

Bluewater Michigan Chapter Helps the Homeless



Here is your unprecedented opportunity to spend Labor Day weekend in the splendor of Michigan's popular Little Traverse Bay region and **help the homeless** at the same time. Bluewater Michigan Chapter will donate 10% your excursion ticket to the Rescue Mission.

Bluewater Michigan Chapter invites you to savor northwest Michigan's own brand of hospitality and to recall the era when passenger trains carried tens of thousands of resorters to Petoskey and Bay View in style. Climb aboard Bluewater Michigan Chapter's *Michigan Northern Arrow*, named for a train that once linked Indiana and Ohio with Petoskey, and go "North" in our railroad time machine. The 2010 *Michigan Northern Arrow* package offers unsurpassed value and adventure, Friday through Monday trip includes:

- Special diesel-powered excursion train from Owosso, Michigan
- Three classes of excellent railroad hospitality
- Leisure time for shopping, strolling, side-trips or just sitting
- On-board meals on Friday and Monday
- Weekend accommodations at four fine lodging facilities
- Saturday, Sunday, and Monday breakfasts at your hotel
- Complimentary shuttle bus service between key locations in Petoskey
- Baggage-handling

For more information, visit Bluewater Michigan Chapter's website at www.bluewaterNRHS.org. Be sure to enter **special ordering code R3M** when ordering tickets so that the Mission receives credit for your ticket.

Mission NEEDS

- Men's Deodorant
- Men's Tennis Shoes
- Laundry Soap-powder
- Laundry Bleach-powder
- Toilet Tissue
- Coffee
- Juice and Kool-aid



Nouvel Catholic and All Saints Catholic High School students had one goal in mind, to raise more money than they raised last year. Mission accomplished! Students, faculty, parents and alumni turned out in great numbers to support the second annual "Cat Fight" charity basketball game that raised \$11,441.50 to benefit the Good Samaritan and City Rescue Missions! Many thanks to all involved in the success of this fundraiser and to Delta College for the use of Pioneer Gym!

the Connection

989-893-5973

Good Samaritan Rescue Mission



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Summer of Hope

By Pati LaLonde

A whole new world has opened up for Don Craner since he landed on the door step of the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission three months ago.

Arriving at the mission from a six-month jail term for non-payment of child support, Craner was without a job, a place to live and to top it all off, he was having health problems due to diabetes. "When Don came in, he was beat down and his spirit was gone," said Chris Overley, men's shelter director. "There is a lot to him. He had disabilities. We put him in case management, referred him for health care services and got him glasses. As he was following through, his spirit came out."

But there was still one more hurdle the 55-year-old needed to get over – he couldn't read. "I would be going down the street and look at signs, and I didn't know what they said," he said. "Or, pick up a menu. If you can't read people think you are stupid. Now I can pick up almost anything and read it." While he was in jail another inmate began the process of teaching him to read, but once he got to the mission, he really got into it. One of the volunteers supplied him with the Bible on tape, reading along as the tape plays, Craner is teaching himself to read. Adds Overley, Craner can now fill out his own paperwork, and he's understanding what he fills out. "I used to sign things and I didn't



know what I was signing," he said. "People would take advantage of me."

With his new found skill, Craner is once again looking forward to the future. "Since I learned to read, it's a whole new world, a whole new life," he said. "My number one is thanking God every day." At present, Craner keeps the floors spotless at the mission working through the Region VII Area on Aging in their older worker program and getting ready to move into the transition home on the grounds of the mission.

The future now holds hope. A carpenter and painter by trade, Craner is saving money to buy a truck and start his own business of restoring homes. He's also hoping to see his children again.

"This is the perfect example of giving people a hand up, not a hand out," said Overley.



From the Director's Desk

Dan Streeter

"Help for today, hope for tomorrow." The core statement of what we do at Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. Providing a place of immediate care for people in need at one of the most difficult times in their life while balancing the opportunity to share the real reason for hope, Christ's love for them, to help reshape their future.

Over the years, no two volunteers have been a better living example of this message than Val and Dwane Bassett.

They have been dedicated chapel volunteers and donors in Saginaw and Bay City for many years, almost too many to count. Working together each Tuesday for morning devotions, bringing treats for the residents and preparing during the week to bring a fresh and relevant devotional for the residents are just a few of the ongoing activities of their ministry to the homeless for all these years. Faithfulness and service to God is just a way of life for them.

This past spring, Val fell and broke her hip and Dwane was diagnosed with cancer, two very viable reasons to become depressed and self-serving, but not these two. Val used it as an opportunity to witness to people at the hospital she otherwise would have never met and Dwane used it as motivation to keep going as long as God gave him strength. Their example has been a great source of learning and guidance for me.

For many of us, the summer months are filled with distractions: kids out of school, family vacations and enjoying the season. At the same time, it is one of busiest times of the year in providing care to the homeless. We usually see a spike in numbers in our Family Shelter, and so far this year that pattern remains true. We have a great opportunity to provide a summer of new hope for guests coming to the door for the first time, in despair and searching for solutions.

As you make your family summer plans, consider the example of the Bassett's. Each year we see donations and volunteer hours drop in June, July and August, when we need your help the most. Make this a summer of hope and help us maintain a place of care and hope for everyone coming to the doors in need, regardless of the season.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
5th Anniversary Dinner
Monday, September 27th, 6:30 pm
at Bay City DoubleTree Hotel
Tuesday, September 28th, 6:30 pm
at Horizon Center

UNDER THE OVERPASS
A JOURNEY OF FAITH ON THE STREETS OF AMERICA

Guest speaker **Mike Yankoski** author of "Under the Overpass: A Journey of Faith on the Streets of America."

Save The Date

Monday, July 26, 1 pm-7 pm

A blood drive at the mission is set in honor of Mr. Dwane Bassett, long time volunteer and friend of the mission.

Mr. Bassett has been diagnosed with a form of leukemia. If you would like to participate, please call Marlene Sajdak at 893-5973 to schedule your appointment.

Walk-ins are welcome!

the Connection
 June 2010

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The Connection is a publication of the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, a division of City Rescue Mission of Saginaw, Inc. City Rescue Mission is a non-profit organization recognized for tax-deductible giving by the federal government. Send address changes to PO Box 613, Bay City, MI 48707-0613.

www.gsrbaycity.org
 989-893-5973

Our Mission

"Expressing God's love by reaching out to the hurting and homeless of the Bay area by providing shelter and care, by developing a community of support, and by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ."

Home Depot Volunteers



Provide Hope

By Pati LaLonde

It was like a light came on, say staff at the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission after 97 workers from Home Depot's Team Depot descended on the mission to do a little painting, landscaping and general sprucing up. When all was said and done, the staff from the Depot, who volunteer their time for community projects, had painted almost the entire mission, landscaped the main building and the transition home on the grounds, stained the playground equipment and spread rubber mulch around that area as well. Plus, the transition home got an entire kitchen makeover complete with cabinets, appliances and lighting.

"They were like a swarm of worker bees," said Ron Greenwood, facility manager and volunteer director for the mission. "The brightness and newness. It was like the sun



came out." Bringing out the best in places such as the mission is old hat for staff at all Home Depots. "It's one of our core values," said Jenna Priebe, captain of the Team Depot group. "Volunteer groups do two projects every quarter." It's not only staff from the Bay City Home Depot, but all those in the district step up to lend a hand. Priebe says some drove all the way from Lapeer to help out. And, adds Greenwood, they were the first to arrive.

While the staff volunteers their time, grants are issued from Home Depot to pay for supplies. This time around the mission received \$7,500. This isn't the mission's first grant from the store. In 2006, they received \$2,600 for help with the

men's wing. Plus, Home Depot supplied flooring materials and manpower to put the dining room floor in before the mission even opened. "It's been an absolute joy working with Home Depot," Greenwood said. "All these years and we can't thank them enough for all the gifts they have given us for these projects."

As for Priebe and her crew, they get a little something out of it too. "It's amazing," she said. "You see the children that are living at the mission with their families. Families are just having a hard time. It makes them feel more comfortable to know people in the community do care and the children have a little hope."

Yes! I Want to be a *Partner in Hope*

- My \$_____ gift for the mission is enclosed.
 I would like to volunteer. Please send me a volunteer application.

(please print and return in the envelope provided)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

