

# GOOD SAMARITAN

Family Services

March 2024

Dear Friend of Good Samaritan Family Services,

Thank you for your support of our ministry. It is because of partners like you that we can help the people we do. Recently, I was struck by the words of a pastor. I was challenged to think about who and how many people in heaven would come up and thank someone for helping them come to know Jesus by giving to a ministry. It made me think about all our wonderful donors. You really do not know the people whose lives you are helping and touching by helping us with our mission, but perhaps someday in Heaven, they will be walking up to you to say THANK YOU! We also want to say thank you and have included an envelope for you to further your giving to Good Samaritan Family Services.

Here are some exciting things that have happened this past winter at Good Samaritan Family Services.

At our resale store, we have been doing some major remodeling this winter. We have rearranged the store, added a specialty boutique for some higher end items, painted the walls and freshened the store up! Stop in anytime and see us! Remember all the proceeds from our resale shop, along with our Furniture Store, go to funding our food pantry, so it is a vital part of what we do.



Our food pantry currently serves over 1700 people a month! We couldn't do what we do without our community partners. Pastor Dave highlights two recent examples. In January we were gifted with a new pantry cooler from a grant from the Michigan Dairy Farmers. This "Milk Means More" grant enables us to have dairy products available for our clients at all times. In early February, BC Pizza East Jordan donated 50 ready to bake pizzas as a part of their "Take a Slice out of Hunger" campaign. These pizzas were a hit! In Deuteronomy 15:11, God commands us to be open-handed toward the poor and needy in our land. Your faithful donations combined with our community partners is making a huge difference for our neighbors in need.



Many neighbors have reached out to Good Samaritan Family Services needing help with their utility bills and propane. Even though they didn't know how or have the ability to take care of this need, your donations help ensure that families and seniors are provided for.

Moms & Tots has been averaging over 60 client visits a month this winter. This means we are serving over 105 children a month. We hosted Michigan's Biggest Baby Shower with the Promise FM in honor of Sanctity of Life month in January. We were blessed with many needed items. This is such a special event and we would love for you to stop by every January for it! There is a list of needed items on our website. Moms & Tots is also excited to receive a grant from MSU Extension for raised vegetable beds at the Family Center. This promises great opportunities! We can garden with children and parents, learn to preserve vegetables, discover how composting works, and share our produce with our pantry patrons. It seems to be a win all the way around!



Good Samaritan Family Services seeks to build community among the families that come to us. An example of this is a Family Dinner and Game night that we held on March 1. We hope to continue these kinds of events.

Our annual Tee Up for Families golf outing is on the calendar for August 25. If anyone would like to sponsor a hole, give a raffle prize gift or golf, please contact [robyn@thegoodsam.org](mailto:robyn@thegoodsam.org) or call 231-588-2200, ext. 110.

On March 25, we are having a volunteer training for our resale shop and food pantry volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in any part of our ministry, we would love to have you join our team! Right now the resale shop is looking for volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturdays during the summer. Our pantry could use help on Tuesdays and Saturdays as well. Moms & Tots is looking for volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Moms & Tots is looking for a part-time Director's assistant. We desire someone with a heart for serving moms and their young children. This person needs solid computer and organizational skills. If you or anyone you know is interested, please email Gayle at [momsandtots@thegoodsam.org](mailto:momsandtots@thegoodsam.org).

The Good Samaritan Board of Directors also has an opening for a new member. If you think this is something you might be interested in, please contact [robyn@thegoodsam.org](mailto:robyn@thegoodsam.org).

Thank you again for your continued support and know that we are blessed by it!

Sincerely,

*Robyn Garmak*

Good Samaritan Family Services Director

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