

Happy Spring from Good Samaritan Family Services!

It may still be a little chilly outside, but our hearts are warm with the many blessings and opportunities we have to help our neighbors! We have filled this quarterly newsletter with updates and stories from our various departments highlighting how your donations make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors. God is using you to share Christ and to love people all over Northern Michigan. And we believe the best is yet to come! As we partner together, we can get God's mission accomplished to take care of the hurting and needy. Each of us alone can only do so much, but together it is amazing what we can, with God's help, accomplish.



Mary Peterson, our founder, provides this tribute in honor of Eugene (Gene) Drenth, who gave so much to the ministry of Good Samaritan. "From the very beginning the Good Samaritan has been God's ministry. He has been in charge, bringing the people, resources, buildings, and the folks in need together in His perfect timing. In 1990 the Good Samaritan began serving families. With just a handful of volunteers and limited resources the ministry struggled, and in 1999 the Good Sam was faced with needing to find a new facility and more volunteers. Realizing I needed help from the local churches I called two men I barely knew...Max Bolser and Gene Drenth.

Max said if I got Gene to say yes, he'd be in too. Gene helped me make the needed connections with the local churches, and we set a meeting date. Over 20 people came to that meeting. We met again, formed a board, and the rest is history! Gene was on that board and helped to draft many of the legal documents, policies, and procedures that would guide our ministry. Gene served on the board for many years, offering a voice of reason, built on a strong base of faith. He also volunteered for many years, organizing and leading a group of men that would pick up pallets of food to help feed our neighbors in need. Gene encouraged the development of both Moms & Tots and our His House programs. It was with heavy hearts that we watched our friend's health fail. If you said to Gene, "how ya doing?" His answer usually was "I'm blessed". Gene was a blessing to the Good Sam. I imagine his greeting was, 'welcome home, good and faithful servant!'"

From Client Services...

This winter has been so difficult with the heavy continuous snow and the single digit temps. We received a message from one of our volunteers. He was concerned about one of his neighbors. He hadn't seen any movement around his house, and he said he felt compelled to stop over to check on him. Our volunteer took over some soup and cookies...a neighborly way to stop on in and see how he was doing. The gentleman said he was grateful for the food as he had just fed the last of his food to his hungry dog. As it turns out the man's truck wouldn't start because his battery was dead...so he couldn't get out to get food. Our volunteer gave him a ride to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, and helped make arrangements to replace the battery, which Good Sam took care of paying for! God's hand was surely in this mission of mercy.

From our Food Pantry...

Because of the support we have from people like you, Good Samaritan Pantry is able to partner with wonderful organizations like Manna Food Project, the Northwest Food Coalition and Food Rescue to provide quality fresh fruits and vegetables all year long. Studies tell us that many of the people we serve don't spend much time in the produce department of the grocery store because of the cost of fresh produce. Our clients truly appreciate the added value of being able to find fresh produce at our pantry. I always tell people that Good Samaritan is so blessed that we can't help but want to bless our neighbors in need with the blessings we have received. Your support makes that happen. Thank you for being generous toward us so that we can serve God by reaching out to our neighbors in need so generously.



On February 7, Officer Pizzarelli brought 50 ready to bake pizzas to share with our pantry family as part of BC Pizza's Slicing Out Hunger campaign.



Fun times at our Family Dinner, Sledding and Game Night!



From Moms & Tots...

Moms & Tots thrives because of friends who donate baby items, their time and their energy. It's been a long winter and getting our client families and our neighbors and friends together for a Family Dinner, Sledding and Game Night was just what we needed. We had a great turnout, and one could feel the warmth and love flowing. In a world that can seem cold and harsh, it is beautiful to provide a space for this kind of event to happen. We are thankful for friends who choose to partner with us. The Promise FM and WLJN radio stations make Michigan's Biggest Baby Shower happen every January in honor of Sanctity of Human Life. We opened our doors for a live broadcast and for friends who brought in much-needed baby items so that we can help our moms support and honor the lives of their beautiful children. We are humbly grateful to God for the many friends who support the ministry of Moms & Tots.



From the Resale Shop...

Even on an ordinary day at the Good Samaritan, extraordinary things can happen! Recently a case worker from a local agency called asking for help. A client of hers was in desperate need of a dryer. We told her we would check with our furniture store and would get back with her. We do not usually carry many appliances. As we hung up from that call to make the next call, a message came across our Face Book page from a man looking to donate a nearly new dryer to someone in need. We helped make the connection, but it was God really making the connection!

We are excited to share that we have hired new staff at the resale shop. Next time you are in our resale shop, please say hello to Brandi, our manager and Rachael, our assistant manager!



Hi there! I'm Brandi McPherson. I am so excited to join the Good Samaritan family! I've been in East Jordan for 14 years. My husband, Kever, and I have one daughter named Ella. We have a deep love for nature, board games and quality family time. My friends know me to be spunky, passionate and full of laughter. I look forward to working with our beautiful community to spread the word of God and support our neighbors. Although my background has strong roots in low-income housing and supporting those experiencing homelessness, I have a deep passion for customer service and community outreach opportunities. I look forward to utilizing my skills and talents to help the community as well as the organization. "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there.' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

Hi! I am Rachael and I am a mom of five wonderful kids ranging from ages 31 to 9! I grew up all over but was born in Arkansas. I am the youngest of 16. I now live in East Jordan with my youngest daughter, my amazing husband and our pup Marty. Working at this store is a way for me to step out of my comfort zone after being a stay-at-home mom for many years. Now I get to immerse myself in this community with other fellow christians.



Thank you again for supporting and praying for our ministry. We are so grateful to our partners. We could not do what we do without you! I love the Bible verses that talk about the importance of helping others. One of the most well-known passages is found in Matthew 25:35-40, where Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

The Bible also emphasizes the importance of generosity and compassion towards others. In James 2:14-17, it says, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

These verses teach us that helping others is not only a moral obligation but also an expression of faith and love. By serving those in need, we demonstrate our commitment to God's values and show compassion to those who are less fortunate. This is our mission – "Serving the Lord by reaching out to those in need." Thank you for helping us do that!

Sincerely,

Robyn Yarmak

Robyn Yarmak
Executive Director



Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendars for a couple of big fundraising events for Good Samaritan Family Services.

- **August 24 – 12:30 pm - Tee UP For Families Golf Fundraiser** – All proceeds help fund our pantry and programs. We need golfers and sponsors for this event! Look for registration forms to golf on our website or please email robyn@thegoodsam.org for more information on how you can sponsor a hole or participate as a golfer! We look forward to hearing from you!
- **September 6 – 1-4 pm – Our Family Fun”d” Fest and Open House** – All proceeds help our Moms & Tots ministry. It is a fun community event with a carnival theme! More information to follow in our fall newsletter and on our website.