

## Expansion Targeted for Completion Early in 2001



The shaking building, the pounding, the hum of the trucks and the familiar sight of hardhats—just another day at the West Midland Family Center! Given what's in store for us when this tremendous effort is completed early in 2001, these inconveniences are small sacrifices.

Groundbreaking for the expansion took place May 17. Progress has been steady ever since, with foundations laid in both the front and back for new preschool and office space areas, as well as for the new gym. The recent "appearance" of walls has brought a new wave of excitement for all involved.

Nearly doubling the space at WMFC will allow us to better handle our current programs and activities and to expand to accommodate larger numbers of participants. Recreational opportunities for all ages will grow due to the addition of another gym and the outdoor swimming pool. More and better-equipped office areas will enable us to improve our service to local residents.

Right on schedule, this long-awaited dream is becoming a reality. "It's been thrilling to watch the progression over the summer," says Executive Director Greg Dorrien. "There have been very few glitches, and we expect things to continue in this manner."

## WMFC Welcomes New Dow COP Director

Dawn Haefele has joined the WMFC staff as the new Director of the Dow College Opportunity Program, a mentoring program for prospective college students from grades eight through twelve. She enthusiastically greeted the new school year.



Dawn Haefele

"This is an amazing opportunity for teens to grow and develop themselves, and at the same time get help paying for their college education," says Dawn. While acting as Director, she continues studies at CMU in Professional Counseling. Haefele recently moved to Midland from Saginaw, where she directed the Girls' Unit at Boysville.



Tracy Meister

Former Director Tracy Meister will be returning to CMU as recipient of the King, Chavez, Parks Fellowship, to pursue advanced studies in Professional Counseling. Tracy has tirelessly contributed in numerous ways as Director of the COP program since 1993, and will remain with WMFC on a part-time basis.

## Volunteers Build New "Kiddie Playground"

Thanks to volunteers from the Kiwanis and the Midland Kiwanis Club, West Midland Family Center now boasts a colorful new playground. They measured, fitted and hammered all day June 3 to finish the project.



Dick Waterman, Art Ledbetter and Tom Ladd (L to R), volunteers from the Midland Kiwanis Club, devote a hard day's work to the completion of WMFC's young children's playground.

Located southeast of the main building, the playground includes an elevated sandbox, two multiplex climbers (complete with tic-tac-toe board

## Lois Burton Honored For Dedicated Service

Ask anyone around West Midland Family Center about Lois Burton, and you will hear words like "remarkable, caring, amazing.....," and the list goes on. This mother of 23-yes, you read it right (21 are adopted)-began her involvement with WMFC in 1991 doing childcare. From there she moved to the preschool as an aide, where she began doing family support groups for the Building Strong Families program. Her role then expanded into Family Support Coordinator for the Capable Kids and Family Ties programs.

Through her work at WMFC, Lois has had an impact on the community that few can match.



Lois Burton



# Non-Stop Fun for West Midland's Summer Program Enrollees!

Children who attended West Midland Family Center's Summer Programs will have no problem writing that "What I Did This Summer" essay. Activity and fun abounded at Floyd Elementary School, the setting for the program this summer due to WMFC's building expansion.

Second through sixth graders participated in the regular Summer Program, where they were assigned to a team for the duration of the seven-week program. Each Monday through Thursday, program leaders led the children through daily activities, including hands-on arts and crafts projects, computer lab and library time.

A week at the Chippewa Nature Center allowed time for exploring the natural world. Other activities, like canoeing and an "Olympics" on Friendship Day (Meridian Summer Campers were the invited guests), provided physical challenges. The program also included Alcohol,

See **SUMMER PROGRAMS**, Page 4



Teamwork is the order of the day as these Summer Program students open a gigantic parachute for fun and games.

## Rotary Winner

Kori Carter proudly shows her Midland Morning Rotary Club Student Recognition Award, which she received April 25 at the Midland Country Club. The Breckenridge High School senior was nominated for her outstanding leadership skills as a valued team member of WMFC's Teens In Training Program. Over the last three years Kori has volunteered over 900 hours at WMFC and helped with numerous school and community activities. Kori is accompanied by Wyndy Johnson, WMFC Youth and Teen Activity Coordinator (left).



## WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President .....Win Zacharias  
Vice President .....Jim Anderson  
Secretary .....Jo Ann Winchester  
Treasurer .....Ben Dollard  
Directors: Julie Arbury, Greg Bergtold,  
Don Koster, Janet Miller, Amber Phillips,  
Bill Schmidt  
Advisors: Jim Burlingame, Michael Custer,  
Gene Dauer, Bob Dostal, Tom Misner, Chuck  
Norisez, Alan Oman, Joe Rogers, Sue Thumma,  
Joe VanderKelen, Roland Weaver, Ralph Wirtz

## STAFF

Executive Director .....Greg Dorrien  
Program Director .....Gail Crosby  
Financial Director .....Rebecca Lampman  
Office Manager .....Diane DeMott  
Receptionists: Teri Booth, Christy Chappel,  
Diane Dauer, Jennifer Yarch  
Maintenance Director .....Barry Lenski  
Maintenance Staff ..Gerald Burkett, Mike Kirby,  
Kelli Bade  
Dow College Opportunity Director ..Dawn Haeefe  
Dow COP Assistant Director ....Tracy Meister  
Family Services Director .....Renee Shauger  
Family Resource Coordinator ...Suzelle Drake  
Youth & Teen Coordinator ....Wyndy Johnson  
Youth Specialist .....Mary Jeppeson  
Development Coordinator .....Mary Kane  
Youth & Teen Staff: Amanda Allen, Tom Berlin,  
Cheryl Corpus, Nicki Gainsforth, Stacie Gath,  
Stephanie Morgan, Tonya Morton, Andi  
Strohm, Carla Strong, Erica Worthen, Sarah  
Lukens, Matt Bradley, Kristen Wendling  
Preschool Teachers .....Elaine Fabinski  
Cindy Schrauben  
Assistant Preschool Teacher .....Barb Simons  
Preschool Assistants .....Missy Finney  
Susan Welk, Shelly Miller  
Preschool Transportation .....Leslie Noykos  
Child Care Director .....Ginger Yarch  
Child Care Assistants: Eileen Burch, Connie  
Billings, Sheleigh Burton, Tricia Chappel,  
Annabelle Curtis, Mary Ladd, Penny Owen, Eva  
Searfoss, Becky Sexton, Marie Smith, Shelly Miller  
Senior Program Staff .....Susan Wells

## Other Programs Housed at WMFC:

NEMSCA Head Start Teacher ....Connie Woys  
NEMSCA Head Start Teacher Asst. ..Jeannie Angus  
NEMSCA Head Start  
Classroom Asst .....Terri Tracey  
Council On Aging Site Manager ....Judy Wirtz

## BUILDING EXPANSION DONORS

Organization	Amount
Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation .....	\$1,500,000
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation .....	750,000
The Dow Chemical Company Foundation .....	240,000
Charles J. Strosacker Foundation .....	220,000
Dow Corning Foundation .....	90,000

## ORGANIZATION BENEFACTORS THROUGH JULY 30

Organization	Amount	Organization	Amount
Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation ..	\$1,000,000*	Greendale Township .....	\$2,500
State of Michigan .....	233,172	Snow Machines, Inc .....	2,500
United Way of Midland County .....	138,750	NE Michigan Community Service .....	2,060
Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundation .....	62,000	Blessed Sacrament Church .....	1,900
Towsley Foundation .....	45,000	Midland County Child Protection Council .....	968
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation .....	40,000	Midland Kiwanis Foundation .....	500
Dow Chemical Company Foundation .....	25,000	Childcare Concepts .....	410
WMFC Auxiliary .....	17,960	Zonta Club of Midland .....	250
Children's Trust Fund .....	10,080	St. Brigid's Church .....	250
Midland Preschool .....	9,170	First Baptist Church .....	200
Homer Township .....	6,250	Circle of Health Partnership .....	200
Lee Township .....	4,000	TOPS .....	150
Charles J. Strosacker Foundation .....	3,000	Homer United Methodist Church .....	100
Hudsons .....	2,900		

\*5 year matching grant pledge toward the WMFC Program Endowment Fund

## INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Stuart and Ruth Ann Bergstein, Ruth and Bill Caldwell, Wayne Crosby, Bob and Mary Ann Dostal, Joe and Stacy Dostal, Richard Furlow, Edward and Shirley Gurnee, Richard Harris, Robert Keil, Don and Beverly Koster, Herbert and Antoinette Lyon, Sherry O'Neil, John Reder, Joe and Kimberly VanderKelen, Ben and Kathleen Zipperer



## Record Number Donate Blood at WMFC Drive

July 21 was a good day for saving lives. Twenty-four people showed up at WMFC in hopes of donating a pint of their blood. Although two were turned away due to health reasons, still a record number donated this year – twenty-two. Alex Bartlett, coordinator of this year's drive, was very pleased with the turnout.

The blood is taken to the Ernie Wallace Blood Bank in Saginaw for testing. From there it is returned to Mid-Michigan Regional Medical Center, where it is either used or distributed to other medical facilities in the Tri-Cities.



Helping save lives. Eileen Burch is all smiles as she takes her turn on the blood donors table to benefit the Ernie Wallace Blood Bank.

## COP Wraps Up Eventful Summer

Pictured Rocks Lakeshore and Sleeping Bear Dunes were the backdrops of some memorable times for Dow COP graduates this summer. After months of preparation, the teens hiked and camped in these beautiful lakeshore parks as an exercise in teamwork, inner strength and self-reliance.

A farewell dinner August 5 marked the end of another successful year as students said their good-byes before departing for their prospective colleges within a few weeks.



COP students enjoy an impressive view of Pictured Rocks Lakeshore.

## Variety Keeps Seniors Coming Back



Vernon "Harem" and partner dance to the music of Dale Hafer and Friends, a local band that frequently entertains at the Greendale Senior Dining Center.

The Greendale Senior Dining Center, a part of the Midland County Council on Aging, is a place to socialize with friends and neighbors, old and new.

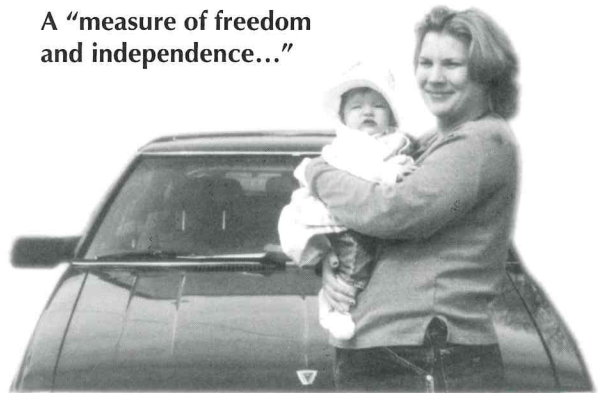
The dining center is for everyone. Lunches are served Monday through Friday, with an occasional special evening meal. Adults 60 or older, or with a spouse 60 and older, may contribute a suggested donation for a meal. Anyone under 60 is also welcome, but must pay \$4.00. Lunches are served at 12:00 noon.

West Midland Family Center provides free County Connection Tickets to Senior Citizens who would like to attend any Greendale Happy Diners Activity on days transportation is not provided by Midland County Council on Aging.

The fun and fellowship are free as are most activities. For more information, contact Judy Wirtz at 832-8683.

## YOU COULD MAKE ANOTHER PICTURE LIKE THIS POSSIBLE

A "measure of freedom and independence..."



– that's what Michelle Frohm gained when she received a car through WMFC. The generosity of one of our benefactors made it possible. Maybe you can make it happen too!

## Won't You Help Us Help?

It doesn't have to be a car! We can use appliances, furniture... even a check... to help us help deserving members of the community. Remember... it's tax deductible!

For detailed information, please contact:

**WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER**  
4011 W. Isabella Rd. • Shepherd, MI 48883  
Phone: (517) 832-3256 or  
Toll Free: 1-877-631-9632



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## Magic Ride Success in More Ways Than One



**John Geminder, left, owner of Bicycle Headquarters in Midland, presents Stephanie Decker with the new bike she selected recently. Her brother, Ryan, is on the right.**

Earl Soules was a big winner last month. He raised over \$1,000.00 in pledges for the Midland County Child Protection Council's "Warm Up" Magic Ride. The prize was a brand new bicycle, courtesy of Bicycle Headquarters, Inc. But, since he already has a bike, he donated his prize to WMFC, where it was used as the grand prize in a contest for children enrolled in the Summer Programs.

The children were asked to write an essay nominating someone else, and explain why that person could use a new bike. Ryan Decker, a third grader at Floyd Elementary School, submitted the winning entry. Ryan nominated his sister, Stephanie, 14, who didn't have a bike.

"She will cry if she gets it," said Ryan in his entry. Indeed, it was an emotional moment when she selected her bike from Bicycle Headquarters, Inc. May Stephanie and her family enjoy many happy rides together!

## Local History Highlighted

The Midland County Historical Society presents "Midland County at 150 Years: A Retrospective," on display now through October 29 at the Midland Center for the Arts. Admission to this

exciting and educational exhibit is free, courtesy of the Dow Chemical Company Foundation, and can be viewed from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., 7 days a week.

4

## Summer Programs

*continued from page 2*

Tobacco and Drug Resistance Education. The youngsters ended the season with a summer carnival/picnic during the last week as a grand finale and farewell.

Two programs for older students operated simultaneously with the regular Summer Programs. Teen Time, new this year, was established for 11 and 12 year-olds interested in volunteering for community service projects. A great deal of effort went into clearing and preparing paths with wood chips, in anticipation of adding a Challenge Course to the woods south of WMFC's main building. In addition, they cleaned up public access areas and fishing spots along the Chippewa River. Following their experience with Teen Time, students are prepared to move on to the Teens In Training program (TNT).

TNT is also a volunteer program, but these teens, generally 13–16 years, assist with the younger children enrolled in Summer Programs. Responsibilities range from helping with breakfast to assisting on field trips. "Most importantly," said Wyndy Johnson, Youth and Teen Activity Coordinator, "TNTs lend a listening ear and give personal attention to the children when the staff is occupied."

Summer may be behind us, but for those involved in WMFC Summer Programs, some cherished memories and new friends will remain with them for a long time. Good luck with those essays, and we'll see you next summer!

## Volunteers

*continued from page 1*

and spiral slide), and even a hand-played keyboard. Intended for the enjoyment of children up to five years, it was put to the test by youngsters attending the Summer Programs. Their smiling faces gave WMFC's newest addition a thumb's up!

We would like to thank the following organizations for their contributions to this project: American Express, Fisher Sand and Gravel, NEMSCA Headstart, Kiwanis Foundation, MCV, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Sunrise Optimist Club and the WMFC Auxiliary.

## Burton

*continued from page 1*

She's helped families reap the rewards of making relationships work, and of remaining together in a loving, healthy environment. "The home visits are what I've enjoyed the most," says Lois.

Now, she is bowing out to home-school her children and to help make her own family a stronger one. The staff gathered August 16 for a party to honor Lois for her dedicated service. She will be remembered fondly for many years to come. Good luck to you, Lois, and thank you for all you've done!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Shepherd, MI 48883  
4011 Isabella Road

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER