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## WMFC and Partners Serve a Community in Need

Over the past four years, in response to community need, **West Midland Family Center (WMFC)** has ramped up its food distribution program. Several factors have fueled the on-going need, including: local flooding in 2020, the persistent pandemic with its after effects and the fact that families in our vicinity live in a food desert. The **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** generally defines a food desert as “an area lacking access to affordable fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat milk, and other foods that make up the full range of a healthful diet.” A **food desert** can be in urban, or rural areas, where grocery stores can be many miles away, accessible only by car. If an individual lives in an area 10 miles from the nearest full-service grocery... that constitutes a

food desert. The food desert category is an issue of a community’s access to nutritious food, while **food insecurity** describes a household’s precarious economic condition. The out-county region of **Midland County** falls under both categories.

Partnerships with **Costco**, **Aldi**, and **Hidden Harvest** have grown the WMFC food program. WMFC now receives enough surplus food to facilitate three food distributions weekly out of WMFC’s large pavilion. In the past, although perfectly safe, food such as this would have been deemed un-usable and tossed. Now, this nutritious food is re-distributed to benefit the community. When this program began, surplus food items from various suppliers were distributed in a free-for-all manner on pallets near the WMFC north entrance. Patrons would grab and go, hopefully, taking only what they needed and would use. It didn’t take long to outgrow this system. The amount of food and the number of ‘customers’ made this arrangement unsustainable. Concern for equity of allocation, prompted a move first to one staff-monitored pavilion, then to the large pavilion supervised by 5-10 volunteers and staff members who



*“Our economic approach to food and its distribution reflects our basic moral values.” Nelson Mandela*

*...continued on page 9*

## Jeremy Wilkins, Beloved Community Servant

WMFC and the world lost a special friend recently. **Jeremy Wilkins**, a much beloved member of the community passed away from COVID-19 on December 17, 2021. He was part of a large family growing up in Midland and he leaves behind a large family now in Arizona. Jeremy was a 23-year veteran of various law enforcement agencies and most recently served as an officer in the **Chandler Arizona Police Department**. Hundreds of fellow officers attended his funeral and formed an impressive motorcade as a sign of public respect.

“Jeremy graduated from **Bullock Creek High School**, and was a member of the inaugural **EAL/Dow College Opportunity Program Class of 1993**” said **Mike Ritt**, the program’s first director, and current Secondary Science Teacher at **Mt. Pleasant Public Schools**.

“I first met Jeremy when he was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, his nickname was “Hoss,” and no one questioned why,” shared Ritt. “This gentle giant was loved by all. While you couldn’t help but notice his size, his gentleness was even larger, and it showed in many ways. He and his brother **Charlie** (also a member of EAL/DOW COP Class of ’93) were always the first to volunteer for community service projects. Service became a lifelong obsession for Jeremy,” continued Ritt, “whether it was helping at **WMFC**, or in **Louisiana** in 2005 with search and rescue efforts after **Hurricane Katrina**, or protecting a defenseless community as a member of the SWAT Team in Chandler, Arizona. I started as his mentor, but he became my lifelong friend.”



*Jeremy Wilkins, beloved community servant, pictured in his Chandler Arizona Police Department Uniform.*

## “The More That You Read, The More Things You Will Know”... Dr Seuss



*Lorelei adds a new leaf to the reading tree.*

**March** is **National Reading Month**. WMFC Preschoolers celebrated “**Kick Off to Reading Month**” with “**Pete the Cat**” which included not only a number of different *Pete the Cat* books but a variety of different *Pete the Cat* themed activities. Families were invited to share a themed meal with “button” shaped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches created after the book “**Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons**”.

Healthy sides were served with the creative sandwiches to promote healthy eating habits. Families also participated in many *Pete the Cat* themed activities including **Groovy Dancing** to **Button Graphing**. At the end of the event, each child went home with a new *Pete the Cat* book.

“As part of **National Reading Month** our WMFC preschoolers are tasked with reading books at home,” explained **Trixie Onstott**, **WMFC Early Childhood Director**. “For every book they read, a leaf is added to our tree (pictured left) which blooms in the Spring. As **Dr. Seuss** once said, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”



## Donors Indeed Create Good Deeds!

### *WMFC acknowledges donors who helped us qualify for The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation's challenge grant*

We'd like to take this opportunity to first thank the 724 individual donors and various groups and foundations who grace the next 6 pages of our newsletter. They have contributed \$3,628,433 over the last three years! This is all local support and does not include state and federal grants. These gifts help us to say "yes" to parents who need help with a child care bill. Help us to provide preschool for free or at a reduced rate. Help us provide food, shelter, clothing and emergency assistance to the young, old, desperate and anyone in crisis. We hope you'll take a few moments, scan the list for people you know. And please know anyone who's name is conspicuously absent from this list may well be one of our 138 anonymous donors.

#### *Amazing and true Statistics:*

Average gift from individuals \$1,263 (organizations, foundations **NOT included.**)

Most frequent gift \$100

The largest single household combined gift over three years was \$67,000 and is someone or some couple listed somewhere in the next six pages!

Lastly, we'd like to thank **The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation** for their matching gift programs that have allowed us to collect an additional \$750,000 on many of these same gifts. Indeed, this is only the latest in a long line of gifts that The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation has granted WMFC over the years. Their first gift of

\$100,000 came in 1986 when Herbert Henry Dow II was President of the Foundation and WMFC was still housed in the renovated Greendale School #4, which was originally opened as a school during the oil boom in Midland County in 1931. The \$100,000 was to help establish an endowment fund. They followed that up with more endowment gifts, support for operations, building expansions, other capital projects and finally these matching challenge grant gifts. Indeed, over the last 37 years, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation has gifted a total of \$8,982,053 to WMFC, with all of that going to help make Midland County the best place to live, laugh, love, raise a family, and help our elders in a compassionate manner.

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 - In memory of Roy Frasher Sr  
 - In memory of Jillian Young  
 Pat & Gordon Roush  
 Stanford & Carolyn Rowe  
 Walter & Joanne Rupprecht

## S

Karen Schaar  
 - In memory of Jerry Schaar  
 Kyla Schatz  
 - In honor of Mike Sobolewski  
 Sue Scheddel  
 Julie Schmidt  
 Bill & Beth Schmidt  
 Ann Schmitz & James Woehrle  
 - In memory of Gene & Diane Dauer  
 Bill & Cynthia Schuette  
 Herbert Scogg  
 - In memory of Barbara Jo Scogg  
 Jeremy & Tammy Screws  
 Kevin & Jean Scroggin  
 Pat Seibert  
 Theodore Selby  
 Servinski Sod Service, Inc.  
 Bernie & Lorie Servinski  
 - In memory of Kay Hale  
 - In memory of Myrna Servinski  
 Diane Shank  
 - In memory of Jillian Young  
 Dorian Shank  
 - In memory of Gene Engle  
 Kevin & Mary Shaughnessy  
 Don & Angela Sheets  
 James Shepich & Anita Tekchandani  
 Nancy Shimek  
 - In memory of Theodore C. Datte III  
 Sandra Simmons  
 Bobby Sinclair  
 Larry & Kathleen Skoczylas  
 Bill & Pat Smith (Deceased)  
 Bob & Allegra Smith  
 - In memory of Harold Anger  
 Snow Machines Inc  
 Mary Socha  
 Earl & Marilyn Soules  
 - In memory of Jack Dorrien

**To the best of our knowledge, this listing is accurate as of publication. However...if you find you have been erroneously added to our list of 138 anonymous donors, please contact us!**

Michael Soules  
 - In honor of Earl Soules  
 David Sovereign & Marcelo Flores  
 - In honor of Barbara Prince Sovereign  
 Spherion Staffing  
 Holly Spreeman  
 - In memory of Ames David Westphal  
 Carol Staples & Tai-Sam Choo  
 - In memory of Catharine Ring  
 Nancy Stark  
 William & Linda Stavropoulos  
 Gregg Stefanek  
 Kay Stepanski  
 Ray & Norma Stevens  
 - In memory of Clara Anger  
 - In memory of Beverly Anibal  
 - In memory of Bill Rogers  
 P. Richard Stoesser  
 Doak & Amy Stolz  
 Jamie & Jennifer Stopka  
 - In memory of Pat Brandt  
 - In memory of Dean Lange  
 - In memory of Conrad Pringle  
 Michael & Catherine Strong  
 The Charles J. Strosacker Foundation  
 Thomas & Vicki Strouse  
 Duncan & Kathryn Stuart  
 Sally Ann Sutton  
 Anne Swan (Deceased)  
 Roger & Kristine Szeszulski

**T**  
 Thayre & Katie Talcott  
 - In honor of Bill & Sally Bowen  
 - In honor of Greg Dorrien  
 Jo Ann Tanzini  
 - In memory of Ed Tanzini  
 Louise Tarn  
 Beth Taylor  
 Donald & Eileen Taylor  
 Nelson & Jess TerBurgh  
 - In memory of Alexandria TerBurgh  
 Alexandria Tew  
 Bruce & Rose Thill  
 Ronald & Donna Thomson  
 Ira & Sue Thumma  
 - In memory of Gene & Diane Dauer  
 Tom & Amy Tolton  
 Bob & Diane Tomczak  
 TOPS 1171 Chapter  
 Kay Burton  
 Philip & Sharon Tower  
 Duane & Terry Townley  
 The Harry A & Margaret D. Towsley  
 Foundation  
 Ida Traschen  
 - In honor of Jesse Traschen  
 Michael & Jennifer Trippeer

**U**  
 Howard & Elissa Ungerleider  
 United Steel Workers 14009  
 United Way of Isabella County  
 United Way of Midland County

**V**  
 Kristen Van Dam  
 - In memory of Jillian Young  
 Tina VanDam  
 - In memory of Jack Dorrien  
 Judith Vance  
 - In memory of Catharine Ring  
 Fay Vancise  
 - In memory of Gene & Diane Dauer  
 Charli VanOrden  
 - In memory of Norma Camp  
 - In memory of Ranny & John Riecker  
 - In memory of Donald J. Van Orden  
 Amanda VanSickle  
 Mark & Leigh Anne VanSumeren  
 Zachary & Stephanie Varner  
 - In memory of Theodore C. Datte III  
 Dave & Jodi Vercellino  
 Isabel Viges  
 - In memory of Enza Viges  
 Gary Vogel  
 - In honor of George & Judy Vogel  
 George & Judy Vogel  
 - In honor of Michael Blannar  
 - In honor of Julie Vogel  
 Cathryn Voss  
 - In memory of Catharine Ring

**W**  
 Joel Wagoner  
 Kathryn Walker & Brian Mitchell  
 Lynn Walker  
 Sten & Anne Wallin  
 Annie Walter  
 Dirk & Lisa Waltz  
 Dan & Gwen Wamhoff  
 Bob & Mary Warne  
 Jerry & Sally Wasserman  
 Renee Weddle  
 - In memory of Nancy Trapp  
 Cheryl Weeks-Rosten  
 Terry & Gail Wegener  
 - In memory of Theodore C. Datte III  
 Lynn & Sandy Weimer  
 - In honor of Greg Dorrien  
 David & Karen Welch  
 Beverlee Wenzel  
 Scott & Jillian Westphal  
 - In memory of Jillian Young  
 Trina Westphal  
 Marilyn Wildes  
 - In memory of Catharine Ring  
 Steve Wildes  
 William Eyre Construction Co.

Katherine Williams Pellegrom  
 Carol & David Williams  
 John & Amy Wilson  
 Rosemary Wilson  
 Jo Ann Winchester  
 Carl & Mary Winegar  
 - In memory of Nancy Trapp  
 Clara Wirsing  
 - In memory of Theodore C. Datte III  
 Bob & Mary Ann Wise  
 Ray & Cheryl Witt  
 - In memory of Nancy Trapp  
 Ron & Gaye Woodward  
 LaVern & June Wyse  
 - In memory of Andrew Copus

**Y**  
 Sundaradevi Yadam  
 Eugene Yehle (Deceased)  
 Yost Energy, Inc.  
 David & Jeanne Yost  
 Duke Yost  
 Lowell & Judy Youngquist

**Z**  
 Jean Zabik  
 Cynthia Zacharias  
 - In memory of Win Zacharias  
 Gary & Debra Zellner  
 Amanda Zimmerman  
 - In memory of Ames David Westphal  
 John & Pat Zimmerman  
 Zonta Club of Midland



The following people have included WMFC in their estate plan (will, life insurance or living trust) or have already fulfilled their Legacy Society gift.

Orrin and Eleanor Barrett\*  
 Jim Burlingame\*  
 Helen (Kennedy) Burns\*  
 Carl Coons  
 Greg & Robyn Dorrien  
 Virginia Harlow\*  
 Kenneth E. Livernois\*  
 Bernie Meister  
 V. Bruce Miller  
 Sheriff John S. Rader\*  
 Edward & Elyse Rogers  
 Dinae & Robert Tomczak  
 Win Zacharias\*

Other Anonymous Donors

\*Deceased

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 anonymous donors, please contact us!**



## WMFC and Partners Serve a Community in Need ...continued from page 1

assure everyone benefits fairly. When food supplies run low before needs are satisfied, WMFC is thankful for the long-time partnership it has with the **Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN)**. When such a situation arises for a patron with an extraordinary need, WMFC relies on the EFPN. WMFC makes a referral to EFPN, who screens and approves the request. The need is then met with food gleaned from the EFPN food pantry located at WMFC; working together in this way, needs are met and people have what they require.

As previously stated, the community WMFC serves is rural, and often struggles to secure nutritious foods for their families. In recent conversations with individual recipients, WMFC learned that the food program helps to significantly minimize a family's grocery bill.

**Esther** learned about the program from a friend at church. She often stops by WMFC and picks up food to supplement her cupboards.

Esther stated that the program is **tremendous**. To make use of the items she receives, Esther has taken to canning tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, chicken soup and chili, peaches, pears and "you name it." She also dehydrates mushrooms and peppers. Esther's husband caught the preservation 'bug' and now makes jerky. Esther shared how helpful it is to receive grocery items that she would not typically buy for her family. In addition, the desserts and sweets are a nice treat which she freezes and parcels out over time.

Another patron shared that her mom is on a fixed income. She's thankful because, with food costs continuing to rise, having access to the WMFC food program has taken the pressure off her mom's budget and puts healthy foods on her mom's table. Like most other customers, she was quick to give high praise and accolades to all involved in the food program including WMFC staff,



*"Anybody interested in solving, rather than profiting from, the problems of food production and distribution will see that in the long run the safest food supply is a local food supply... Nations and regions within nations must be left free and should be encouraged to develop the local food economics that best suit local needs and local conditions."*  
Wendell Berry

volunteers, Costco, Aldi, Hidden Harvest and EFPN. This community of surplus food distributors is making a world of difference to a community in need.

## Help WMFC When You Shop on Amazon with AmazonSmile

**AmazonSmile** is a simple way for you to support West Midland Family Center (WMFC). AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and it can also be activated in the Amazon Shopping App on your cell phone. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as **Amazon.com**, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile, will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to WMFC. Help make a

difference while shopping on Amazon at no extra cost to you. Simply select West Midland Family Center as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app or online.

### Setup From Your Computer:

1. Go to Amazon.com
2. Log in to amazon account
3. In the search bar, type "Amazon Smile"
4. Click on "Select a Charity"  
Enter "West Midland Family Center" into search box
5. Select "West Midland Family Center"

### Setup From the Amazon App:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within "Programs & Features"
3. Select "West Midland Family Center" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app.

For future purchases simply log into: [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



*If a preschool friend offers you a seat  
on her rocket ship, get on!*

## 2022 Board of Directors

### Officers:

Ben Dollard, President  
Christian Allemang,  
Vice President  
Brooke Alba, Treasurer  
Matt Metcalf, Secretary

### Directors:

Carl Coons  
Wally Mayton  
Amy McGinnis  
Jamie Moses  
Jesse Traschen  
Gina Wilson

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Bob Dostal  
Tom Misner  
Charles Norisez  
Bill & Beth Schmidt

### Advisors:

Greg Bergtold  
Bill Bowen  
Sally Bowen  
Dave Parrillo  
Ann Schmitz

### Executive Director:

Greg Dorrien

### Family Focus Newsletter Publisher, Editor and WMFC Webmaster:

Renee Allen

## Moses Brings Unique Perspective to WMFC Board

**WMFC Board Member Jamie Moses** graduated from *H.H. Dow High School* and *Saginaw Valley State University* and began her career as a fourth-grade teacher at *Salina Elementary School* in the *Saginaw Public Schools* from 1998-2000. In 2000 Moses began her stint at *Floyd Elementary School* where she was a fifth-grade teacher for 19 years and a math intervention specialist for grades 3-5 for one year before being appointed as principle of Floyd Elementary School in the fall of 2020.

"Jamie has spent her entire life working with elementary children," stated **WMFC Executive Director Greg Dorrien**, "this hands-on experience enables her to bring a unique perspective to the **WMFC Board of Directors**."

"I first learned of WMFC when I became a teacher at Floyd Elementary," shared Moses. "I have always known WMFC to be a wonderful place for so many of my students in the before and after school programs. Over the years, I've learned of the many other great things WMFC does for the community and all the ways that they support our families."

Moses and her husband, **Curt Moses**, met while in high school and went to college together. They taught fifth grade side by side at Floyd for 15 years before Curt

moved into the role of **Bullock Creek Middle School** principal and then later into his current position as the **Bullock Creek High School** principal. The couple has been married for 26 years and have two daughters, **Claudia** who is a ninth-grader at Bullock Creek High School and **Ella** who is a freshman at **Delta College**. Both Claudia and Ella attended Floyd Elementary School.

Moses enjoys camping, kayaking and walking at the **Chippewa Nature Center** when she is not looking out for the students and staff at Floyd Elementary.



*Jamie Moses and daughter Claudia at a Fall 2021  
Bullock Creek High School home football game .*