

Psalm 46:1 "God Is Our Refuge And Strength, An Ever Present Help In Trouble."



## Help's on The Way—Fall 2011

Issue 22 Fall 2011

### Being Good Stewards

It is a surprise to no one who reads the news that the United States, and the State of Michigan are facing difficult times. Just recently, the United States Census Bureau released statistics that indicate that fifty million Americans are living at or below the poverty rate.

At Help's on the Way, we are seeing an increase of first-time visitors. These families have a long work history, have owned homes, paid taxes and have tried to be supportive parents to their children. The economy, however, and the joblessness that is having a devastating effect on these families, has resulted in our neighbors needing assistance with food and clothing.

The Board of Directors of Help's on the Way is mindful of this additional need for resources, and the board is also mindful that financial support of your ministry is now a concern if we are to continue serving the community at the present level of assistance.

The board has taken a number of steps to economize our operations. We have contracted with a natural gas supplier that will result in lower heating costs, installed programmable thermostats that heat and cool our building, only when occupied, continue to operate with unpaid volunteers, and of course continuing our relationship with the Gleaners Community Food Bank which greatly stretches our food dollar.

We are also contemplating our present payment schedule for our two buildings, which we have attempted to pay off at an accelerated rate. Additionally, in January of 2012 we will consider a reevaluation of the level of food assistance we currently provide to clients.

It is also worth noting that recent enactments by the State of Michigan legislature will result in the ending of the 'Homeless Shelter Food Bank Tax Credit.' Beginning on January 1, 2012, residents of the State of Michigan will no longer be able to reduce their state income tax liability with a donation to food banks. In light of that impending change, we are hoping that donors to Help's on the Way will consider making a financial donation during calendar year 2011, which will allow donors to claim the tax credit, and help your ministry respond to this growing need of food assistance. **Please see the 'Donors Opportunity,' page for a full explanation of the current food bank tax credit.**

In short, we are, and will continue to be good stewards of your ministry. We hope and pray that your financial assistance, as you are able, will continue to support the ministry of Help's on the Way.

Bill Swift, Executive Director  
Help's on the Way

### Migration to Emailed Newsletter

Please consider helping reduce the cost of distributing the print edition of the newsletter. Simply log on to our web site at [www.helpsontheway.org](http://www.helpsontheway.org) and send us an email to put you on the email distribution list by using the **contact us link** on our home page, thank you.

## Help's on the Way—Annual Coat & Blanket Drive

Help's on the Way will launch our annual Coat and Blanket collection program, which will run from October 1, 2011 through November 13, 2011. This program has been instrumental in providing coats and blankets to neighbors in need who simply cannot afford warm clothing and blankets.

Once again, Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville, Michigan has agreed to provide facilities for dropping off coats and blankets. Each Sunday, beginning October 2, 2011 through Sunday, November 13, 2011 new or gently used coats and blankets can be dropped off at the Southwest corner of the church near room A113. Enter the link below in your Internet browser for the location of Ward Church and click on the **Discover** tab for a detailed map of Ward church.

[www.wardchurch.org](http://www.wardchurch.org)

Coats and blankets may also be dropped off at our Client Service Center, which is located at 5358 South Beech Daly Road in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. We encourage donors to drop off items on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM or on Thursday evenings from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM.

Recognizing that the above delivery methods may prove difficult for donors, we encourage donors to consider the purchase of new coats and or blankets from their favorite retailer and to ship those items to our corporate office. Additionally, if you would prefer to make a financial donation for this program, please send that donation to our corporate office, and write 'coat and blanket,' in the memo line of the check.

Help's on the Way  
6784 Edwards Road  
Belleville, Michigan 48111-1136

### Back Pack School Supplies Program

One of our most successful Back Pack School Supplies programs has touched the lives of many young students as they start the new school year. In total, we were able to distribute **six hundred** backpacks, which were all filled with items students need for a good start.

So many groups, individuals and organizations worked together for the success of this program. Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, in Northville, Michigan played a major role in supporting this program.

All of us at Help's on the Way are especially grateful to Robyn Marcotte for her leadership in organizing and managing the process that led to this great outpouring of generosity from donors and the distribution of the backpacks and school supplies.



## Donor Opportunities

- Help's on the Way depends upon the generosity of hundreds of people to provide food, clothing and spiritual care to many families who are facing difficult times. Over the years, Help's on the Way has assisted nearly forty thousand men, women and children in a Christian environment. We are staffed entirely by volunteers who donate their time, effort and energy to help the strangers who come to our ministry. We consider ourselves to be good stewards of what we receive from donors, and we are hopeful that you will consider supporting this ministry.
- Help's on the Way is a 501 C-3 nonprofit corporation, and donations are tax-deductable within the guidelines of the United States, Internal Revenue Service. Additionally, for Michigan residents, individuals, married couples and businesses may claim fifty percent of their cash donations to Help's on the Way on their **Michigan Income Tax Return** as a **tax credit** for contributions to homeless shelters and food banks. Individuals may claim fifty percent of gifts up to two hundred dollars, married couples filing jointly may claim fifty percent of gifts up to four hundred dollars, and businesses may claim fifty percent of gifts up to ten thousand dollars. A complete guide to Michigan tax credits can be found on our web at [helpsontheway.org](http://helpsontheway.org) and by linking to the **Donor Opportunities** page.
- You can also find a complete listing of client needs, including reading materials, food, personal hygiene items, and household supplies on our web site at [helpsontheway.org](http://helpsontheway.org) and by linking to the **Donor Opportunities** page.



Help's on the Way is partnered with Charity Motors and we ask that you please consider donating your car, truck, motorcycle or recreational vehicle to Charity Motors. Information and instructions for donating vehicles can be found at [helpsontheway.org](http://helpsontheway.org) and by linking to the **Donor Opportunities** page, or by calling Charity Motors at (313)255-1000, please remember to designate Help's on the Way as the recipient of your donation.



A convenient method of financially supporting the ministry is available to donors by using PayPal. If you choose to donate by credit or debit card, you are not required to open a PayPal account. Simply log on to [helpsontheway.org](http://helpsontheway.org) and link to the **Donor Opportunities** page. For donors who would prefer to set up a monthly twenty dollar subscription, a PayPal account must first be established. Please log on to our web site, [helpsontheway.org](http://helpsontheway.org) and link to the **Donor Opportunities** page for a full explanation and the step-by-step process for establishing a PayPal account.

As always, donors may send a financial donation to our corporate office:

**Help's on the Way**

**6784 Edwards Road**

**Belleville, Michigan 48111-1136**

*Thanking you in advance for supporting the ministry of Help's on the Way.*



**Help's On The Way**

**6784 Edwards**

**Belleville, MI 48111-1136**

**Corporation Officers**

- President .....Jack Schmitt
- Vice President .....Jim Kelly
- Treasurer .....Frank Housholder
- Recording Secretary...Shannon Schmitt
- Executive Director .....Bill Swift

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- Paul Denkhous
- Heather Hendee
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- Shannon Schmitt ....R.N. , CDE, Sinai Grace Hospital
- Bill Swift ..... Ford Motor Company, Quality Systems, Retired
- Geri Sutherland..... Office Manager, Retired

**Mission Statement**

"Help's On The Way," is a, non-profit 501 ( C ) ( 3 ) incorporated organization, that works to provide nutritional meals and clothing to the community mission field. We define the community mission field, simply as 'all of God's children.'

**Mission Project**

Our current mission project is the establishment and operation of a facility that will meet the needs of the community as defined above. This building is located at 5358 South Beech Daly Road in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

**Our Vision**

With God's grace, Godly inspired leadership, and the assistance of volunteers, both near and far, we hope to accomplish the following:

- Feed and or provide food to those in need.
- Develop and administer a "clothes closet," for those who are in need.
- Provide spiritual inspiration through prayer, distributions of Bibles, "Our Daily Bread" and other Christian periodicals.

Our Client Services Center is located at 5358 South Beech Daly Road in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, one and one-half miles south of Michigan Avenue. We are open for client intake each Thursday, with hours of operation being six to eight-thirty PM. **Clients must be in line no later than 7:30 PM.** For a complete listing services, times of service, and types of donations we presently accept, please call 734.417.9744, or visit our web site.

**[www.helpsontheway.org](http://www.helpsontheway.org)**