

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.

CROSSOVER
WISH LIST

◆ Prayers and input as we, together, begin our Strategic Planning process to insure Crossover, your legacy, remains a beacon of HOPE well into the next decades!



↑ Smiles are PRICELESS!

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YOU make this happen!

Each Christmas, we are blessed to have your help sponsoring families in need. Children receive toys, coloring books, new coats, clothing and pajamas, books and candy to make their holiday special. In the City of Flint, over 65% of children live in poverty! It's a harsh reality. But for every child living in poverty, there are even more people like YOU, giving of your time, talent, and treasure to insure these wonderful young people get the opportunities they need to become their best selves. Through programs like Character Building Camp, Back to School, New Coats for Kids, and most recently, Christmas, children in our community are LIFTED UP through Crossover THANKS TO YOU!

Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE:

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

May Fundraiser Luncheon

Thursday, May 7, 2019 • 11a.m. to 1p.m. • First Presbyterian Church

CALL TODAY TO RSVP • SEATING IS LIMITED—FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE

Volunteer Highlights

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON
Each year, we like to thank a special group of volunteers; the regulars! We have a wonderful group of Board Members, Advisory Board Members, grocery packers, clothes sorters and personals/household items packers who commit regularly scheduled blocks of time at Crossover to insure everything runs smoothly! We celebrated these AMAZING friends on Valentine's Day!



You inspire us every day! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

FRIENDS COLLECTING THINGS...

The Eastern Michigan Hockey Association/Flint Jr. Firebirds held 50 Bins in 50 Days again collecting **175 bins** of items to give to others! Friends from Team One Credit Union and students from WAY Academy of Flint collected non-perishable food items for us to give to those in need! Last but NOT LEAST, The River Rats FCB Supporters Club and the Flint City Bucks collected soccer balls for us to give to kids for Christmas! We are blessed to have so many friends, new and long term, who help us uplift those in need throughout the year. We are honored to have ALL of your help!



ALTERNATIVE WINTER BREAK, CHRISTMAS ELVES, AND MORE!

The holiday season was jam packed with helpers from the Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Mott Community College, Entrepreneurs Society of University of Michigan-Flint, The People's Church, and more! We are blessed to have such an amazing network of ELVES to insure Christmas (and every day) is Bright for our children and their families!



THESE AMAZING YOUTH PROVE THAT WE'RE IN GOOD HANDS...OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

Again this year, youth from Powers Catholic High School spent time helping out at Crossover as a part of their PCHS Senior Theology Capstone Project. Then they invited their National Honor Society friends to come help too! Thank you for helping live your faith with us here at Crossover!



URGENT NEEDS

CLOTHING

Pre-Teen Girls Clothing
(sizes 0 to 9)
Children's Clothing (all sizes)

HOUSEHOLD

Pots & Pans
Washcloths
Cereal Size Bowls

PANTRY

Individual Size Juice
(can/bottle/box)
Soup (chicken noodle, cream soups)

MLK Day of Service

A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

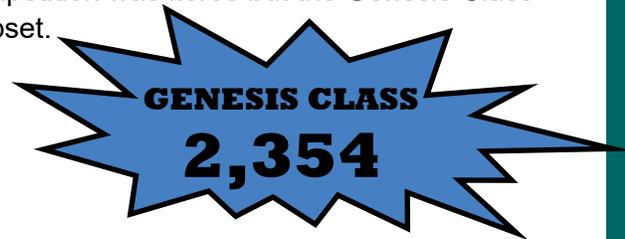


Special thanks to our volunteers from the University of Michigan-Flint—University Outreach—and Powers Catholic High School who chose to share their day off helping us help our neighbors in need! Thanks also to our friends at Mott Community College's Phi Theta Kappa, Honors Program, Feminist League and Project Linus who tied blankets for us to give out. You all make a huge difference and honor Dr. King with your time and talents. THANK YOU!



Crossover is once again “flush” with toilet paper thanks to our friends at Court Street United Methodist Church and the Genesis Sunday School class’s annual TP Bowl Challenge. The results are in! The competition was fierce but the Genesis Class RECLAIMED their title with a 102 roll upset.

CONGREGATION
2,252



For the first time even, the church held an “Overtime” collection bringing in an additional 1,068 rolls. Once again, the true winners are...OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED WITH 5,674 ROLLS.....those families who are blessed with toilet paper thanks to the good hearted competition at Court Street United Methodist Church!

Thank you!

Director's Corner

We are blessed at Crossover each day as we serve and care for our clients. Crossover is a very sacred place and there is not a day that goes by where my heart is not touched and educated by those we serve.

The face of poverty is very complex. It can no longer be looked at as the homeless person on the street or an unwed mother with dependent children. That conventional wisdom and the narrative we hear in the news media, how poverty is framed, simply doesn't work.

Our clients come to us from many walks of life. We see the homeless and the unwed mother with dependent children but we also serve; the mentally ill, our veterans, those caught in the terrible cycle of generational poverty, the working poor, the underemployed. We see clients who have a college education and can't find the job that will pay them well enough to lift themselves from poverty. We have clients who work two jobs or a Mother and Father who are both working and still need our help! As you see, the face of poverty has become very diverse and complex and the need continues in every demographic.



There is something else I like to point out to folks that have a jaded opinion of poor people and have ill-informed opinions about them. Please come and take a tour of Crossover and have a deeper look. It is not easy to be poor! I will tell you this...in the 10 plus years I have been serving our Sister and Brothers that live on the fringes of our societies, I have never had one person ask me, Brother have you ever tried being poor? You should give it a try, it's great! That is because being poor is hard! The children are the true victims of poverty...they are given no choice as to what environment or circumstances they are born into.

The things' we take for granted are much different than our clients!

- If I take a bath everyday will I be able to pay my water bill?
- Is my water safe to drink?
- I have no money and we are out of toilet paper!
- It's been cold this month am I going to be able to afford the rent and gas and lights?
- The baby is running a fever and I have no transportation to get to the Doctor!
- I have little money no food and the baby needs diapers! Eat or Diapers?

These are just a few examples of what our clients face every day.

The services Crossover provides for our clients in the area of food, clothing, household and personal care products is often the antidote and answer to many of these questions, making their lives a little bit easier.

I must give thanks to the wonderful group of volunteers that serve tirelessly, day in and day out, at Crossover. Their compassion and selfless dedication to serve our less fortunate is humbling.

Many Blessings,

Craig Leavitt, Executive Director



Did you know that one in six people struggle with food insecurity in their households. You can fight hunger today by making a contribution to **Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministry**. Right now, your donation will go even further because the **Food Bank of Eastern Michigan**, our main food supplier, will match 10% of all donations raised during the March Against Hunger campaign.

To make a donation, send a check using the enclosed envelope and note March Against Hunger in the memo line, or make a donation using your credit or debit card via our Facebook page or our website! Every dollar donated makes a difference and helps put food on the table for a family in need, **thank you!**



WE NEED YOU!

We are in need of volunteers! Do you have a few hours each month available to help sort and label clothing or pack groceries? Volunteers are the mainstay and heart of our ministry. As you can see in this newsletter, volunteers like you are the reason we are able to serve clients as we do! Please consider signing up to volunteer.

Contact Judy Clippard, volunteer coordinator at judyclippard@gmail.com today!

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.

- Annette Sawinska:** by Joe & Ruth Thrash
Barbara Landaal Terry: by Jeanette Mansour & Joe Green
David Finchum: by Jeanne Dobes
Dave George: by Margaret George
Diana Oliver: by Richard Oliver
Don Wolfe: by Jean Wolfe
Donald Green: by Gene & Beth Dolby, Steve & Janice Baillie, Robert & Melinda Brewer
Dr. & Mrs. R.H. Harper: by John & Ann Briggs
Ginger Matar: by Russell Matar
Herb Wansitler Sr.: by Lenore Calvert
Joyce Whitfield: by Frank & Betty Hamilton
Martin Vallee: by Dennis & Teresa Wyatt, Rosemarie MacLean
Pat Diller: by Judy Clippard
Ron Keller: by Ken & Carol Smith, Cliff & Carol Lutz
Tony Hartwick: by Ken & Carol Smith

Gifts of Honor & Celebration

Thank you for helping those less fortunate by remembering those people special in your life and celebrating their milestones.

- Dawn Vallee:** by Dennis & Teresa Wyatt
Dennis & Teresa Wyatt: by Dawn Vallee
Don & Dee Lada: by Rick & Pegge Adams
Elaine Stermer (Happy Birthday): by Nancy & Paul Hoyte
Frank & Betty Hamilton (Happy Birthday): by Ellin Kohlmann
Joe & Ruth Thrash: by Patricia O'Brien
My Court Street UMC Friends: by Lei Tobis
Pastor Christy & Jason White's Wedding: by Steven Long

Character Building Camp

HELP US HELP LOCAL KIDS EXPERIENCE GOD

Each year, Crossover sends up to 40 inner-city children to Christian sleep-away camp to get a break from the chaos and insecurity of their daily lives. Summer camp allows our boys and girls to experience nature, make new friends, not worry about where their next meal is coming from, and learn about Christ. Our kids enjoy a week filled with canoeing, games, swimming, singing, worship, crafts and much more!



YOU can make a life changing difference for a child right here in Flint & Genesee County!

Contact Craig or Denise at (810) 234-2479 for details on how YOU can sponsor a child in 2020.



SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT!

We're on social media and love to share notes from those YOU help uplift each day. Thanks for making this possible!



“
love.
I am so blessed for such a blessing. I am so blessed I have found them, I wish love and blessings for each and every one of the staff members”





CROSSOVER DOWNTOWN OUTREACH MINISTRY

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FLINT, MI
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A Year in Review...

- **OVER 16,000 PEOPLE RECEIVED SERVICES FROM CROSSOVER IN 2019**
- Food provided for 11,550 people from our pantry!
- 307 children went Back to School with new clothes, shoes & backpacks full of supplies.
- 33 at-risk youth were blessed with a week at Christian summer camp, learning values, making memories, and having fun!
- 111 men and women received special work clothing & uniforms.
- 519 families received help starting their new home with household items (dishes, bedding, etc.)
- Personal hygiene items were given to bless 4,926 people.
- 462 young children had diapers.
- Winter coats brought warmth to 745 people (399 were NEW coat for kids!).
- 8,619 people were given clothes to wear.
- Over 472 people (100 families & 20 senior citizens) were given a Thanksgiving feast.
- 325 children & adults were able to celebrate a brighter Christmas.
- 1,236 people were provided a means of transportation home via bus pass.
- 20 people attended cooking class with childcare and received extra fruits, veggies, and tools to help make them more successful when preparing food for their families.
- An additional 1,079 people were provided food through 2 mobile food pantries!
- Over 940 people received clothing thanks to Crossover's participation in the Convoy of Hope event at Basset Park in Flint, September 2019.

Thank You!