

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER
P.O. Box 1985
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989-832-3256



West Midland Family Center...
Always Making The Difference.



Please Join Us
on November 29
for our
Thanksforgiving Event!

Consumer’s Energy Donates Bikes and Helmets to Kids in Need

Recently, Consumers Energy held a week long leadership training for their work crews. Crews were divided into 3 teams that worked together to complete leadership exercises. During the last day of training, each crew assembled two bikes to be donated to organizations that work with families in need.

“We called the United Way to ask if there were organizations that could benefit from some new bikes,” explained Tom Begin, Consumers Energy Community

Services Regional Manager East. “The United Way said that they knew just the organizations for us to contact.... that is how we got the names of the three organizations that are here today; the West Midland Family Center, the Railway Family Center and the North Midland Family Center.”

Renee Allen, WMFC Marketing and Publicity Director, accepted the donation of the 2 bikes and helmets for the West Midland Family Center. “I do not



Consumers Energy recently donated 2 bikes and 2 bike helmets each to Railway Family Center, North Midland Family Center and the West Midland Family.

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West Midland Family Center's Family FOCUS

Enhancing the Quality of Life for Area Residents of all ages

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Hundreds Fed Through EFPN and Hidden Harvest Food Donations

The Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN) recently partnered with the West Midland Family Center to feed 748 individuals representing 237 families. Each year a different local Midland church anonymously purchases the food for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan for the giveaway.

The type of food donated varies from year to year, but typically includes lots of fresh fruit and vegetables like potatoes, tomatoes, mangos, onions and reclaimed food from Hidden Harvest. The food giveaway lasts about 2-2.5 hours but it takes an army of people putting in a long days work to host the event.

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Volunteers load shopping carts with a variety of different foods.

WMFC Hosts Thanksforgiving

Every year, in November, the West Midland Family Center hosts a special evening event to recognize and celebrate the exceptional commitment and dedication of its donors and volunteers. This year *Thanksforgiving* will be held on Thursday, November 29 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The evening program will begin at 5:00 p.m. with an informal meet and greet session. The awards presentation will begin at 5:30 p.m. and seating for dinner begins at 6 p.m. This year’s award recipients are:

- WMFC Bingo Auxiliary** - Phyllis Breedlove *Friend of the Center Award*
- Sandy Engle** -Orrin Barrett *Volunteer of the Year Award*
- Nick Merritt** -Steve Barstow *Youth Volunteer of the Year Award*



Thanksforgiving is a fun-filled family event!

“Volunteers and donors play an integral role at the Center and are crucial to our success and to the fulfillment of our mission,” explained Greg Dorrien, WMFC Executive Director. “*Thanksforgiving* is just one way of honoring these folks and thanking them for the giving of their time, talents and energy to WMFC.”

Burlingame Retires from “Active Service”

When Jim Burlingame made the move from his condo to Tendercare (a nursing home in Midland) his commitment to service never missed a beat. “He’s just amazing” said Greg Dorrien WMFC Executive Director. “While in Tendercare he designed and oversaw the production of the Legacy Society plaque on our Wall of Honor, designed and developed an application for prospective Legacy Society members, and designed and developed a commemorative award memento for each new member who joins the Legacy Society. The self-anointed **Official Curmudgeon of the WMFC Board of Directors**, Burlingame has had his fingerprints all over communications,

advertising, marketing and promotions for the last 24 years,” said Dorrien. “The Family Focus newsletter that this story appears in was his idea (including the original mast head). The design of WMFC’s letterhead and circle logo are also his designs. With his retirement



Jim and his other true love Arlene.

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Burlingame Retires...Continued from page 1



Legacy Society Plaque

from volunteer service we're looking for five good people with 65 years of experience to replace him," concluded Dorrien with a worried look on his face.

When asked to comment for this story Jim Burlingame said, "When I look back over my career as a marketing professional, I'm so pleased that it all didn't end after my retirement from The Dow Chemical Company in 1985. I'm pleased to have been helpful to a number of non-profits postretirement, with West

Midland Family Center and Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI) being the ones who kept my phone ringing the most with special projects. It is rewarding to see both of these completely different kinds of organizations building a better community for all of us in completely different kinds of ways. I feel blessed to have played a part in their success. I wish more retirees could get involved in the non-profit sector. I was fortunate to have had a lot of my old cronies from Dow to give a little push to get me started with these groups."

As this issue of Family Focus went to press Jim Burlingame passed away. He had enjoyed reading the advance copy of this story.

WMFC Partners With EFPN...Continued from page 1

The food giveaway made for a very busy day at the West Midland Family Center. People lined up outside the Center as early as 5:30 a.m. in hopes of signing up to receive some much needed relief from the economy. Cars filled the Center parking lots, and any lawn space or spot along the road, that could possibly accommodate a vehicle. People lined the halls throughout the day and rooms were "standing room only" as people took refuge inside from the early morning rain. Senior Services set up large pots of coffee for those who awaited the 1:00 p.m. food giveaway start time.

"The most challenging part of hosting an event like this," explained Diane DeMott, WMFC Administrative Assistant, "is crowd control and parking control."

"The weather can also be a challenge," explained DeMott. "The last two years we have had to go inside because of rain which really stretches our resources when it comes to finding room for all the people and all the food."

Rain couldn't hamper the enthusiasm of the 50 or more volunteers who came out to lend a hand to help those in need. Volunteers and WMFC staff members scurried about all day setting up tables and chairs in preparation for the massive amount of food that would soon be delivered by semi truck and a large commercial truck from Hidden Harvest. At the end of the morning, when the food was finally delivered, the army of volunteers, equipped with shopping carts, sprung into action.

"Getting enough volunteers to help set up before the pantry people get here is also challenging," continued DeMott. "It takes at least 60 volunteers to pull this off. Somehow, every year, enough volunteers show up and make it happen...we could not do this without them. The day has it's challenges," continued DeMott, "but at the end of the day it is very rewarding to get good, nutritious quality food into the hands of those who need it."



The new website launch was announced first on the wipe board in the WMFC office area.

WMFC Launches New Website

West Midland Family Center has a brand new website! After many months of planning, preparation and development, the West Midland Family Center has launched it's long awaited, newly designed website.

"It's very exciting to launch our new website," commented WMFC Webmaster Renee Allen. "We have added a few more features including a Partner Links page and a Partner Events/Promotions page to help promote the organizations that partner with WMFC throughout the year. We have also added resource and information pages for our board of directors, staff members and new employees. The organization of the website" continued Allen, "has improved to help make it easier for people to find what they are looking for."

Check out the new website at:

www.wmfc.org



Volunteers load cars during food giveaway.

New Faces at the West Midland Family Center

After School Program



Nick Demski



Andrew Price



Robin Vercellino



Kayla Schunk



Kasi Huver

Welcome Center



Shelli Myers



Judy Wirtz

Interns



Jillian Spreeman
Recreation



Ericka Mason
Family Services

Maintenance



Tim Craft



Zach Hoyt



Kristen Kiley

Transportation



Janette Mapes



Kenneth Jerry

Preschool



Tiffany Gracias



Jennifer Morey



Alyssa Gracik



Ashley Brown



Charlin Farison



Holly Magee

Childcare



Melina VanConant

