



Serving the Homeless since 1988

Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team



Fall 2006



Check out our website!
www.mcrest.org

CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR!
For the...

2nd Annual



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.....



Together with April Morris and Laurie Huff, I attended the First Annual Michigan Homeless Summit on October 24-25, 2006 at the Lansing Center. This meeting launched a campaign to end homelessness in Michigan and was a product of over a year of planning to highlight local plans prepared by each Michigan county as well as a set of statewide initiatives designed to revamp the state government's approach to helping the homeless. The collaborative effort includes the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH), the Michigan Department of Corrections (DOC), and the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness (MCAH), and other advocacy organizations. There were more than 600 attendees from around the state. It was a proud day for Michigan as each of its 83 counties had completed their local 10-year plans and was called to the stage to present them and have photos taken.

So what does this mean for MCREST? Will MCREST no longer be needed in the year 2016? Most likely there will always be a need for emergency sheltering; however, the vision of eliminating homelessness will require that we enhance our efforts to reduce reoccurring homelessness. A current example of this is our ongoing study to develop a multi-purpose building with a safe haven to house chronic homeless with mental health issues.

The state-wide effort to end homelessness offers a fresh opportunity for local agencies to collaborate and partner as we work together to achieve a common goal. My pledge, made at the summit meeting, is to do everything within my ability to de-

velop a strategic plan for MCREST that is fully aligned with the "Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Macomb County." I hope you too will pledge to support MCREST as we fulfill our role in the campaign to end homelessness.

God Bless,
Dwight Blaser, President
MCREST Board of Directors



Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Macomb County

For further information, please visit the MCREST website at:
www.mcrest.org

Macomb County Community Collaborations Project

PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFE CHOICES THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Transitional Housing Committee of the Macomb Homeless Coalition is seeking creative partners to expand services to homeless, men, women and children in Macomb County.

Through a new innovative community investment approach, we are building a community to care for those who are making a commitment to ending homelessness and begin a life of healthy choices and self-sufficiency.

You will find opportunities to support this effort along with information if you choose to partner to end homelessness for one person, a single parent with children and/or an entire family. They can include: a victim of domestic violence and her children, youth aging out of foster care, the disabled, veterans, homeless elderly and vulnerable and displaced families. We will find the need and you will partner with us to fill the need.

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Jimetta's Journal



Jimetta Lewis

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope this season finds you experiencing peace, love and joy with family and friends.

I wish to thank our three interns from this year – they are working on their Human Service Degrees from Baker College: Timika Wilson, Joyce Joshua and Kristina Schade. We are grateful for their help and wish them success in their studies.

We are appreciative of the support we have received from you and pray that it continues as we grow to expand our services to those who most need our guidance. There

will be more information in our next issue.

If you have not done so yet – please remember that your donation to MCREST results in a tax deduction for up to \$200 for a couple! You only have a few weeks for us to receive your donation to generate a letter of receipt!

Our Mardi Gras is February 17, 2007 and those who attended last year will tell you they had a GREAT time! Mark your calendars and get your dancing shoes out – because we will be celebrating again! Hope to see you there!

Peace, Love and Joy to all of you for a blessed holiday season!
Jimetta J. Lewis

Special Thanks & Wishes!

Jean, my wife, and I would like to thank all well-wishers who came to my retirement party. It was a humbling experience to hear

all the nice comments that were said and written. Thanks, also, for your generous gifts. MCREST, the churches, volunteers, guests, and staff, has been part of my extended family since 1988. It has always been my honor and privilege to serve all of you.

I will still be in Macomb County actively involved with the Macomb County Homeless Coalition as the chair of the Transitional Housing Committee. The Next Step RENEW has my everyday attention and the MCREST Board has allowed me to be a member.

I'm always in your service, Fred

As you may know, Jimetta Lewis, Executive Director of MCREST, is healing from back surgery, and her recovery may take some time. I know all of you join me in wishing her God's blessings in a safe and complete recovery.

May God bless you, Jimetta. We hope you are feeling better soon. Fred

CAP CORNER



April Morris
Cap Case Manager

We currently have one client in the CAP program.

Tionn M - is working a full time job, saving his money to move into an apartment. He will be moving into housing in a few weeks. He has worked hard trying to get all of his financial issues taken care of.

We are still discussing the CAP program and making changes to fit our clients.

tele. The CAP program can be a successful program to our clients who are serious about becoming self-sufficient.

We are still looking for individuals to mentor our clients. If you're interested in mentoring our clients, please call April at the MCREST office at (586) 415-5101.

Words of Thanks...

When you're at the bottom of your life, and you think you're at the end, and people don't care, there are people here at MCREST who help you get back on a right track. I was blessed to be in MCREST. Tionn

Dear MCREST,

When we came to you as homeless people one year ago, we did not know what we would do until we found the Lord my God, and our lives changed for the better, and He has not stopped blessing us. He blessed me with a job and then He blessed my wife with the same job, and now we have our two bedroom apartment, and it's all thanks to MCREST and the Lord. So now, we help MCREST take care of other homeless people today, and me and my wife love doing it.

Thank You
MCREST,

From Bernard and Lenore Nurtin

From the Photo Gallery:

The Gang's All Here -

MCREST staff, Board members, student interns, and families play at the MCREST annual picnic.



Dwight, Laurie, and Jim



Janet, Cheryl and June

Guest grillers at Mongolian Grill in Roseville

Whatever Happened to Fred?

Since his retirement in August of this year, it's been rumored that former MCREST case worker, Fred Pantalleresco, has been seen wearing a pink tutu and taking ballet lessons.

"Sorry to report that my ballet lessons aren't going well. My instructor said I either had to lose 70 lbs., or get a bigger tutu! Since the tutus don't come much bigger, and I'm not about to lose 70 lbs., I've decided to take up Wally Ball."



Fred and Jimetta



Joelene Beckett

The weatherperson is telling us that it's fall, but considering the lows at night, morning temperatures, and all the rain, it feels like winter trying to convince spring to take over. In reality, as of this writing, it is Fall going into Winter which means a series of dark, dismal days for us and the clients, but we know from the past our Winter church volun-

teers will put smiles on their faces. Thank you to all our volunteers for the uplift that you give our MCREST clients (and the staff). You are a blessing to all of us. I am still encountering problems with the 2007 schedule having 4 weeks that are still without a church, however the good news is this past October week that was open (the "B" team stepped up to help), and is filled for 2007 as well as the December 10-17th week which, as of this writing for 2006, will be an open week at St. Leonard's Church. Recruiting MCREST churches to help with these weeks is on-going and all we ask is that you sponsor one complete night of a week periodically if needed. Please call me at

(586)415-5105 if you are willing to pull together a small team for the December week. In the meantime, I will work diligently as in the past to fill the 2007 calendar. Budget issues and lack of volunteers (relocating due to economy) are the major roadblocks. The struggling economy, which is taking it's toll on our clients, is beginning to have an overall affect. I would also like to inform you that we now have two portable showers donated from Shepherd's Gate to loan out. Big thanks to them, and if you would like to borrow one call me.

Relapse consulting has been very busy with many clients requesting appointments. Being in a MCREST shelter gives them

an opportunity to begin their new life of sobriety, while having a support person (Recovery Coach) to give them some education and direction is proving valuable. Some of the clients are just out of treatment, some are waiting for treatment, others are in the contemplation stage, while some are just tired of the lifestyle but don't know where to start. I feel very blessed to be able to share my knowledge and experience with these folks in the hopes that they will find their purpose and a meaningful life.

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

Our Week

By Cyndi St. John

*They came with tired faces
And stories hard to tell
We came with expectations
God, let our week go well.*



*By weeks end they seemed lifted
By all they had received
And now we all were saddened
Our new friends had to leave.*

*We fed them and we clothed them
And eased their burdens some
Began to feel God's presence
It's why we ALL had come*

*In one short week we'd bonded
Began to know each man
We sent them off with prayer
And God's own helping hand*

*At first they looked so weary
Such troubles on their backs
But after just a little while
They started to relax,*



*Some wonder why we do it
Why help these ragged souls
God loves His whole creation
To His love fast we hold*

*With hugs, and laughs and caring
The load grew lighter still,
With days of kind attention
And living out God's will.*

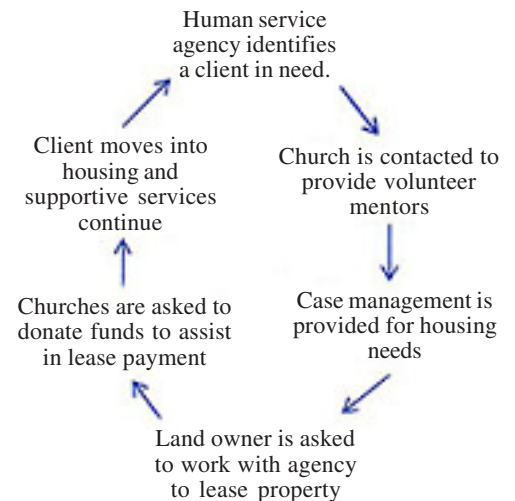
*We send them out with angels
In service lifted higher.
His hands to touch, his arms to hold,
His spirit to inspire.*

A special thank you to our guests. It is through service to others that we are uplifted. Thank you for allowing us to serve God through serving you.

*Thank you! Yours in Christ
Cyndi St John
St. Mark Lutheran Church
Roseville, Mi
Oct 1, 2006*

Collaborations Project...(continued)

Example of how it works



If you would like to make an investment in Macomb County to help end homelessness, call the numbers below

**Macomb County Homeless Coalition
Transitional Housing Committee**
Committee Chair - Fred Pantalleresco
586-770-6527 fpntlo62@wowway.com

Macomb Homeless Coalition
Housing Resource Specialist - Paula Florka
586-469-7702
pflorka@macomb-stclairworks.org

Macomb County Community Services Agency
CoC Coordinator - Carrie Fortune, Esq.
586-783-0916



2nd Annual

Mardi Gras



February 17, 2007



*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
Fax: (586) 415-5103

Executive Director - Jimetta L. Lewis

Board of Directors:

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Vice-President - Jim Westlake

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Sue Jarvis
Cheryl Johnson-Carlin
Leigh Johnson
Janice Donahue
Laurie Huff
Bruce Ingersoll
Fred Pantalleresco

Support Personnel:

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

We're on the Web!

