



Affordable Housing Connections



Fall 2011

The Importance of Community Partnership

Many in our community are finding possibilities and answers for their housing difficulties through Good Samaritan's Affordable Housing Connections. The needs continue to be great as economic times affect diverse groups of people in need of housing solutions.

Many households accustomed to two incomes no longer have savings reserves and find they too need help. You may know others experiencing housing challenges. It is not something to fear or hide - it is where community can walk along side.

Although uncertainty continues for housing and the economy, GSM's partnership with Community Action House and local churches provides hope. Programs such as transitional housing, affordable housing search, rapid re-housing and homeless prevention provide hopeful solutions, resources and wisdom for those who are in need. Together we work to strengthen our neighborhoods by connecting and building community.

I invite you to consider a financial investment in these programs. In addition, providing time as a volunteer mentor is a key to successful outcomes. The Holland/Zeeland community needs our help.

Linda Jacobs
Executive Director

Connecting with Families

Meet Our Housing Team



Mark Kornelis, Housing Director with AmeriCorp members Melanie Weimer, Stephanie Kirkham, and staff - Loretta Smith, Diane Mugg, Katie Wood, Rosie Daly

Mark has been involved in the Holland/Ottawa County human service arena for over 20 years. Leading at GSM previously in 2001-2003, we are happy to have him return sharing his gifts and leadership as we partner with the community to serve those with housing needs.

Meet Mellisa and her family who heard about Good Sam through MI Works! She was recovering from surgeries and in temporary housing when she was put on the Community Housing Partnership (CHP) waiting list.



She is now in our CHP Program and feels the wait was well worth it.

Mellisa shared, "The housing team cares about more than just getting stable housing; they care about me as a complete person and continue to support us as the program progresses."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Kurt Wassink, President
Larry Dykhuis, Vice President
John Query, Secretary
Larry Koops, Treasurer
Lorna Cook
Nick Dekker
Karen DenHerder
Sheri Holstege
Linda Pynnonen
Jayne Venlet*



GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES

513 EAST 8TH STREET, SUITE 25
HOLLAND, MI 49423

WWW.GOODSAMMINISTRIES.COM

Coming Events

Dec 3 - **When Helping Hurts**

author Brian Fikkert returns

Mar 12 - **The Abundant Community**

author Peter Block workshop
and community conversation

Connecting with Area Churches

Thank You to our active church partners in CHP
for providing mentors and homes.

Calvary CRC	Hope Church RCA
Calvary RCA	Moran Park
Central Wesleyan	North Holland RCA
Christ Memorial	Providence CRC
Engedi	Second Reformed - Zeeland
First Presbyterian	Third RCA
Free Methodist - Zeeland	Trinity RCA
Grace Episcopal	Victory Point
Holland Heights CRC	

Connecting with Community

Thanks to a grant from the Holland Junior Welfare League, families in our Community Housing Partnership program will have opportunities for healthy, family-oriented recreation this coming year. Grant funds were used to purchase passes to the Holland Area Aquatic Center, which will allow families with limited budgets to make several visits to the aquatic center for relaxation or lessons.

Susan, a mother of two young children, exclaimed, ***“Thanks so much for this – this will be a great outlet for my kids, especially during winter months.”***

Holland Junior Welfare League funds also helped to purchase books for children that will be given to homeless families as they enter the program.

Connecting with Others

In the 1980’s Good Samaritan Ministries jumped into the housing arena by providing emergency shelter services for homeless families. In the mid-90’s, the Community Housing Partnership was born as a collaboration between GSM, Community Action House, and several area churches. This new initiative sought to bridge the gap between homelessness and permanent, stable housing by providing transitional housing. The program expanded substantially in 2000 when it began receiving ongoing federal grant funds. Throughout, GSM has been an active partner along with other housing providers in the Ottawa Area Housing Coalition in order to ensure that the community plans effectively to provide a comprehensive continuum of housing services to meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Recently, the state’s housing authority has required communities to identify one agency to serve as “single point of entry” for families facing a housing crisis so they will be linked with the most appropriate services in an expedited manner. Good Samaritan Ministries is serving as that point of entry for our community. This draws on GSM’s strengths of working collaboratively with both the human service network and the faith community to forge creative and meaningful solutions to pressing social challenges.



Lyn Raymond, Coordinator of the Ottawa Area Housing Coalition, states ***“Ottawa County offers many services to people and families in housing crisis and the OAHC wants to make it as easy as possible for people to access those services. A centralized intake streamlines the process and directs people right away to the services they need most.”***

