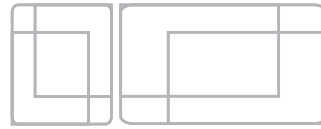




CHURCH HOUSING PARTNERS



GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES
MOBILIZING CHURCHES TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS
513 EAST 8TH STREET, SUITE 25
HOLLAND, MI 49423

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID
Holland, MI 49423
Permit 30

Church Mentor Teams & Landlords

Holland/Zeeland

- Calvary CRC
- Calvary RCA
- Christ Memorial RCA
- Church of God 7th Day
- First Presbyterian
- Free Methodist
- Grace Episcopal
- Holland First Assembly
- Holland Heights CRC
- Hope Church RCA
- North Holland RCA
- Providence CRC
- Ridgepoint
- Second RCA
- Third RCA

Housing Search Volunteers

- Ken Arens
Faith Reformed
- Candy Kleinheksel
Beechwood Reformed
- Evelyn Strickler



In-Kind Donors

- Dave Boelkins
- Lorna Cook
- Tom Haveman
(Haveman Electrical Services)
- Cindy Hiskes
- Dennis Klemm
- Rich Lievense
- Rachelle Oppenhuizen
- Marjorie Rosario
- Dave Salisbury
(Home Depot)
- Loretta Smith
- Lori Wenzel
- Robb Witzel



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HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING

“With the homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing grant we’ve been able to serve families and individuals in need of housing or on the verge of losing housing. There have been opportunities to connect families with community resources to provide additional support.”

–Debra, Re-Housing Case Manager

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) is a two part program resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. With this program we’re able to impact families in two ways, by re-housing people who have become homeless and assist families who need temporary assistance to remain in rental housing and avoid eviction.

“The best part of this program is the ability to assist clients beyond paying back rent. If the client is going to fall behind the next month, how helpful was the assistance really? With HPRP we can determine, on a case by case basis, if the client needs help with rent forward as well as behind.”
–Rachel, Prevention Case Manager

Latecia came in for a meeting after she moved in. She said with tears in her eyes, **“My son came to my new apartment . . . he looked around and said ‘I’m proud of you mom.’ I can’t express how much that meant to me.”**

The housing needs of our neighbors are increasing and there are more calls now than ever; HPRP has been a great resource in helping clients get back on their feet and back into housing.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Economic realities continue to challenge our community. Families struggle to meet their basic need for housing. A year ago families were desperate – today families are slowly finding solutions.

Over the years we’ve gained experience in housing – learning what works and what doesn’t. Now we’ve organized our effort under the program Affordable Housing Connection. Transitional housing, affordable housing search, rapid re-housing and homeless prevention are all included.

We’re grateful for community cooperation and financial support to keep our vision of helping the poor and strengthening the community by building relationships. Read and feel grateful.

Linda Jacobs
Executive Director



COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

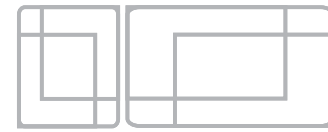
“After coming from domestic violence, finding out I had cancer and becoming homeless, I was left thinking no matter what I do nothing will be right,” said Stephanie, a former participant of Good Samaritan’s CHP Transitional Housing program.

(story continues)





COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP



Stephanie underwent surgery to remove cancer but there were complications that caused a bacterial infection. This infection caused her to lose her job, due to excessive time off. After losing her job, she also lost her apartment and needed an additional surgery. Her kids were scared and confused. ***“They didn’t understand why mommy had to be sick and why they couldn’t stay home anymore.”***

Stephanie and her kids had been living in their van for a couple weeks before being connected with Good Samaritan’s transitional housing program. They entered the program at a very critical time, ***“I don’t know what my life would have been like without this program.”*** With counseling, encouragement and a great mentor team from Third Reformed Church, Stephanie’s outlook on life began to change. Almost two years have passed and her time in the program is drawing to a close.



“I’m not sure who that person was two years ago . . . she looked like me, but was not really me. The person I am now would never give up on life and it’s because of this program. They gave me a new outlook and the confidence in myself that I can achieve any goal I set.” Stephanie has been exceptional at meeting goals, is exiting the program with a full time job and cancer in remission. She is working with Habitat for Humanity to own her home.

“It’s crazy to bounce back from being homeless to being a homeowner. I truly feel blessed for the opportunity to be in this program and will remember everything I learned. Thank you!”



Families in the Community Housing Partnership gathered at Kollen Park to the smell of grilled hotdogs and the joy of ice cream sundaes. Twice a year, staff and volunteers put together a celebration for the participants they work with. It’s a great chance to take a break from the stress of everyday life and spend time together, getting to know each other and celebrating the success families have achieved in the program.



This summer celebration was made possible thanks to a generous sponsorship by Hope Church!



SUMMER INTERN JEFF



“When I signed up to intern at Good Samaritan Ministries for the summer I had many expectations; from becoming involved in the lives of the clients to learning about all of the resources available. I would say I knew what to expect, but I underestimated the complexity of it all. There is just so much to learn!” – Jeff, Summer Intern

In May of 2010, Good Samaritan Ministries welcomed Jeff as a summer intern. He was connected through Western Seminary and he serves in both the Clearinghouse and the Affordable Housing Connections. So far Jeff has done a great job of getting up to speed and serving our clients with great passion and enthusiasm.

Jeff is working in two very different areas of Good Samaritan Ministries, from finding rides for individuals to finding apartments that are affordable. Working with people in need can be very difficult at times. There is not a cookie cutter solution and never any quick fix. When asked what has been the biggest challenge so far he said, ***“It has been really difficult realizing that I have to rein in my desires to help everyone. I realize that some people have not been encouraged to keep trying as often as they could be. So I try my best to be patient when they stumble and to be a voice of encouragement, telling them it’s ok to get back up.”***

Volunteers like Jeff are essential to the success of any program - we’re grateful for the skills, ideas and energy he brings. His advice to other volunteers, ***“Gear up for significant emotional tugging. You will witness hurt, pain, and hear many sad stories. While its difficult hearing those stories, it only takes one success story to give you hope that the pain can be healed in time.”***

We have a place for you to serve and help others - contact us today!

616-392-7159 goodsam2@goodsamministries.com www.goodsamministries.com



HOME IS A PLACE WE BELONG



Home is the place that gives us security, confidence and our sense of belonging.

Our community continues to experience homelessness and foreclosure - as you drive up and down the street in any neighborhood you see sign after sign indicating vacant homes. The families who lived there are those we see on a daily basis. The problem is no longer elsewhere, but is occurring here in Holland and Zeeland every week.



In the last three months, we’ve seen a 300 % increase in the number of families asking for help. We meet with families to assess their financial, employment and family situation; advise them about various options; and then work together to achieve their best solution. Volunteers and staff meet with families every day to listen and help.

Consider the difference your home has made for you and your children. Make a gift today and help moms and dads, daughters and sons stay together in an affordable home.



Visit our website www.goodsamministries.com and click on the Donate page. Join us and become a FaithWorks partner. Through monthly giving your gift is multiplied again and again. Help others in our community have a place to belong. Donate today!