



The Flame

www.community-sharing.org

August 2024

400 Beach Farm Circle
Highland, MI 48356

Mail: P. O. Box 405
Highland, MI 48357

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Coming Events

August 14
Black Label Tavern

August 26
Back to School Event

September 7-8
Semi Annual Garage Sale

September 17
Mama Mia Sing-A-Long
at Milford Cinema

October 6
Empty Bowl
at Bakers of Milford

A Note from the President



What a very busy six months at Community Sharing. We have completed three fundraisers, Trivia Night, and our semi-annual Garage Sale and our annual golf outing. In May, 15 volunteers recently participated in the National Letter Carrier Day Food Drive where we collected over 3,000 pounds of donated food. Plan and preparations have started for our Empty Bowls Fundraiser coming up this fall.

Currently the pantry volunteers are packing up food for our "Summer Lunch" program, where our plan is to distribute extra "kid" friendly food to our families during June-August. We are also providing bag lunches for sponsored children attending YMCA camp in Milford.

The number of individuals we have served the first 6 months of 2024 is up 10% and an increase of 10,000 pounds of food distributed. Our cash donations are down about 25%, but that is not an unusual trend, this time of the year. We are so very grateful for all the local small businesses and donors that support our mission.

So, what is next? Back to School Program and Empty Bowls. We ask that each of you help identify any needs and refer local families to Community Sharing. We continued to seek your generous support through monetary donations and food drives.

Thank-you for all you for Community Sharing and our mission.

Sincerely,
Dave Bell, Board President

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS



EMPTY BOWL FUNDRAISER

Join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year. Come share in a meal of various soups and breads donated by local restaurants, enjoy fellowship with your community and participate in a fantastic fundraiser. A \$15*

donation at the door means you will receive a refillable bowl to test over twelve soups. We ask that you take your bowl home as a reminder of the hunger in our community and your contribution in assisting some 456 children and their families in the Huron Valley School District so they will not go to bed hungry.

**Community Sharing Outreach Center Fundraiser
Fall Garage Sale
Saturday, Sept 7th & Sunday, Sept 8th**

We need CLEAN and USABLE items for the sale!

PLEASE, YES

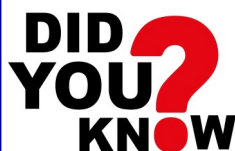
- ✓ Games, Puzzles & Legos
- ✓ Home Décor
- ✓ Kitchen Wares
- ✓ New Items
- ✓ Purses
- ✓ Small Appliances
- ✓ Tools
- ✓ Sporting equipment
- ✓ Craft items
- ✓ Linens (no throw pillows)
- ✓ Bikes
- ✓ Books (Fiction Only)
- ✓ Dishes, mugs & glasses
- ✓ Framed Pictures
- ✓ Furniture ** See exceptions on NO list



PLEASE, NO

- X Plastic Toys, Stuffed Animals
- X CLOTHING
- X VHS Tapes
- X DVDs and CDs
- X Luggage
- X Electronics (inc. TVs & Computers)
- X ** No Entertainment Centers or Hutches
- X Exercise equipment

Donations are now being accepted.





Did you know that 100% of the profit is used to purchase food to stock our pantry shelves? Each sale usually generates money for three months worth of food. These sales are so popular with donors, shoppers and clients. There is something for everyone! You can support us by donating your unwanted treasures, shopping at the sale, and spreading the word.

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Community Sharing will be teaming up with St. Mary’s Church August 26th, offering a Back-to-School Program. Our goal is to help our school-age clients feel prepared and excited for the coming school year. Community Sharing will provide registered families resources for back to school clothes, personal hygiene products and various other items.

Back packs loaded with school supplies, will be provided by St. Mary’s Church. This program is a great way for us to team up and show the children of our community support!

 No time to shop but want to donate to Community Sharing?

 Checkout the Community Sharing Wish List on Amazon!

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/350CSO1S5T3JA/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1

NOTES FROM THE PANTRY

We continue to be busier than ever as we assist more families in need in our HVS community. Our biggest and most exciting project this summer is our Summer Lunch program. All K-12 students in the state of Michigan now receive free hot lunch during the school year. The goal of our program is to fill that gap while our clients’ children are on summer break and help ensure that they do not go hungry. Every time a family visits our pantry, they receive an extra bag of food for each of their K-12 aged children. The bag contains kid friendly items, such as peanut butter and jelly, yogurt, cheese, fresh produce, canned soup and pasta, cereal, mac and cheese, and healthy snacks. So far during Summer 2024, we have distributed 287 bags, which is up almost 30% compared to Summer 2023! If you would like to support this worthwhile program, please see the link on our website to our Amazon Wishlist.

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

Community Sharing continues with multiple projects to provide services to the community. Just to name a few:

- Each month, throughout the summer while school is out, Community Sharing provides lunches to our client’s school-age children. These lunches are in addition to the normal monthly food distribution each family receives.
- Community Sharing sponsored 10 children from our client families to attend a 2-week summer camp at the Milford YMCA.
- A dedicated group of Community Sharing volunteers provide lunch Monday-Friday throughout June-July-August to a group of YMCA camp children from low-income families. The lunches include a drink, sandwich, fruit, healthy snacks and desserts and are delivered each morning to the YMCA.
- Because many of our clients do not speak English, we provide interpreters to help get them registered to receive our services. The interpreters include a Community Sharing volunteer and Huron Valley Schools.
- We continue to provide monthly meals to many home-bound clients who are unable to get to Community Sharing. A big thank you goes to GM Proving Ground volunteers who deliver these meals.
- A recent transportation service is now available to assist those without transportation. Community Sharing clients who lack transportation are registered through the casework department with WO-TA (West Oakland Transportation Authority). They are picked up at their home, driven to Community Sharing, receive their monthly food distribution, and are driven home.





Community Sharing
P.O. Box 405
Highland, MI 48357

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Occupant Or

SAVE THE DATE

Newsletter printed by:



*We are available to accept your
donations of food and garage sale
items on...*

Monday through Thursday
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

2nd & 4th Tuesday
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

2nd Saturday of each month
10 a.m. - Noon

Milford & Highland Seniors

Contact the office for special pick-up
arrangements for your donations.



We are in need of \$25 Gift Cards from Walmart, Target or Meijer for the Back-to-School program. These gift cards help us offer a free shopping day for kids prior to the beginning of school.

We are also collecting new socks and feminine hygiene products for our students.

Please drop off items M-Th 10am-1pm at our office.