



# Good Samaritan News

Good Samaritan Family Services

*Serving the Lord by reaching out to those in need*

fall 2016

A quarterly publication of Good Samaritan Family Services, which serves families in need in Antrim and Charlevoix Counties.

## PANTRY & RESALE SHOP NEWS

### *The Eyes Have It*

They say the eyes are the windows to the soul. So often when people come to the Good Samaritan looking for food for their families, or blankets, or help with an emergency, their eyes tell a story. We can see the hurt, the embarrassment, and the relief that someone can actually help. When they tell us what's happening in their lives, we can almost see the burden being lifted. Some folks call to see if we might be able to help them through their emergency. Their voices let us hear their desperation. Often they've called other places and have had no answers, no returned calls, and no help.

Just before school started, a woman came into the pantry looking for food. As she was filling out the intake card her hands were shaking. I went over to see if there was anything I could do to help. When she looked at me I could see the black eye hiding behind the makeup. "My finances have drastically changed. I haven't needed help before, but please, could I get some food for the kids?" I started talking to her about Sammy's Shoes...she broke into tears. School was starting and the kids didn't have shoes. "Life has been hard," she said. "I didn't want to come in." My heart broke thinking about someone hurting this sweet woman. I told her how glad I was that she came in, she



Mary Peterson, Director

said she was so glad too. We hugged and prayed. I continue to pray for her.

We are forever changed by the men, the women, the senior citizens, and especially the kids we meet at the Good Samaritan. We take them with us as we journey through our days and nights. I ask God to remember all the folks that I have offered to pray for, He remembers names a lot better than I do!

*Mary Peterson*





# Christmas is coming!

As I wonder today if I should mow the yard one more time, it's hard to imagine that Christmas is right around the corner. Good Samaritan works with Toys for Tots to provide toys and other goodies for hundreds of kids in our area. We are currently collecting names and wish lists from parents, and soon our little band of elves will be trying to match requests with the toys we'll have. Every year we have folks that call and want to "adopt" a family for Christmas. We supply sponsors with the wish list and they get to shop and help a child enjoy the excitement of Christmas. If you'd like to join in on the fun let us know!

## Treasure Hunters

Calling all treasure hunters! We have the stuff you're looking for, although we probably won't know where it is - you'll have to hunt! Our main building is full of clothing and household items, our furniture store is full of couches, tables, chairs, lamps, and more...and our new garage is so full it's hard to pull the door down! Come in and shop with us to find that special thing you didn't know you needed! If you have items to donate, don't be discouraged...we'll find room for the treasures you want to share...and remember, we have the special gift of being able to turn dressers and paintings into food to feed families in need!



## Holiday Shopping

Did you know you can donate to Good Samaritan while doing your Christmas shopping? If you shop online with Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com. Pick Good Samaritan as your charity of choice and start shopping! Amazon will donate a portion of your purchases to Good Sam. Also, your shopping receipts from Family Fare stores equal money for the Good Sam food pantry. Save your receipts and bring them to Good Sam. We will turn them in to Spartan Nash and they will make a donation to us. Every penny helps us help our struggling neighbors!



## 15 Years of Sharing God's Gifts



Gayle Kroon, Director

As I stood in front of the crowd of guests at our recent Moms & Tots Fund Raising Banquet, I was brought to a moment of wonder and awe. Looking at our nearly 370 guests made me think about what it would be like to have all of our active clients together in one room. What an impact! If we think about the families of those clients, that number could be multiplied by three or more times! That is a lot to ponder! God's faithfulness is evident!



Charlevoix High School construction crew  
in front of our new building.

Moms & Tots has been serving the moms and their families in our community for 15 years! Please join me in thinking about some of the ways that God's love has been shared through the years.

- Our first year we had 105 client visits. Our current number is 1005.
- The first year we had 10 volunteers. We now have over 30. This past year our volunteers logged 1849 hours.
- 1748 children were served by the Moms & Tots Center this past year.
- Our current Director and the 2 past Directors have shared their heart for the ministry and have been used by God to love His people.
- We outgrew one building, are filling our current building and are in the process of adding a new wing/building.
- His House Ministry has been added, ministering to the dads and men in our community.
- Our educational programing has grown. We now have 15 clients participating in our Earn While You Learn program each month.
- Willing to Wait abstinence program was in 5 schools and had audience with over 200 students last year. We are looking to grow that number in this current school year.



Looking forward, we are committed to love moms and their children. We continue to value all life at every stage. We provide hope and encouragement in a world that can be hard to handle. All of this happens because we have a God who loves His people. May God continue to use those of us working and supporting the Moms & Tots Center in the coming years. May we share God's love and truth to the people He chooses to send our way. This too makes me stand in awe.

*Gayle Kroon*





## 2016 Moms & Tots Banquet...Building Bridges

Another Moms & Tots Fall Banquet is in the history books. How exciting it is to celebrate 15 years of ministry! The theme for the evening was *Building Bridges*. The banquet committee worked hard to see that all the little details would be ready for a full house, and a full house it was. Approximately 370 guests filled the Shanty Creek conference room to enjoy dinner, dessert and a program. During the dinner, guests were treated to the sounds of the big band music of Pine River Jazz Ensemble. Their music brought back many good memories. The program began with a prayer by our very first director, Kate Essenberg. We then enjoyed listening to our recently retired director, Carole Broadwick, as she sang, "Life is Sacred." Our current director, Gayle Kroon, shared her heart as she updated guests on the past year, how Moms & Tots builds bridges for our families and how the clients we serve feel about the ministry at the Center.

The emcee, Stan Moore, then introduced Ryan Dobson, guest speaker for the evening. Ryan spoke about his experiences as a son,

a husband, and a father. By using his life experiences he related the importance of having someone to walk through those events with you. A young girl does not grow up saying, "I can't wait to use the services of Moms & Tots." Sometimes it just happens. Our clients

come to the Center for this type of support which is important to them and to our communities.

The evening ended with a video of some of our clients sharing their stories and their expressions of thankfulness for the services Moms & Tots provides them. We asked people to join us by financially giving to this continued work and give they did. What a tremendous out-pouring of love and support! Our hope was to receive \$57,000 over the banquet expenses, which is a little over half of our operating budget for the year. Some donations

are still arriving and it appears that we will reach that goal. Thank you to all who attended and for the prayers of many to make this evening possible.

Gayle Kroon



Ryan Dobson



Gayle Kroon

### GIFTS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

#### IN MEMORY OF

Donna Holland  
Carrie Gagne  
Jake & Dena Veenstra  
Marion & Lillian Sytsma

#### GIVEN BY

Gordan Holland  
Joann Mayer  
Miner Veenstra  
Miner Veenstra

#### IN MEMORY OF

Johanna Doctor  
Mary Lou Sharp  
Ruth Frantti

#### GIVEN BY

Si, Mary & Dan Doctor  
Central Lake Armor Express  
Central Lake Armor Express

#### IN HONOR OF

Ken & Myrt Christiansen  
Aunt Theresa Van Stedum's  
90th Birthday

#### GIVEN BY

The Doctore  
Cal & Denise Shooks

# His House NEWS

## Coffee Talk

Fall is the time of year that forces us to come to terms with change. The weather changes from warm to cold, the leaves change from green to brown, and the days change from lighter to darker. For some, the changes of fall are as dramatic as they seem, but for many others, the changes of fall are hardly noticeable because of bigger changes. Sometimes the ups and downs that people experience are relentless and overwhelming. When we share time with one another it is fulfilling the law of Christ as Paul puts it in Galatians 6:2. That law is to love one another and to share one another's burdens.

A couple of weeks ago while simply sharing a cup of coffee and a listening ear, I heard a young man pour out his heart about the struggles that keep coming up. He told me about having to choose to pay rent or pay the light bill and how, because of that decision, the electricity was shut off. Just when he is able to get through one change, another one comes up. It might be family issues, financial issues, or health

issues, but for him it seems like there was always "something." Even though this young man is heavily burdened with some very serious stresses, sharing a cup of coffee seemed to lighten the load, if only for a couple of hours.



Stacy Nelson, Director



*Stacy Nelson*



# Calling all Men

Growing up without a dad is a past that I share with many other men. There are lots of difficulties that a boy goes through and needs the guidance and direction of a father. One of the roles and responsibilities of a father is to pass on and share with their children what they have learned and who they have become. There were small things, like tying my shoes that my grandfather taught me. Big things, like the birds and the bees that I ended up hearing from classmates. I know that there are many young men in our area that are hungry for answers about manhood and life. We need more men who are willing to share both the small and the big things they have learned with other young men who could use the experience of a father. If you have a couple of hours during the week and would like to invest in guys who will benefit from your experience, please consider volunteering at His House. I was blessed to have some really solid men share their lives with me as I grew to be the man I am today. I hope His House can provide a similar source of guidance and encouragement for the fatherless young men in our area. If you would like to talk with me about volunteering please call me at 231-709-0534.



## Dadvice

102: A dad is born nine months before a baby is born.

68: A gumball machine is a great way to teach your child about primary colors and wasteful spending.

82: If they forget their lunch at home, don't pick up a Happy Meal and deliver it to them at school. They will conspicuously start forgetting their lunch on a regular basis.

## Needed: New Board Member for Good Samaritan Family Services

Good Samaritan Family Services (GSFS) is seeking a new volunteer board member to serve on our Board of Directors and lead the Development standing committee, responsible for directing our fund raising efforts. The Board of Directors guides the direction of GSFS as they seek God's direction for this important ministry in our community. Board membership is both challenging and rewarding, as we challenge ourselves and our ministry directors to grow in God, grow in ministry, and meet the needs of those most in need in our communities. Board members must agree to and adhere to the ministry's statement of beliefs, core values, and bylaws. Characteristics that we hold as very important are: Active Christian faith experience, a servant's heart, enthusiasm, and integrity. If you are interested in more information on this position, please contact Stan Moore, Board Director – Human Resources, for more information at 231-350-0400 or stanm96@gmail.com

**Visit our Website!**  
[thegoodsam.org](http://thegoodsam.org)

**AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**  
[facebook.com/goodsamaritanfamilyservices](https://facebook.com/goodsamaritanfamilyservices)

It is now possible to make a donation to Good Samaritan on our website.

Click on "Donate" tab. Major credit cards are accepted through PayPal.

*Check it out!*

# Good Samaritan Family Services

Post Office Box 206  
Ellsworth, Michigan 49729

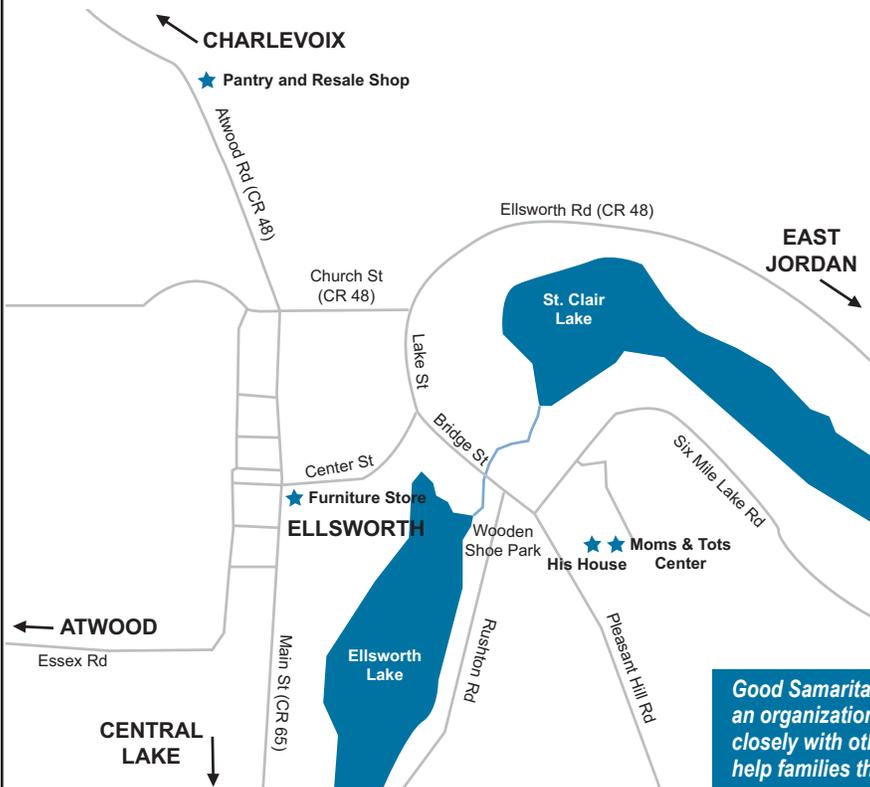
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## Visiting Good Samaritan Family Services

Pantry and Resale Shop 231-588-2208

Moms & Tots Center 231-588-2200 • His House 906-440-9216



**Good Samaritan Family Services** has been helping families in need since 1990.

**Good Samaritan Pantry and Resale Shop** sells gently used clothing and other items at low prices. These sales help pay for Pantry food for more than 700 clients. Good Sam helps with utility and heating bills as our finances permit. Located at 9746 Main Street, Ellsworth. Open Tuesday 10 to 7, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 to 4, and Saturday from 10 to 2.

**Moms & Tots Center** was established in 2001 to serve the needs of young pregnant women, single mothers and their babies. Services include pregnancy tests, peer counseling, a baby closet for supplies and equipment, and an earn while you learn program. The Center has more than 400 active clients. Located at 9100 Pleasant Hill Road, Ellsworth. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 to 4.

**His House** serves the needs of young fathers who desire to become great dads. Located in the lower level of the Moms & Tots Center. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 to 4.

*Good Samaritan is a member of the Antrim County Community Collaborative, an organization composed of county human service agencies. We work closely with other agencies and churches to better share resources and help families that need a hand up.*