



400 Beach Farm Circle
Highland, MI 48356

Mail: P. O. Box 405
Highland, MI 48357
248-889-0347

Board of Directors

President:
David Bell

Vice President:
Claudia Schimetz

Treasurer:
Bob Swanson

Secretary:
Chris Burke

Directors at Large:

Jennifer Cawthorne
David Dickey
Beth Frydlewicz
Stacy Hess
Jaqi Kupfer
Cheryl Soden
Mary Krebs
Tom Menzie

Member Emeritus:
Mel Boomer

Newsletter Editor:
Pam Glover

Upcoming Events

Now - April 24
Accepting donations for
the Spring Garage Sale

March 29
Trivia Night at the Milford
American Legion

June 6
Golf Outing at
Brentwood Golf Club

The Flame

www.community-sharing.org

February 2025

A Note from the President



Community Sharing is fired up for 2025! In 2024 we added nearly 200 new families that visited Community Sharing. Our Case Work team continues to be remarkably busy helping families with emergency financial needs. We added another desk and case worker to help manage the workload.

The Community Sharing Ambassador program continues to expand. Their mission is to get out into the community to share the news of what we do and how we can support families that need a little extra help. The Team meets monthly to find more ways to help, particularly within each school as well as the manufactured home parks. We will be launching a new program this spring.

We continue to add some great and dedicated volunteers, with special skills that enhance our work. Sadly, we mourn the passing of two long time volunteers: Steve Pardikes, known for his work on the Golf Outing and recently the passing of Susan Militello, our most wonderful Case Worker. Many folks ask, "how can we help", which is a difficult question to answer. We are not like the big food banks in Michigan and cannot manage large groups. But some of the things that can help are "food drives". One idea is doing a boxed cereal or snack bar food drive.

Thanks to all our supporters and donors. We had a good year raising funds to support the mission. Empty Bowl was a successful event, it might have helped that it was moved to October. We continue to have strong support from local businesses and community groups. I want to mention that we have amazing support from Meijers Corp (and our local White Lake store) via the SIMPLY GIVE Program. This program, with the help of local shoppers keeps growing each year.

So, what is next? Recently the state has increased the poverty guideline limits, so we are expecting more visitors to the pantry. We continue to see an increase in the need for emergency financial assistance and will endeavor to support those needs where we can.

Thank you for all you do for Community Sharing and our mission.
Sincerely, Dave Bell

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

TRIVIA NIGHT

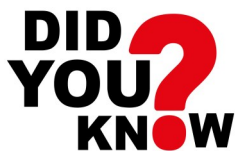


TRIVIA NIGHT

Our 10th Annual Trivia Night is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, at the Milford American Legion Post. Ticket information is available on the Community Sharing website and on the Community Sharing Facebook page. Tickets are \$30 per person. Reserve your table of 8 players or sign up to join a table.

GOLF OUTING

The 2025 Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, June 6, at Brentwood Golf Club in Commerce Township. More information will be available on our website and Facebook page.



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.

SPRING GARAGE SALE

The spring garage sale is scheduled for May 3-4. Household donations are currently being accepted. Check our website and Facebook page for items that are acceptable and those items we cannot accept.



PLEASE DONATE ONLY CLEAN & USABLE ITEMS

We are happy to accept:

Linens, Bikes, Books (Fiction Only), Dishes, Framed Pictures, Games, Puzzles, Legos, Home Décor, Kitchen Wares, Craft Items, Purses, Small Appliances, Tools, New Items, Furniture (NO hutches or entertainment centers)

We CANNOT accept:

Plastic Toys, Dolls, Stuffed Animals, Christmas Trees, Christmas Decorations, Clothing, Electronics (including TVs & Computers), VHS Tapes, DVDs, CDs, Luggage, Exercise Equipment.

Items may be dropped off Monday - Thursday from 10:00am - 1:00pm at the Community Sharing Outreach Center, 400 Beach Farm Circle, Highland.

Our semi annual garage sale is a win-win for donors, shoppers, and clients. The community has supported this major fundraiser by donating their unwanted items and shopping for treasures. Clients are able to find household and other items at super low prices.

Our Spring sale is May 3 (4-7pm. \$5.00 admission) and May 4 10am-4pm (free admission).

The Last day for donations is April 24.



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



At times Community Sharing has a "wish list" of new items that need to be provided new. Often on the list are socks, underwear and undershirts for all ages. Simply select the items you want to purchase and it will be delivered to our door.!

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

AMBASSADOR TEAM EXCITING NEWS!



Our Ambassador Team is collaborating with local groups and the Huron Valley Schools to provide "healthy" snacks to school students. We discovered that each school struggled to keep an adequate supply of healthy snacks on hand for students who come to school hungry (resulting, often, in their underperformance.) When a teacher or social worker in the building realizes a student is struggling and hungry, they escort him/her down to the pantry to pick up a granola bar, some cheese and crackers or a fruit snack, etc.

Community Sharing Ambassadors will be working with a Pantry-Donor Network such as: The White Lake Fire Department, The White Lake Police Department, Up Lift Milford, Parent Teacher Associations, and others to keep the shelves well stocked. The Ambassadors have volunteered to coordinate the School Pantry Project which includes ordering and delivering the snacks to each school. Currently they have a list of 35 suggested items that they will start shopping for in late February.

We are hoping this will be an outreach opportunity for families to learn more about other ways Community Sharing helps with Food Insecurity and other services.

You are welcome to contact our office to find out how you can help with this important program.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

The Empty Bowl Event was held on October 6, 2024, and was a very successful and well-attended annual fundraiser. Attendance surpassed 200+ attendees.

As in the past years, Community Sharing organized a winter coat distribution for K-12 students from our client families in the Huron Valley School District. These coats came from local charitable organizations and private donations. In addition, winter coats, snowpants, boots, hats, and gloves were also available to students as needed.

Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners (in addition to regular monthly food distribution) were provided to client families. These dinners included all the fixings to prepare delicious holiday meals for client families. Community Sharing collaborated with St. Mary's Catholic Church in Milford to provide these meals. Our homebound clients receiving home delivery also received holiday meals.

Gift cards were given to client families for their children (age 0-18) as part of our "Joy of Giving" program. In addition, each family was provided with a large bag of "treats". Community Sharing collaborated with St. Mary's Catholic Church for this gifting program. A big thank-you to all the community members who generously contributed gift cards and

CASEWORK HIGHLIGHT

Over the past 9 months Community Sharing has seen an influx of clients in financial need. Inflation is making it harder and harder for clients to meet their monthly budget. The cost of essentials, like food and housing, continues to rise. The casework department has been working hard assisting clients that are facing financial crisis. In December and January Community Sharing assisted 18 clients in fear of losing their home and 13 individuals with utility shut-off notices. Genuine gratitude was felt by each of these clients, as the uncertainty of meeting the financial stress was lifted.



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

NON-PROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 74
 HIGHLAND, MI 48357

Community Sharing

**2025 Spring Garage Sale is
 around the corner...**



Saturday, May 3rd, Pre-Sale 4pm – 7pm

(\$5 admission)

Sunday, May 4th, 10am – 4pm

**Community Sharing Outreach Center
 400 Beach Farm Circle, Highland**

[behind Highland Post Office 📮, next to
 the Highland Library 📖]



Questions... call 248-889-0347 or visit www.csgaragesale.org

*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.