## MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

**VOLUME 30, NUMBER 1** 

Thriving, Giving, Growing...Together

Spring 2020

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## Many Combine to Battle Hunger

One component of the West Midland this time of community need. In typical Family Center (WMFC) mission is to fashion, The Food Bank of Eastern Michenhance the lives of local residents. To igan (the FBEM) has stepped forward that end, we strive to understand the with additional surplus food distributions many needs common to the people of for our community. WMFC had antici-Western Midland County. With the pated distributing 12 semi-truckloads of onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic we surplus food throughout 2020. With are all experiencing unprecedented diffi- prompt response from the FBEM we are culties. Life as we all know it has come now on track to distribute minimally 20 to a halt and the people in our community semi-truckloads. Their generosity and will be needing assistance. In times of collaborative spirit will serve the people need we must all come together and of our community well. serve. It seems that Mr. Rogers said it best when he said, "Look for the help- That said, the FBEM and WMFC are not ers." and so we will.

alone in our mission to meet community nutritional needs. Hidden Harvest, Panera WMFC is fully aware of where to turn in **Bread-Midland**, The Isabella County

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## Dow COP Empowers Students to Succeed

Since 1989, the West Midland Family Center has been supporting local students hoping to earn college degrees through the Dow College Opportunity Program (COP). Although the program has shaped and grown over the years, the original goal of COP remains the same: to prepare qualified students

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www.wmfc.org



Dow COP Classes of 2022 and 2023 work together to untie the Human Knot

## **WMFC** Aquatics Celebrates 20th Year of Serving the Community

Renee Allen, West Midland Family Center (WMFC) Aquatic Director, is one of two National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA) Aquatic Facility Operator Instructors (AFOI) in the State of Michigan. There are only a handful of AFO Instructors in the Midwestern United States.

"The process of becoming a certified AFO Instructor began for me in October 2018. After 14 months of taking instructor classes, co-teaching classes and completing all the necessary paperwork, I finally received my AFO Instructor status in December of 2019. It was one of the nicest Christmas presents that I have ever received!" exclaimed Allen. "I've never worked harder for a certification

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## WMFC Aquatics Celebrates 20th Year

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but it was worth the time that was invested. Hosting AFO classes is great for WMFC and the aquatic community. Being able to offer AFO Classes in this part of the state provides pool operators a way to get certified without having to travel downstate or out of state."

According to NRPA, "The Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) Certification provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on operations, mechanical systems, water chemistry, disinfection, safety and much more. Ex: (Smith Family, 4 people, Chil-AFO Certification will help you or dren ages 3, 5). your staff better understand the entire and confidently."

determined in October.

can benefit from. Taking this class 3256 the problems that come with pool on June 1. maintenance a whole lot easier."

June 25 from 5-7PM we will cele- received." brate our pools 20th birthday with a family event. There will be lots of "We believe that the new swim lesson family fun for all ages including free format will allow us to meet the deswimming, free food, games, givea- mand of the community for swimways and raffles (you must be present ming lessons and hopefully eliminate to win). Families may register for the event at any time prior to June 23<sup>rd</sup> by emailing Renee Allen at allenr@wmfc.org. In the email please include your family name, the number of people attending and the ages of children attending the event.



The WMFC Swimming Pool will celebrate it's 20th birthday this summer!

pool system and run all types of Summer swimming lessons continue aquatic facilities safely, efficiently to be a highly sought after activity at WMFC and lessons always fill up fast! Although the private swim les-WMFC plans to host 3-4 classes per son format has been extremely popuyear. Class dates for 2020 are March lar with WMFC families for many 19 &20, May 28 & 29 and dates to be years, WMFC will expand its swim lesson program and offer a variety of semi private lessons this summer. "They say that "you don't know what Semi private lessons will consist of 2you don't know", explained Allen. 4 students with 2 instructors. Those "AFO certification is something that interested in registering for swim lesboth public and private pool operators sons can call Renee Allen at 989-832or email Renee makes taking care of any pool and all lenr@wmfc.org starting at 8:00 a.m.

"June 1st will be a busy day for the This summer the WMFC Swimming aquatic department," explained Allen. Pool will be 20 years old! Our pool "As the calls and emails come in for has reached a birthday milestone and swimming lessons, we'll return each with that comes a birthday party! On communication in the order that it is

> our waiting list this summer. It will also insure that children continue to receive a high quality swimming lesson experience while providing WMFC with a hands-on opportunity to train new instructors."

# Kiwanis Volunteer Mr. Kevin Makes STEM Learning Extra Fun!

Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is woven into every day of the WMFC preschool experience, but what if one person goes above and beyond to make learning science extra fun? That's what Kevin Shaughnessy from the Midland Kiwanis Club does each week in the 3 year-old Preschool WMFC Caterpillar Class. From volcano's and properties of matter, to feats of engineering, each week the children look forward to "Wonder Wednesday" with Mr. Kevin.

Recently Mr. Kevin spent hours in his own home kitchen making cups out of ice so that he could come to class and teach the children about the properties of water and its various states. "Wonder Wednesday" is a day that the children look forward to with excitement as they anticipate what Mr. Kevin might bring to class that day.

What makes a volunteer like Mr. Kevin so special? When the heart and time is evident in the experience. Thank you Mr. Kevin!



Mr. Kevin explains the amazing properties of water and how essential water is to all life.

#### A

Anonymous Donations Received by 68
People (Some given In Honor/Memory of)

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- In memory of Ed Billingsley
- In memory of John E. Binkley
- In memory of Martha Bottomley
- In memory of Andrew Copus
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## Z

John and 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 donation.

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

## Data Collected From Upcoming Census Important to WMFC Families

Day!

which is mandated by the U.S. Con- and national school lunch programs. stitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Homes across the The U.S. Census Bureau is required United States will receive an invita- by law to keep all personal infortion to participate in the Census in mation reported private. They will the mail by mid-March. With options only present the data that is collected. of completing the Census either online, by phone, or by mail, the Cen- WMFC wants to stress the im- swers to the quiz are provided in the less from start to finish.

lected will be used to shape state sus samples and invitations. funding, determine U.S. House of Representative seats, and draw Reminders and information regarding congressional and state legislative the Census will be provided at each

Ten years has passed quickly since districts. In addition, the data will be event hosted at WMFC during the the last U.S. Census was taken. Cen- used to distribute funds and support upcoming months. WMFC will also sus 2020 is just around the corner. to a plethora of services used by post reminders on the WMFC M20 April 1st, 2020 is National Census Michiganders every day such as, pub-Road Sign, Facebook Page and in the lic transportation and roads, emergen- WMFC lobby as well as send remindcy services, child welfare funding, The Census is a population count medical assistance programs, WIC,

sus should only take 10 minutes or portance of the Census and address resource binders and flyers located in any questions or concerns people may the WMFC lobby. We look forward have. WMFC has trained staff availato seeing you in the weeks ahead! The data collected by the Census in ble to answer questions and help walk the area surrounding WMFC could people through the completion of the significantly impact the services of- Census. The WMFC lobby also has fered to those in our community. As resource binders with an abundance in every prior Census, the data col- of information as well as printed Cen-

ers in the mail. In addition, there will be a simple 5 question quiz about the Census at the WMFC Welcome Center. Anyone who achieves a 100% score on this very simple quiz will be entered into a raffle to win gift cards from a variety of stores including Meijer. To assist you, all the an-



## COP Empowers Students to Succeed ... continued from page 1

teerism, and social development.

dents have received post-secondary Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

their post-secondary goals through in the current program including 33 Pinecrest Farms and volunteering mentoring, academic support, volun- high school students and 26 college at a number of events here at WMFC. students.

While in high school, COP students After a four month trial period in the develop a positive peer group as they participate in monthly meetings Fall of 2019, eleven students from rely on one another to help them which serve as a support group and Bullock Creek, Coleman, Meridian, work through the rough spots that help each student grow personally, and Shepherd High School applied to every teenager faces in everyday life. The meetings are also used to help become permanent members of Dow acquaint students with the different COP. At the end of a careful selection This summer, the new COP Class of aspects of the college selection and process, COP leadership invited nine 2023 will be joining the COP Class of application processes. In addition, of the eleven students to continue in 2022 on an adventure trip to the Upstudents participate in a variety of the program until their college gradu- per Peninsula of Michigan (UP). different events centered on skill de- ation. This new group of 9 students While in the UP they will face differvelopment and exploration. As a re- formed the Class of 2023 and have ent challenges that will push them out sult, when the students complete already been very active in Dow of their comfort zones, empower high school, they are more prepared COP. Together with the students of them and instill in them the fact that to enter into a college setting and other COP Classes they have volun- they have the strength and fortitude to graduate with a post secondary de- teered to help out in a variety of ac- overcome any obstacle that comes gree. To date 82% of Dow COP stu-tivities such as helping set up the their way, even college!

to be more successful in pursuing degrees. COP has 59 total students Book Sale, visiting residents at In the coming months, the students will work together to learn how to



Introducing a child to fishing early in life can lead to a lifetime of adventures both inside and outside the classroom.

#### 2020 Board of Directors

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Greg Dorrien dorrieng@wmfc.org

Family Focus Newsletter Publisher and Webmaster: Renee Allen allenr@wmfc.org

# Themes for Spring Family Recreation Nights Announced

WMFC has hosted WMFC Recreation Family Nights for just over a year now. The purpose for these nights is to provide a fun and affordable night for families. Held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month, each family recreation night offers a variety of recreation activities based around a chosen fun filled theme. Some of the themes in the past year have included Glow Night, Minute It To Win It Night, Halloween Night, Summer Time Night, Nature Night, and more. Family Recreation Nights are completely FREE of charge and are open to the public. There is something for everyone in the family to enjoy regardless of age.

Upcoming WMFC Family Recreation Nights include April 25, 2020 - Glow Miniature Golf Night and May 30, 2020 - Springtime/Nature Night.

Each month, families who RSVP by 2:00 p.m. the afternoon of the family recreation night, will be eligible to win prizes. For more information about WMFC Recreation Family Nights or to RSVP, please contact **Chelsea Davis** at 989-832-3256 or davisc@wmfc.org

## Many Battle Hunger

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Soup Kitchen, The Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (our inspiration) and The United Way of Midland County are integral to this process. With their support and the many volunteers who have helped along the way, we will work to meet community needs as they arise. In support of the effort to provide wholesome food items to families in this time of need, additional monthly deliveries of fresh fruits, veggies, eggs, milk and other surplus food items will be distributed as well.

Executive Director, Greg Dorrien marvels at the operation. "The amazing thing is the collaborative nature of this effort. People's true colors shine brightest in the most difficult times."



WMFC Staff members and volunteers work side by side to battle hunger in the community.