

The *Helping Hand***MISSION
STATEMENT**

Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministry is a faith-based, interdenominational mission established to provide free emergency food, clothing, household, personal items, and youth programs to those most in need in our community. Providing faith based services and programs showing the love of Christ, restoring hope, and rebuilding lives.

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Kurt's Story

Kurt has led a difficult life. We've all heard similar stories; a young person falling in with the wrong crowd, going in and out of independent living organizations like Boysville, in and out of homelessness, moving around the country to try to find a better life only to fall back into old patterns again and again. But Kurt's story is headed toward a happy ending! He reconnected with friends and family via technology and decided to return home to Michigan. He had a place to live and was looking for a job when COVID hit. The pandemic made finding work that much harder.

Our Center Coordinator, Karen, was leaving the grocery store when she saw Kurt, standing outside holding the sign shown above. Due to COVID-19, we closed to volunteers as many of ours are in high risk categories. We had just been granted funding from the Greater Flint Urgent Relief Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint allowing us to offer a stipend to our neighbors in need of work due to the pandemic. Karen turned around and shared that there was work to do at Crossover and invited him to call Monday if he was interested. Karen didn't know if he would call but, on Monday, Kurt reached out. After a short interview, Kurt began working at Crossover! He's been a wonderful worker! We're blessed to have him here helping bag groceries and reorganize our building as we prepare to reopen for clothing shopping and providing household items while incorporating processes and procedures to ensure the safety of staff, clients, and our community in general. Though it's part time and temporary, it's much needed income, extra experience, and a good reference for Kurt as he continues to search for full time work.

After years of stops and starts, Kurt landed here at Crossover. We're blessed to have him here for however long that is and look forward to helping Kurt continue on his trajectory toward full time, meaningful work, and his goal of obtaining living wage employment. We are thankful God put Karen in Kurt's path – her willing and loving heart, and her ability to always see the good in people is truly a gift ♥. **We are thrilled to report that Kurt has been hired by Kroger FULL TIME!**

YOU make Blessings like this possible!

Director's Corner

Always Through the Eyes of Love

I can only imagine what the founders of Crossover were thinking 1991 as they created Crossover! I'm sure they could never have imagined the Flint water crisis that poisoned thousands of men and women and children.

No less the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 where we find ourselves today. This pandemic has brought our country's economy to a screeching halt and sent unemployment rates to a height never seen even during the great depression.

In this COVID-19 pandemic, we find ourselves once again standing in the breach, looking into the eyes of the hopeless and transforming their uncertainty into a smile, restoring a small part of their hope. We are seeing folks at our door from different areas in our community and different zip codes...folks who would never have had to ask for help and never dreamed they'd be in this position.



Crossover immediately went to work partnering with other community organizations to work to provide emergency food through Mobile Food Pantries (MFPs). Bus services had to shut down to help stop the spread of the virus so we worked to target neighborhoods where need was high and transportation has long been a problem. We wanted to get food to people where they were while they struggled to get to us.



We also had to completely rethink our food delivery process to keep our clients, our staff and our volunteers safe. Implementing policies that supported social distancing and providing protective equipment such as masks gloves and face shields.



Our Kids Camp Ministry at Camp Chickagami has been cancelled for 2020. And we are currently working with the leadership of Camp Chickagami to provide some type of camp experience for Crossover's children. Camp-in-a-box...something to give them so they could have activities to enrich their summer.



We are working on a pilot called, Mindful Kayaking for Kids. We are partnered with the Flint River Watershed Coalition and the Crim Mindfulness Initiative to make this happen. Our pilot is targeting teens who will spend a day on the river, kayaking and learning that Mindful practices that will help them deal with everyday stress. Stay tuned for further updates! We are really excited for our kids and for this new opportunity.

Most of you are well aware of the size constraints of our building! As a result of these constraints and again to maintain proper safety procedures and social distancing requirements, we have purchased two Shipping Containers that are being used to quarantine all of our in-kind donations. All donations are required to undergo a 72 hour quarantine. This ensures that the donations are safe for us to handle and also for our clients to receive.



Not unlike the Flint Water Crisis, Crossover finds itself at ground zero during the COVID-19 pandemic. And once again, thanks to you, Crossover is here, standing in the breach, meeting people where they are, with all the love, compassion and hope our community and our clients have grown to expect.

“And let them first pray together, that so they may associate in peace.” ~Benedict of Nursia

Gratitude!
Craig Leavitt

Donations—Uplifting During Difficult Times!

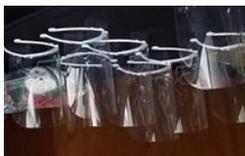
When times are tough, what do we see?

Loving Hearts, Giving Spirits, Jesus working through YOU!

Though we had to take steps to ensure safety for all, we were blessed with some loving gifts to help us and our neighbors in need through the shutdowns and our reopening!



Faith in Femininity
Feminine Hygiene Products



Factory Two
Face Shields



Emery Walling
3D Printed Masks/PPE
"Kingdom Project"



Blue Cross Complete
Bags for Groceries



**FEP Team of Blue Cross
Blue Shield of MI**
Bags for Groceries

We also had help preparing our shipping containers from Jason Shepard and a delivery of Back to School clothing from NGA Flint, and so many more! Now that we have our shipping containers for storage, so many of you have been bringing in your gently used items! THANK YOU! YOU ARE CROSSOVER and we're blessed to have you helping to

Show the Love of Christ • Restore Hope • Rebuild Lives

Back to School? YES!

Before you know it, summer will be over and kids will be heading back to school! During regular times, for many families, this is a difficult and stressful time of year. Clothing and school supplies can stress and already tight budget. This year, we add the extra uncertainty of where school will be...home or in the regular building. However, one thing is certain, no matter where the learning is taking place, children are still growing and will still need properly fitting clothing and supplies to make learning happen!



Our goal is to help our children return to learning, confident and prepared! With your help, Our kids are blessed with two new outfits (including socks and underwear), a new pair of shoes, and a backpack full of age appropriate school supplies. Wherever learning takes place, these items will still be needed by families with children, even more this year as we see need from those who've never needed us before!

YOU can help children in need return to learning prepared, breaking down barriers so they can achieve their fullest potential! Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation... donate a new backpack... coordinate a collection of new school uniforms or school supplies...donate school supplies...give online via PayPal (visit www.crossoverministryflint.org and click the Donate Now button)...

However you choose to help, your gifts make a difference in the life of a child in need!

Quarantine...It's Not Just For People!



How to keep YOU, our Staff, and Clients Safe?

As we work to uplift those in need, many have spent their quarantine time cleaning out closets and cupboards! We're blessed to have you donating these items...how do we ensure they are COVID-19 free? We don't have washers and dryers or the space and time to wash and dry every item donated...we need our dock open for food deliveries...hmmmm.

How do we handle this safely?

SHIPPING CONTAINERS! Crossover now owns two 20' shipping containers in which we will "Quarantine" donations to ensure they are COVID-19 free before we sort and bring items into our building! Necessity is truly the mother of invention and we hope you're as excited about our new additions as we are! Special thanks to Jason Shepard for his help with this project. We look forward to accepting your generous donations of gently used items to provide a helping hand to our neighbors in need!

NOTE: Please be sure to keep FOOD and anything that may MELT in the heat of a container in a SEPARATE package and let us know when you drop them off! And don't forget to please wear your mask when making your donations for our safety and we will wear ours for your safety ♥♥♥!

And as always, thank you for helping to

Show the Love of Christ • Restore Hope • Rebuild Lives



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.

Bernie Cheladyn: by Nancy Cheladyn

Dr. Byron Schoolfield: by Larry & Sue Boyd

Rev. Gary Sanderson: by Ken & Carol Smith

Ginger Matar: by Russell Mattar

Jackie Elliott: by Jeanne Dobes, John Ausen, Larry Elliott, Jack Patrick, Howard & Tammy Bush, Pat & Julie Young, Kevin & Monica Patrick

John F. Clippard: by his girls

Judie Randels: by The Flint Community Fund, Bill Piper, Keith & Glenda Johnston, Garth Pleasant, Judy Clippard, Reba Walling

Martin Vallee: by Rosemarie MacLean

Sally Minkler: by Mark & Kathleen Lloyd, Gloria Williams

William B. Bigler: by the Bigler Bunch

Gifts of Honor & Celebration

Thank you for helping those less fortunate while honoring loved ones or celebrating the milestones in these peoples lives:

Chris & Pam Flores: by Dawn Vallee

Dawn Vallee (Get Well): by Nancy Epstein

Larry, Viola: by Susan Boyd

Lionel & Sue Wernette: by Joe & Ruth Thrash

Teresa Wyatt (Good Health): by Nancy Epstein

Pandemic Response

April, May and June 2020

As we all adapt to major changes required for the safety and well-being of all during this time of upheaval, we were blessed to provide food to over 1,350 people from our in-house food pantry and over 6,300 from our Mobile Food Giveaways! We were also able to partner with other agencies to make these mobile food giveaways possible—they are listed below the photos. 787 people have been blessed with personal hygiene products during this time as well plus 228 little ones were blessed with diapers! We began providing clothing and household items again as of June 9th and are once again open for donations of gently used items! Here are some pictures of the wonderful work and food being given through the pandemic!



Stronger Together!

As you know, Crossover is about community! Uplifting those in need however we are blessed to do so. We do this through our referral system, working together for Mobile Food Pantries, and most recently with Carriage Town Ministries. They asked if we could help them do something special for the men in their shelter on Father's Day? Our response...ABSOLUTELY!

They needed dress shirts and ties for their residents and we were happy to help!

Happy Father's Day to all!



The one thing this pandemic has proven is that we are all one job loss, healthcare issue, or other emergency away from needing a place just like Crossover...from needing a friendly face, a caring person to say, we are here...we see you...we understand...we want to help! We are **STRONGER TOGETHER!**

~God bless you and Thank you for making this help possible!



CROSSOVER DOWNTOWN OUTREACH MINISTRY
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Reggie Smith

Urgent Needs...

HOUSEHOLD: Pots & Pans, Beverage Glasses, Dinner Plates, Salad/Soup Bowls, Mixing Bowls

CLIENT REQUESTS: As we begin serving again, we've been asked about some new items. Our clients have noted a need for **BABY WIPES, DISH DETERGENT, LAUNDRY SOAP**

MONETARY DONATIONS—CANCELLED EVENTS:

Due to COVID-19, we have had to completely rethink our fundraisers. Normally we would all gather together over a meal to celebrate YOU, the people who make this ministry possible. In order to keep everyone safe, we cancelled our May Fundraiser Luncheon. Sadly, we are not seeing a safe way to gather without a vaccine or a sure-fire anti-viral to know we won't put YOU at risk! We ask you to prayerfully consider donating in lieu of our luncheon. Our new normal MUST take into account the safety of each of you, our staff, and our clients as we move forward during these uncertain times. Use the envelope enclosed if you choose to pledge your support and continue to uplift our neighbors in need through these difficult times!

Thank You!