, shoes)
- ◆ 417 people had a traditional Thanksgiving feast through our Thanksgiving program
- ◆ 105 families (389 individuals) celebrated a Christmas that was merry & bright
- ◆ 471 kids received NEW winter coats plus 162 received NEW boots too!
- ◆ 91 kids received new bedding
- ◆ **Everyone left here with hope, dignity, love and respect**