



# OUTREACH NEWS

A publication of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County & The Marnee and John DeVine Foundation

4925 Packard Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48108 • 734.971.9781 • www.csswashtenaw.org

SPRING 2015

## Volunteers Make All The Difference: The CSSW Emergency Food Program

Volunteers at the Northside Emergency Food Bank bring the program to life. They are an eclectic and interesting bunch. Some have been coming for several years; others come for a few Saturdays to get in service hours for school requirements. Their ages range from 16 to 76 with experiences as diverse as they are remarkable. The common denominator is a commitment to their community and a desire to make a concrete difference in the lives of fellow residents and neighbors. And then there's the fact that it's just plain fun, in fact both clients and volunteers often show up early just to enjoy each other's company:

*"Kathy and I have been friends for 25 years. We attend St. Francis together. In August 2014, I started coming with her to the food bank every Tuesday. I enjoy helping clients and interacting with staff." — Karen*

The CSSW Emergency Food Program distributes groceries and personal care items to low-income families on a monthly and emergency basis. Families come to the program and shop for the items that their family will enjoy. Many volunteers are surprised at the number of working parents who come to the food bank to feed their families.

*"I had no idea there were so many people in need. Working here helps us realize how blessed we are. The food bank creates a community; I enjoy the companionship with the volunteers and clients. — Maya*

*Continued on page 5.*



Karen, Kathy & Maya, parishioners of St. Francis, spending Tuesday afternoon chatting as they stock shelves & prepare for distribution.

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## Elder Justice in Washtenaw

On January 29, The Washtenaw County Elder Justice Coalition (WCEJC) held its first meeting of the year for community members and professionals. The group's efforts include addressing lack of Adult Protective Service Workers, as well as encouraging advocacy, reporting abuse, and accessing community services for older adults.

## St. Joseph Catholic Church Lenten Giving

St. Joseph Catholic Church of Dexter delivered \$2,000-\$3,000 in food, toiletries, personal care items and paper products from their Lenten Food Drive to the Northside Emergency Food Bank. The group unloaded 15-20 cars with enough items to fill both the distribution room and lobby. A special thank you to the regular volunteers, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department and a local Girl Scout Troop who assisted in organizing the products.

# What's happening at CSSW?

## The Oaks Dexter Open House



The Oaks staff (above) provided homemade treats for visitors.

On November 20, The Oaks Adult Day Program (for adults coping with cognitive, physical and mental disabilities) held an open house at the Peace Lutheran Church Dexter location. Participant artwork was on display, as well as examples of daily activities.

If you have a loved one who may benefit from the program, or are looking for volunteer opportunities, please visit [csswashtenaw.org](http://csswashtenaw.org) or contact:

**Lisa Gdaniec, Site Manager**

734.662.4001 | [lgdaniec@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:lgdaniec@csswashtenaw.org).

## Winter Chore Day



St. Mary Student Parish volunteers helped Neighborhood Senior Services honor the Patron Saint Mary on her Feast Day. Braving the cold, seventeen volunteers helped two older adults prepare their homes for winter by cleaning up the yard, washing windows, trimming bushes and cleaning porches.

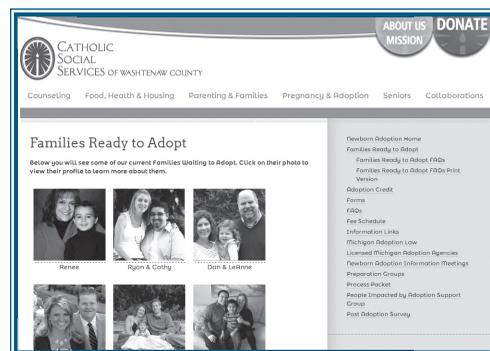
## RSVP Volunteers Recognized



Volunteers Ann Thomas and Florsteen Edwards attended.

On April 7, Ypsilanti Mayor Amanda Edmonds, along with the Ypsilanti City Council, participated in the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service by issuing a proclamation honoring CSSW's Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers who live in Ypsilanti. County-wide, approximately 300 seniors are involved with RSVP Washtenaw, serving 50,000 hours at 55-60 local nonprofits.

## NEW! Adoptive Families Webpage!



Birth mothers can now visit the CSSW site and view potential families from our adoption pool. If the birth mother sees a profile

of interest, she can contact a pregnancy counselor to find out if the family could be a potential match, as well as learn more about other families who may fit her situation. The new section can be found at: [csswashtenaw.org/wp-content/uploads/FamiliesReadytoAdopt](http://csswashtenaw.org/wp-content/uploads/FamiliesReadytoAdopt).

## What's Faith Got To Do With It?

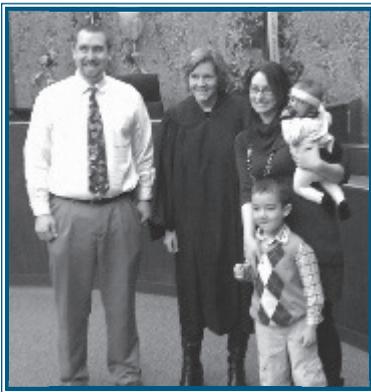
Pregnancy Counselor Julie Payne planned and participated in a panel discussion "What's Faith Got To Do With It?": Navigating Personal Faith, Social Service, and the University. The panel represented many faith identities including Christian, Jewish, Hindu/Buddhist, Muslim, and Native American Spirituality. Panelists discussed how spiritual traditions inspire their work. The room was filled to capacity with 65 people in attendance.

## Healthy Families Holiday Party Success

On December 18, the Healthy Families program held their annual holiday gathering, complete with ornament and cookie decorating, and holiday safety information. Healthy Families is especially thankful to the Eastern Michigan University Social Work students who provided a professional photographer to take family photos, live entertainment and generous party favors. 60 people attended the event, the largest turnout they've ever had!

# NEWS

## Adoption Day 2014



**The Johnson Family, with Carol Kuhnke, Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge.**

Five CSSW adoptions were finalized at the Michigan Adoption Day celebration on November 25. Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack and Circuit Court Judge Carol Kuhnke presided over and concluded the event with short speeches about the importance of adoption. The event was cosponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services division of the State Court Administrative Office, and Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE).

## Veterans' Resources Meeting

On March 12, RSVP (senior volunteer program) brought together representatives from local government, universities and nonprofits who serve veterans to build a coalition that will network and collaborate to provide services and opportunities for veterans.



**Elena Bridges, Altarum Institute**

Guest speakers Elena Bridges of the Altarum Institute and Michael Smith of Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs inspired the group with ideas of how agencies can work together to meet veterans' needs. Attendees also participated in breakout sessions addressing potential case management scenarios.

## Raising Awareness on Safe Delivery

On December 11, the Pregnancy Counseling Program facilitated a community meeting for students, professionals and the Michigan Safe Delivery director on *Michigan Safe Delivery of Newborns*. Discussion focused on ways to reduce infant abandonment and death and resulted in the State of Michigan creating Michigan Safe Delivery Day and an awareness campaign for social media.

On November 18, Ellen Westgate from the Waiting Child Adoption Program held two presentations on safe delivery and adoption to parenting classes at Onstead High School. Students learned the specific elements of the safe delivery law and adoption.

## Barrier Buster Award

Senior Services Resource Advocate Kevin Bell won the Barrier Buster of the Year Award. Barrier Busters is a collaborative of community agencies that field emergency requests for help for services such as utility shut-offs.

## Vicarious Trauma Training Event



**Speaker Dr. Janine D'Annaballe**

The Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center, along with the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office and Washtenaw Area Council for Children, cosponsored a "Vicarious Trauma" training event March 20 featuring nationally recognized speaker Dr. Janine D'Annaballe.

Vicarious trauma is emotional residue of exposure that counselors experience from working with trauma survivors and witnessing their pain, fear and terror. The capacity audience of social workers, law enforcement and criminal justice staff described the training with extremely positive feedback: *"There was so much that was helpful. The presenter was amazing and brought back hope from feeling drained."*

Thank you to the Michigan Chapter of National Children's Alliance for setting up the online registration and arranging for MCOLES for law enforcement. Both were a huge help in orchestrating the event.

## A New Truck for Senior Chore Work



**Tim of Senior Services at a volunteer chore day.**

We are grateful to the trustees of the Helen McCalla Trust for their partnership and commitment to frail older adults. The grant awarded by the Trust paid for a brand new truck to directly benefit seniors with their chore work and home safety needs.

**2015**  
**Senior Services Directory**  
 Now available at [csswashtenaw.org!](http://csswashtenaw.org)

# THANK YOU

CSSW would like to extend its gratitude to each of you who supported us this holiday season. Whether it was through the Good Samaritan Appeal, a specific program request, or the Parish Giving Trees, you helped provide critical resources for children, families and seniors.

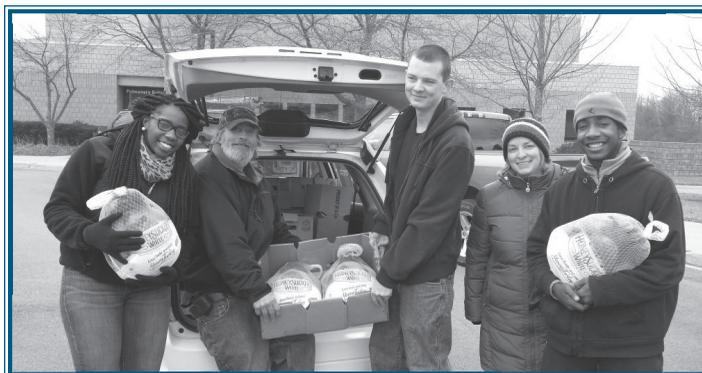
This year, we will serve more who are experiencing upheaval and uncertainty. We are committed to standing with them and for them — to create just, safe, stable communities. On behalf of the entire CSSW staff, Board of Directors, and the thousands of children, adults and families we serve, we appreciate you standing up for human dignity and for safer communities.

Thank you to the following for your generosity:

**PKSA Karate School Ann Arbor | Immaculate Conception  
 Kapnick Insurance | Old St. Patrick Catholic Church  
 St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church | St. Francis of Assisi  
 Catholic Church | St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
 St. Joseph Catholic Church - Dexter  
 St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church**

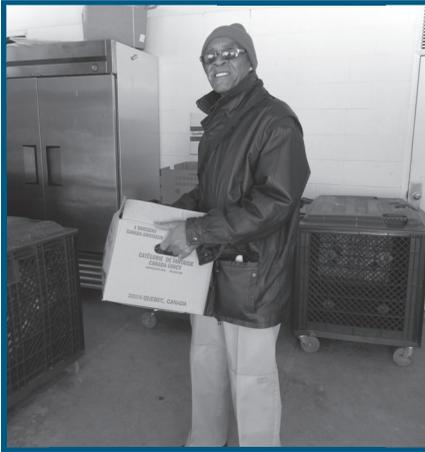


**The Packard Office was overflowing with gifts thanks to the generosity of local parishes!**



**Staff and volunteers delivered turkeys graciously donated by Kapnick Insurance and PKSA Karate School.**

## Food Program *(cont. from page 1)*



*"I unload the truck, bring carts out and help others. Coming here gives me something to do and I really enjoy it." – Robert (photo above)*

that provides both meaningful work and meaningful service in our community. Not only do volunteers make food distribution possible, they also become community ambassadors who can let others in need know about the program.

*"I started coming on Tuesdays six years ago. I like knowing that I'm helping. It's amazing how many people are in need. You think the number (of people in need) is getting smaller, but it isn't." – Kathy*

To make it easy for others to become a volunteer, the program uses on-line technology that allows volunteers to sign up for the activities and times that work for them while keeping the program efficient and well organized.

For more information about the food program or to get involved, please email [volunteer@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:volunteer@csswashtenaw.org) or visit [csswashtenaw.org](http://csswashtenaw.org).

Last summer, parishioners from St. Francis of Assisi were looking for opportunities to get more involved in their community at exactly the same time the Food Bank needed additional volunteer support. Thanks to the creativity and support of Scott Wright, Director of Parish Services and Justice, the two now have a fantastic relationship

## Blueprint for Aging PREVNT Grant Award

The Blueprint for Aging (BFA), a planning and coordinating collaborative sponsored by CSSW, was awarded a \$22,968 PREVNT grant to develop a community-based interdisciplinary team to address elder abuse prevention locally for the next six months.

Funding for the grant was provided by the State of Michigan's Office of Services to the Aging (OSA). As a part of the State's effort to prevent the growing crime of elder abuse, the OSA established the Prevent Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect Today (PREVNT) initiative. PREVNT is funding a small number of projects across the state this year, and the BFA is pleased to be a part of this initiative.

## CSSW makes the Front Page

**GROUNDCOVER**  
NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

*"The man had lived on the streets for many years. In his seventies, his health was not good. Because of some behavioral problems, he was not allowed to return to the Delonis Center, where he previously sought and received shelter. But with the assistance of a case manager, he was able to move into housing, and for the first time in years, had a friend with common interests who visited him regularly. His life has been significantly changed by the converted efforts of CSS and collaborating agencies."*

Budin, Sue. "Catholic Social Services Serves All Needs of Clients, from Counseling to Food." Groundcover [Ann Arbor] Mar. 2015, Volume 6 ed., Issue 3 sec.: 1+. Print.

This excerpt is from the front page feature of CSSW in "Groundcover", a newspaper creating an opportunity for low-income people to take action to end homelessness and poverty. COO David Garvin was interviewed for the article, discussing the services CSSW offers, from counseling to emergency food.

## Become Part of Our Legacy

Michigan Governor Richard D. Snyder has proclaimed May as Leave A Legacy Month encouraging all citizens to recognize the value of leaving a legacy stating:

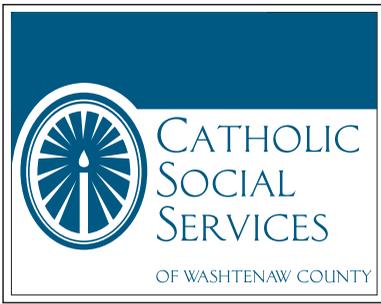
*"Charitable giving through will bequests gives each of us the opportunity to support and perpetuate for future generations those values and ideals most important to us and our families that we cherished during our lifetimes."*

Help us shape the future. A legacy contribution can fulfill both your philanthropic and financial goals while serving those in need. Please contact the Development office at 734.971.9781 or call your financial advisor to learn more.

*Change.*  
Changing lives with loose change.

Your extra pocket change can impact a community. Through a regular monthly gift of \$15, you provide an abused child with an advocate, work to prevent homelessness for a senior citizen, or support a recovering addict in their second chance.

Go to [csswashtenaw.org/donate](http://csswashtenaw.org/donate) to set up your tax-deductible monthly donation or call Jodi-Renee Giron at 734.971.9781 x323. Be a part of changing lives — nickels and dimes at a time.



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or email  
[marketing@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:marketing@csswashtenaw.org).

## A FUN WALK-RUN TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHILDREN AT-RISK

[WWW.CROWDRISE.COM/HUSTLEFORHOPE](http://WWW.CROWDRISE.COM/HUSTLEFORHOPE)

KIDS/STUDENTS \$15 · ADULTS \$25

FAMILY \$40 · TEAM \$75

80S THEMED FUN, INCLUDING A DJ & KIDS  
ACTIVITIES. SO DON YOUR FAVORITE 80S GEAR AND  
JOIN US FOR SOME FAMILY FUN! DOGS WELCOME.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF WASHTENAW COUNTY PRESENTS

# HUSTLE FOR HOPE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015

8:30 AM

GALLUP PARK