

ACSDR News

THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER



Praying for you! Weekly Center Prayer Focus

Did you know that the Conference prays for each center and their churches weekly? We do! ACSDR Dept has taken those names has a special prayer focus each week with information about what the center is doing. Where is this? This prayer focus is on our Michigan ACS Facebook page. Please subscribe! Let's remember each other is prayer, we have all had so many things going on. In your local centers, pray for each other. And let us know if we can pray for you!

"By your fervent prayers of faith, you can move the arm that moves the world." AH 264.2

January:

Escanaba
February:
Cadillac 13th
Houghton Lake
Mio

Kalkaska
Traverse City
Cheboygan
Petoskey
Irons

March:

Battle Creek Spanish

April:

Grand Haven
Muskegon

May:

Ionia
Heartland
Ithaca Food Pantry
Gratiot County ACS
Lakeview
Frost Food Pantry

June:

St. Charles
Tawas City
Vassar
Midland
Gladwin

July:

Lansing
East Lansing
Grand Ledge
Williamston
St. Johns
Jackson
Marshall

August:

Holly
First Flint
New Haven
Port Huron
Lapeer

September:

Buchanan
Chikaming
South Haven
Harbor of Hope
Fairplain
Neighbor 2 Neighbor

October:

Kalamazoo
Centreville
Hartford
Covert
Gobles
Otsego
Paw Paw

November:

Battle Creek

December:

Plymouth
Detroit Northwest
Warren
Cherry Hill
Detroit Oakwood
Troy
Brighton

Letter

From The Director

----- CHELLI RINGSTAFF
Greetings!

I cannot believe all that has happened this year and we are still in this battle with COVID. Since the beginning of this pandemic, we have not slowed down and praise the Lord! We are meeting the needs of the communities and using every opportunity we can to introduce them to our Savior, Jesus! Thank you all for the reports for 2020 and I look forward to getting your reports again this year. With 80% of centers reporting, I am happy to report that we were able to serve 22,890 families, giving out 58,080 items of clothing, and 248,597lbs of food were given. As you know, this is not all we do, and I am happy to say we are still giving out furniture, toiletries, bedding, school supplies, diapers, and much more!

We were again blessed with a food grant from the NAD \$24,000 worth of food grant money is being distributed out to centers across Michigan.

What I am most thankful for is the growth of the support of Michigan members, volunteers, communities, MI Conference directors, and pastors support of ACSDR. The Lord has called us all the work in the vineyards and find those who are low-hanging fruit. I pray that this coming year will be a year of harvest with the souls that the Lord has brought to our doors!





New Food Pantry in Pittsford! Welcome to the family!



Harbor of Hope: How One Church Lived Up to Their Name

Judy Klein

Two and a half years ago, in the city of Benton Harbor, the water system went bad. When the city was first built, some of the water pipes were lead pipes. Over the years, the pipes started to corrode, releasing lead into the water.

According to Terri Trecartin, director of the Adventist Community Services (ACS) in Benton Harbor, the Benton Harbor Health Department began to notice an alarming rise in lead poisoning. The city did tests and discovered that the water system was tainted.

The city reached out to partner with local agencies right away—one of which was the Adventist Community Service Center (CSC): Harbor of Hope.

Once a month, the community would come to designated places and would receive water filters, as well as information on how to use them. Trecartin explained that “once [the filter] turns yellow” they were to stop using it, and to come back for another one.

The Harbor of Hope CSC was making a positive impact on the community. Other places in the city were coming together to help too: the Health Department and the Library were also sites where supplies were given out. However, it is important to note that during a time of crisis, the Adventist presence was felt in the community.

The water filters only the city “started pushing to get water bottles,” Trecartin says, and “[the city] contacted our church again to see if they could be a site for water distribution.” The church, of course, agreed, and Terri credits the church secretary, Jharony Gibbs with rallying the church together.

The church took over immediately. They used their church as a site, they found volunteers, and they even worked with United Way so that anyone, according to Trecartin, even if they weren’t part of the church, could volunteer. The water was delivered by the state, and any leftovers were arranged to be picked up. In one day, the church and their volunteers handed out 1500 cases of water. Trecartin remembers how many people were thankful for the water. He explained that some people told him they were on their last case of water, and they were wandering what they were going to do when it ran out.

Harbor of Hope really has been making strides to embody their name. They went above and beyond their required duties, ensuring that everyone who needed water would get water.

Some persons are homebound and cannot leave their house. Corroded lead pipes don’t care if one can leave their house or not, but Harbor of Hope does. Trecartin explained that “if people can’t get out and get the water than we are one of the people that will go out and take it to them.”

The city has since realized that it is difficult for those who live in the city to have to figure out which location go to get their supplies, and so they picked a centralized location, the local high school. All citizens will go to the high school to get what they need on specified days, and the local charities (including Harbor of Hope) will be right there.

Harbor of Hope has well-established themselves in the community. Chelli Ringstaff, ACS director for the Michigan Conference agrees, saying, “The local community trusts Adventist Community Services.” She further elaborates saying that one connection leads to another. At first, it’s just a water filter, handed out here and there at the CSC. Then it’s 1500 cases of water. The city trusts the Harbor of Hope because they have proved themselves. Thus, they are included in centralized location planning and are invited with other local charities.

But it’s not just the city that trusts the Adventist church. Trecartin explains that over the summer, student literature evangelists came to work in the Benton Harbor area. He says that every time they said something about the church, about being Adventist, people would light up, “because they knew where the church was.” The church and its organizations had been so influential in the community that “Adventist” wasn’t just a name: it was a positive experience.

Would your community be able to say the same?