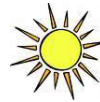




Serving the Homeless since 1988

Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team

Summer
2006



Check out our website!
www.mcrest.org

CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR!

Coming Events...

*Fred Pantalleresco's Retirement Party:
September 16, 2006 -
Tickets must be purchased by September 9th.*

St. Michael's Mall - Nov. 11, 2006

Mardi Gras - February 17, 2007



Bus Tickets

Buy 1 - Buy 1,000

\$1.35 each

Order through the
MCREST Office

(586) 415-5101

From the desk of the President.....



For the MCREST Board of Directors, it's a time of transition. After serving two terms as a member of the Board, Pat Dery is now our retired President. Pat was honored at our Annual Meeting in May for her many efforts at the helm of MCREST.

I am Dwight Blaser, the newly-elected President of the Board. I have been leading the Strategic Planning Committee for the past three years. As President, I now lead the Board's Executive Committee which includes:

- Jim Westlake, Vice President
- Janet Miller, Treasurer
- Kim Perkins, Secretary and
- Jimetta Lewis, Executive Dir.

Since we have a number of new members on the Board, I thought that our readership might be interested in who they are as shown in the chart below.

We currently have openings for two additional Board members – a one-year term and a three-year term. If you are interested in joining our Board, please contact the MCREST office.

The Board is responsible for establishing policies for the administration and operation of MCREST and overseeing implementa-

NAME	RESIDENCE	EMPLOYMENT	BoD TERM	CHURCH
Denis Metty Sr.	Mt. Clemens	Delivery Driver, Viviano Flower Shop	2007	*St. Peters Catholic
Janet Miller	Clinton Twp.	Administrative Asst., Regional Education Center-Macomb	2007	*St Mark Lutheran
Jim Westlake	New Baltimore	Retired Business Analyst, GM/EDS	2007	*Grace United Methodist
June Schwartz	Warren	Project Mgr., Currently Unemployed	2007	*St. Louise Catholic
Sue Jarvis	Clinton Twp.	Owner, Aristocat Limousine & Luxury Coach Service	2008	Renaissance Unity
Leigh Johnson	New Baltimore	Social Worker, Currently Unemployed	2008	*Grace United Methodist
Cheryl-Johnson-Carlin	Harrison Twp.	Referee, State of Michigan	2008	*Grace Episcopal
Kim Perkins	Warren	Financial Analyst, GM/Finance	2008	Renaissance Unity
Kristina Schwartz	Clinton Twp.	Loan Officer, The Prime Financial Group	2008	Christian Fellowship
Dwight Blaser	Washington Twp.	Retired Director, GM/R&D Center	2009	*Christ United Methodist
Janice Donahue	Sterling Heights	Currently Unemployed	2009	*St Rene Goupil Catholic
Laurie Huff	New Baltimore	Retired Program Director, Safe Horizons	2009	* St. Mary's Catholic
Bruce Ingersol	Mt Clemens	Realator, Keller Williams	2009	North Broadway Church of Christ

tion of such policies. This includes:

- Monitoring finances
- Securing adequate funding
- Representing MCREST to the public, businesses and the community
- Establishing and executing a strategic plan, and
- Conducting an annual performance review of the Executive Director.

Our Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the MCREST office. To learn more about our Board, I would invite you to attend one of our meetings.

As funding of MCREST is a very impor-

* Host church

tant responsibility of the Board, I would encourage you to note each of the fundraising events noted in this issue and pray as to how you might support these events. Support can take the form of volunteering to help organize or run an event, or by attending or providing a material or monetary gift. Due to current economic conditions, funding is critical to maintaining and growing the services provided for the homeless.

God Bless,
Dwight Blaser, President
MCREST Board of Director

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Jimetta's Journal



Christmas in July!

We know our plea letters went out in the mail, but what we experienced was unsatisfactory. We found people's names were addressed to either only their first name, salutation, or just their last name.

Jimetta Lewis

Please have a heart – do not hold this against us in donating to our cause. Because the mailing company did not address them correctly, we are still hosting the homeless and still need your help. We are trying to have the donations in before Christmas this year. This was brought to the attention of our mailing service and they apologized and guaranteed us the next mailing would be free – and correct, which we appreciate.

New Person on Staff! We are honored

to have **Alice Franco** join our crew as a full-time caseworker. Alice is completing her second internship with MCREST and we were again impressed with her abilities and attitude. Alice interned with us last year and we were saddened to see her leave. This year with Fred retiring August 31st, we had Alice within our wings and we were delighted she agreed to employ here. You will read more about her in a later issue.

Guests in Our Program: Concerns regarding guests in our program have surfaced, and I thought it might be a good time to clarify exactly what the staff does here at the office. We do not just go out to the churches in the evening. The caseworkers are here to do intake between 1 PM and 4 PM and prior to that, do casework with guests who are currently in the program. There is an extensive interview and assessment process with each person we take into the program. We ask extensive background information in a private setting along with current history. We do this to insure we feel this person would be safe living in a communal setting with rules and regulations. Now we all know they don't always follow those rules, but the main factor is

making sure the persons we send to the churches are 'safe' and will not harm others – *especially our army of volunteer angels* at the churches. We care about you as much as we care about our guests.

SCSEP: Senior Community Service Employment Program: We have two new volunteers in our office: Barbara Griffin who is doing computer data input, and Sammone St. Charles who is working our front desk as receptionist on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We thank Michigan Works for the opportunity to work with these great ladies!

Fred: I am so happy for Fred I could cry and do! We are all going to miss Fred. We have been very fortunate that Fred has been with MCREST for almost all of the 18 years that MCREST has existed. He has a natural instinct and insight into the homeless world that you are either born with or you lack. We are so grateful for Fred and wish him a great retirement. Please check out the information and purchase tickets for his party! We love you Fred.

Peace, Love and Joy,
Jimetta J. Lewis, Executive Director

CAP CORNER



April Morris
Cap Case Manager

We currently have two clients in the CAP program.

Brian M – is working a full time afternoon job, saving his money to get into an apartment. He is working hard to become self-sufficient.

Tionn M – is working a full time job, saving his money to get into an apartment. He is working with other agencies for job training. He is working hard to become self-sufficient.

We have, after much review, decided to put the CAP program on hold. We will review the program in November to make some changes.

We are suspending the program due to the change of clientele. We have experienced the clients are not serious about their recovery, and there are more serious mental health issues.

Dallas E. - graduated the program last month. We would like to congratulate our recent graduate, and we are very proud of his hard work and dedication to becoming self-sufficient. He has to overcome many obstacles to be successful.

Dallas went to Salvation Army MATTS for 30 days until his birthday. At that time, he will be eligible for an apartment downtown. The apartment complex is used for clients that receive VA benefits and they base it on his monthly income. He is continuing to go to college for his Associates Degree in General Studies.

MUM's the Word and the word needs to spread!

MUM stands for Motown United Ministries, and MCREST is a working partner. These are packaged mixes for soups, brownies, corn bread, pecan muffins and believe me, they are good! In order to sell the mixes, they have to be packaged. Here is where we make them:

We make mixes every Tuesday in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica. We work in their certified kitchen at 44160 Van Dyke from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Before you go – call Kristina Schwartz at (586) 322-6276

We have shows beginning in Oct...1 or 2 a weekend. The biggest push will be Saturdays Nov. 4, Nov. 11, and Dec. 2 when we have 6-8 shows each day. Yes, EACH day. We are in two big shows also, which are Nov. 25/26 at Henry Ford II HS and Dec.8-9-10 in Northville. Last year we did \$3000 in Northville and expect to do as much or more at Ford II and again at Northville.

Normally, we need 2 people to do a show...one to give samples, one to do sales/restock. Big shows will take more coordination.

Recycling For Charities

Mcrest is now eligible to start receiving funds from used electronics that are donated thru "Recycling for Charities". Anyone who has used electronic items they would like to donate, such as wireless cell phones, pagers, digital cameras, etc., can visit <http://www.recyclingforcharities.com> for donation details.

One of the great benefits of this program is that MCREST can now go onto their webpage and check the number of items that have been donated, and who has donated them. This provides MCREST with a customized donor list to utilize in the future.

Many thanks to Recycling For Charities for helping MCREST to help those in need!



Joelene Beckett

As of this writing, we are cooking in 95 degree plus weather, and have been for the past few days which included the weekend. Riding my bike (a rare opportunity lately) over the weekend, my thoughts turned to our

homeless folks who use bikes as their basic means of transportation and how terribly dangerous and uncomfortable this must be. Another opportunity to reflect on the abundance most of us enjoy with the air conditioners operating at full capacity and all the ice water we could possibly want and be grateful. Fortunately, most of the MCREST churches are blessed with the capabilities of keeping our guests cool in the summer and warm in the colder months, and we thank you.

Recruiting has been slow which is normal at this time of the

year due to many of the pastors and/or significant decision-makers being on vacation. I have encountered some problems with the 2007 schedule, having churches that are requesting different dates, and some temporarily leaving for various reasons, but I hope to have this remedied soon. Unfortunately, the week of October 15 – 22 of this year is open, and if there is anyone interested in helping me with that week, or any MCREST church that would like to sponsor a night, please call me for more information at (586)415-5105.

Relapse Prevention Sunday meetings have been temporarily discontinued. Since I have the credentials and training to do consulting, I have been seeing clients and former clients on an individual basis which is proving to be very productive for the recovering client. This is another service added to the many MCREST services offered in accordance with our Vision to help homeless people “plan for and seek a permanent solution to their situation”.

In closing, I wish you health, world peace and most of all ...Love. Joelene

Farewell To Pat Dery



Our MCREST annual meeting had a sad note this year as we bid farewell to Pat Dery as member of our MCREST board, and President of the Board for 5 years. Pat steered us through fundraisers and inspiration to complete our quest to move into larger quarters to enable us to provide more services. We are hoping we can convince her to return soon and appreciate her help with the multi-purpose building, fundraising, and planning Fred’s retirement party. (see – we won’t let her go!)



L'Anse Creuse Donation

Stephanie Fazzola and Caitlyn McAllister were two representatives from L'Anse Creuse Honor Arts Society, donating their check of \$800.00 from their annual Empty Bowls event.

Fred Pantalleresco Is Retiring

We are celebrating Fred’s retirement from MCREST. Fred has spent over 18 years helping the homeless in Macomb County and now he is going to spend time with his family and hobbies. Please join us in showing Fred our appreciation for the many years he has worked to help the homeless in Macomb County.



Fred Pantalleresco

Date: Saturday, September 16, 2006

Time: 6pm-10pm Dinner: 7pm-8pm

Where: St. Mark Lutheran Church
26830 West Park, Roseville

The church is located on the I-696 service drive behind McDonald’s (SW corner off of 11 Mile Rd. just west of Gratiot) Ticket Price: \$25.00 per person. Deadline is September 9th. For tickets call the MCREST office at: 586 415-5107

Contact Persons: Jimetta Lewis: 586 415-5107
Pat Dery: 586 524-7224

Eagle Scout's Project



This is Jeff Monterosso who was a candidate for Eagle Scout. Jeff’s project this year was to collect 50 laundry baskets with cleaning supplies and utensils for guests moving into their own home. Jeff not only collected them, but also donated money to MCREST through his donations! We have since given out 8 baskets to those needing them. We are grateful to Jeff for his accomplishments and his attainment of Eagle Scout!



Proud to Present!

Here is April Morris, completing her Bachelor's Degree in Human Services, Deacon Larry Healy from St. Michael's Community completing his Bachelor's Degree, and Carl Evans, Jr. having finished his Associates Degree, all from Baker College! We are proud of all three of you for continuing your education! I know April is working on her CAC Certification and Carl will be continuing at WSU.



Thank 
You

*For all the support you have
given to MCREST.
Please know that your generosity and
kindness is changing lives!*



20415 Erin
Roseville, MI 48066
Phone: (586) 415-5101
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We're on the Web!



Executive Director - Jimetta L. Lewis

Board of Directors:

President - Dwight Blaser

Vice-President - Jim Westlake

Secretary - Kim Perkins

Treasurer - Janet Miller

Denis Metty, Sr.
Kristina Schwartz
Sue Jarvis
Kim Perkins
Cheryl Johnson-Carlin
Leigh Johnson
June Schwartz
Laurie Huff
Bruce Ingersoll

Support Personnel:

Joelene Beckett
Sharron Kaczynski
April Morris
Carl Evans, Jr.
Fred Pantalleresco
Alice Franco