



Serving the Homeless since 1988

Volume 2, Issue2

# Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team



Summer 2007



Check out our website!  
[www.mcrest.org](http://www.mcrest.org)

## CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR! Coming Events...

*MCREST's 20 Year Anniversary  
August, 2007 - 2008*

*Spring Fling: April 19th, 2008  
at Zucarro's  
North of Hall Rd. on Gratiot*



## Bus Tickets

**Buy 1 - Buy 1,000**

\$1.35 each

Order through the  
**MCREST Office**

**(586) 415-5101**

## From the desk of the President.....

Dear friends of MCREST,

It is with great sadness that I report the death of our Board President, Dwight Blaser. The countless hours and tremendous skills that he brought to MCREST cannot be measured. Dwight's death not only leaves a hole in our hearts, but a large hole in our organization. It will be impossible to fill his shoes, but we must go forward.



Dwight was a very kind, Christian man, active in his church, Christ United Methodist Church of Fraser. He mentored many, made three trips to Asia to bring babies back to their adoptive parents, and willingly served on many committees. His organizational skills are legend. Dwight had a binder for every committee with all the information catalogued behind individual tabs. His keen mind was able to see the bigger picture and guide others to the desired goal.

Mr. Blaser held a Doctorate in Engineering. He retired from General Motors after 30 years of service. He also acted as a consultant to the engineering Department at Ohio State University, his Alma Mater. He often enjoyed the wearing of red and gray, especially after his beloved Ohio State beat U of M in football. His funeral was a tribute to a humble, yet dynamic man who constantly gave of himself for the betterment of his church, his community, his family and his God.

May he rest in Peace.

Laurie Huff,  
MCREST Board of Directors

*Lost!*

*Lost in a world gone insane.  
Lost in a world unfair with  
confusion and pain.  
Lost in a world with no gain.  
Lost in a world going nowhere,  
Feeling like no one cares.  
Lost in a world of silence,  
For no one hears a heart that is crying.  
At times it seems my soul is dying.  
Does time heal the hurting heart,  
Or can it heal and love that fell apart?  
Can time erase memories of the past,  
Or are we lost in the devils path?  
Can we over come the fears inside,  
That we so often try to hide?  
Are we lost with hindered minds,  
Going through life's twisted binds?  
Lost in a world of troubled times  
Trying hard to leave the past behind.  
If you feel like you are lost,  
And your world is crumbling down,  
Just give your problems to Jesus  
For he can turn your life around.*

*By James  
5-23-07*

## Election Results...

MCREST's recent Board of Director's election resulted as follows:

- \* Our new President is Laurie Huff
- \* Our new Vice President is Patricia Dery

*And Welcoming Back...*

- \* Secretary, Kim Perkins
- \* Treasurer, Janet Miller

## In This Issue:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Jimetta's Journal<br>Cap Corner<br>Sharron Kaczynski Retires<br>Welcome New Board Members! | 2 |
| Program Information Specialist<br>A Gift of Love<br>Donations to MCREST                    | 3 |

# Jimetta's Journal



Jimetta Lewis

God Loves MCREST. This is the prayer in our office when we are facing challenges and we remind each other to keep our chins up. It is sometimes easy to forget we are not walking this life alone. When people, such as yourself come into my life and plant seeds to warrant me to look at life differently – I sometimes feel that I can graciously accept I have been blessed by you. So many of you reading this fit into this category. I hear some of your stories and your struggles. For all of you, I give you

my heartfelt thanks!

I had one such person come into my life here at MCREST and am in awe of the servitude this one man performed for so many.

I am speaking of Dwight Blaser who left to be with Our Lord a few weeks ago. This special man guided us through thought processes so we could easily understand the points to be made. He motivated with concern and respect. This and his consistent giving of his knowledge, compassion, and love for his fellow man were obvious in his deeds and actions. He talked the talk and walked the walk. Thank you God for allowing us to experience him for as long as we did.

We have dreams for the future and have a business plan to work those dreams. The multi-purpose building is part of our 10-year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in

Macomb County. Several agencies have worked together for 3 years to put the dream together. Dwight was very excited to see the plans from our architect as was I. We will work to get it on our website. Currently, the architect will approach the city with the preliminaries to secure any zoning and variance issues. We could use your help as we work on our strategic plan in September to further our vision and/or to work with the building committee. Call or e-mail me telling me the area you will volunteer and have expertise!

[jimetta@mcrest.org](mailto:jimetta@mcrest.org) and 586-415-5107

God Bless You All.

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

## CAP CORNER



April Fidler  
Cap Case Manager

**We currently have four clients in the CAP program.**

We have seen an increase of clients trying to get on their feet by obtaining full-time employment and taking their recovery serious, but we are not full.

David B – is working a full time job, saving his money for housing. We are working on getting him into subsidized housing. He has been working hard on his sobriety by going to two AA meetings weekly, meeting with Joelene (Recovery Coach), and Jeff

(Downriver Therapist). David signed a lease on August 18, 2007 in Chesterfield Township.

Tim S – is working full time through a temp service. He is working hard on his recovery by going to AA meetings daily, meetings with Joelene and Jeff weekly. Tim is required to attend Clinton Counseling and get involved in the ADA program weekly.

Augusto B – is working full time at a factory. He is working towards becoming self-sufficient by attending two AA meetings, meeting with Jeff and Joelene weekly. He will be working on paying off some court fines before he moves into housing.

Thomas I – is working two part-time jobs. He is working on his recovery needs by attending two AA meetings, meeting with Jeff and Joelene weekly.

We need individuals to mentor our cli-

ents. If you are interested in mentoring our clients, please call April at the MCREST office at (586) 415-5101.

## Sharron Kaczynski Retires



It is with joy and sadness that we announce the retirement of Sharron Kaczynski, Case Worker, who started with MCREST as a board member, volunteered as a part-time staff person, and came full circle as one of our most caring case workers whose compassion stood above all working with families and children. Sharron will work only part-time on weekends with us until November of this year. (Continued...page 3)

## Welcome New Board Members!



From left to right - Richard Bagdasarian, Margaret O'Reilly, Sandra Empson, Chuck O'Brien, Jody Wenz

### Richard Bagdasarian.....

Richard joins the MCREST board with extensive experience in service to others. Richard has been a member of the Board of Management of Churches, Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen, Mission of Seamen

and the Low Income and Senior Citizen Housing Board of Windsor, Ontario. In addition, Richard is an accomplished chef who enjoys cooking for others.

### Margaret O'Reilly.....

Margaret is the Business Manager at St. Luke Lutheran Church and School, and a wife and Mother of three wonderful children. Margaret is the Co-coordinator of MCREST at St. Luke and participates in many other Human Care programs at the church.

### Sandra Empson.....

Sandy Empson first came to us as a guest, 7 months pregnant with four children in tow and deserted by her husband. Sandy now has her own place, five healthy children and was recently promoted at work to the position of Administrative Assistant. Her position on our board of directors insures that MCREST has the best interest of the homeless when making policy decisions.

### Chuck O'Brien.....

Chuck O'Brien joins the Board after spending 28 years in Sales and Sales Management in the computer technology field. Chuck has been appointed to chair the Public Relations and Marketing Committee this year where he hopes to help MCREST in communicating its mission to the community. Chuck also is a volunteer with the Macomb Homeless Coalition and Macomb County Meals-on-Wheels.

### Jody Wenz.....

Jody brings to the MCREST Board her 22 years of experience in the HUD subsidized public housing industry. She is currently employed by the Eastpointe Housing Commission where she has held the position of Executive Director for the past 15 years. Jody is an active member of Warren Woods Church of the Nazarene where she first encountered her passion for the MCREST program.



*Joelene Beckett*

Beginning my article on a sad note is not preferred, but I would like to again extend my condolences to the family of Dwight Blaser on his passing. He will be sadly missed by myself and all.

Here we are just a little over half the year and, as of this writing, I am coordinating an open

week and have had two churches that had to drop off the schedule. One of the weeks is November 18-25, 2007 which is Thanksgiving, but we are blessed with St. Lucy Church that has stepped up and offered to leave their February week to cover this time. This would have been a very difficult week to cover with the holiday – big thanks to the St. Lucy folks, especially Jerry Solomon who worked diligently to get the approval. Once again we are so blessed to have dedicated volunteers and my kudos to all of our teams. That now leaves February 3-10, 2008 open for a church that will take one-half of the program since we do have a church that will be taking one-

half also already scheduled. The other open week is December 2-9, 2007 and I have started to put out the word. Attending volunteer meetings and debriefings is still proving to be very fruitful, seemingly both for the staff and the volunteers. It's amazing how many questions and suggestions have surfaced, and all the information I am given I bring back to the staff, keeping us all informed of your concerns and ideas. Thank you to all that I have met with and I continue to ask that any churches that are planning their meetings that they let me know as soon as they have a date. There was a certification August 2nd for the churches from that date until the end of the

year. Thank you to all who attended as we had over 80 volunteers show up. This is a great training which gives continuity to our guests with less confusion and issues. If your church did not participate – please call me to reschedule.

Recovery Coaching remains very busy with many positive outcomes. I am pleased to be able to help our clients understand recovery, maintain abstinence, and move on with their lives.

In closing, my wish is for world peace, health for all and most of all....Love.

Joelene

**Sharron Retires, continued...**

She requests no party or dinner be held for her, but anyone wanting to make a donation in her name, especially in the form of McDonald gift books and rain ponchos (2 for \$1.00 at the Dollar store in Richmond), she would greatly appreciate it. Sharron states, "It has been my honor and privilege to be involved in this ministry. I have seen God's work at hand with all his "angels" who have been carrying out His work."

***A Gift of Love***

The students at Magahy Elementary had their annual fun run this year and took in pledges and/or donations for walking or running laps. Each lap for each student was counted. For every \$5.00 donated, the student's name was placed in a basket. One boy had a donation of \$200!



These children remind me of how important it is to remember why we are here and helping others! The picture is of Mr. Slancik the principal, Vincent Gallo, acting principal that day, and his assistant principal, Armand Lanni. All together, Magahy donated a total of \$600.00! Thank you to all...

Peace, Love and Joy,  
Jimetta J. Lewis

**Donations to MCREST:**

The State of Michigan Encourages Donations to MCREST.  
Your gift of up to \$400 to MCREST **may cost You as little as \$88!**

Let the State of Michigan and Federal Government refund a portion of your gift to MCREST! Michigan has made it possible for you to qualify for a special tax credit based on your gift to support MCREST. Tax credits have greater value than tax deductions because they are a reduction of the tax you are required to pay, not a reduction of income that is subject to taxation.

A tax credit is an amount equal to 50% of your gifts, within established limits. Gifts to MCREST that qualify for the Michigan State Tax Credit total \$20 for single individuals and up to \$400 for married couples filing jointly. Gifts of amounts lower than the established limits may also qualify for the Michigan State Tax Credit.

When you add your federal tax deduction, your gift to MCREST costs you even less! The net cost of your gift is amazingly much lower than the size of your gift!

Two examples of tax savings for gifts to MCREST:

|                     | Single Individual | Married Couple Filing Jointly |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Gift                | \$200.00          | \$400.00                      |
| MI Tax Credit       | -100.00           | -200.00                       |
| Federal Tax Savings | <u>-56.00</u>     | <u>-112.00</u>                |
| Net Cost of Gift    | \$44.00           | \$88.00                       |

**If interested, please make your check out to MCREST and mail to:  
20415 Erin, Roseville, Mi 48066**

**Enclosed is my tax deductible donation to MCREST \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

*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

**We're on the Web!**



Board of Directors:

Laurie Huff, President  
Patricia Dery, Vice President  
Janet Miller, Treasurer  
Kim Perkins, Secretary

Janice Donahue  
Cheryl Johnson-Carlin  
Jody Wenz  
Margaret O'Reilly  
Charles O'Brien  
Richard Bagdasarin  
Sandra Empson  
Fred Pantalleresco

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Jimetta J. Lewis

Associate Director:

April Fidler

Staff:

Joelene Beckett, Program Info. Specialist  
Tim Franco, Office Ass't/Caseworker  
Alice Franco, Caseworker  
Sharron Kaczynski, Case Worker  
Barbara Griffin, HMIS Data Clerk

Fund Developer:

Phillip D. Ogle