

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER
P.O. Box 1985
Midland MI 48641-1985

Playground Expansion!



(From left to right) Dick Peterson, Ben Dollard and Alan Oman all Midland Kiwanis Club members installing new Bongo Climber

Playground Expansion supporters:

- Michigan Baseball Foundation
- Midland Rotary Club
- Midland Morning Rotary Club
- Rotary International District 6310
- Kiwassee Kiwanis Foundation
- Kiwassee Kiwanis Club
- Midland Kiwanis Club
- Midland Kiwanis Foundation

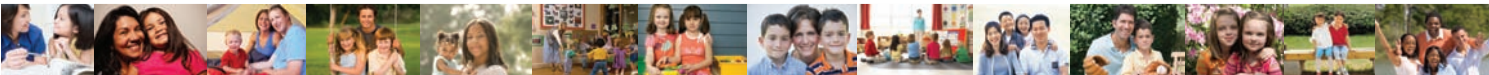
Home Depot Team Demonstrates True Community Spirit

With the heat index at 103 degrees, 80 volunteers from Home Depots – “Team Depot” descended upon West Midland Family Center: Their mission was to build 50 picnic tables and 50 benches for various Midland County non-profits. Volunteers from as far away as Lapeer, Clio and Goodrich began arriving at 7:00 a.m. and they worked until their sizeable task was accomplished at 3:00 p.m. According to Judy Custer, District Leader of Team Depot this is one of her favorite parts of her job. “Every year we do four of these volunteer builds. We are all from different stores and we come together as a team to give back to the larger community.” Judy researched local non-profits and became intrigued by West Midland. From there she worked with WMFC Director, Greg Dorrien to develop the project. Home Depot donated \$7,000 of materials for the picnic tables and benches and another \$7,000 of materials to build a 30’ x 60’ picnic pavilion that will be constructed by additional volunteer groups at West Midland Family Center yet this summer.



Home Depot Team Members Assembling One of Fifty Picnic Tables

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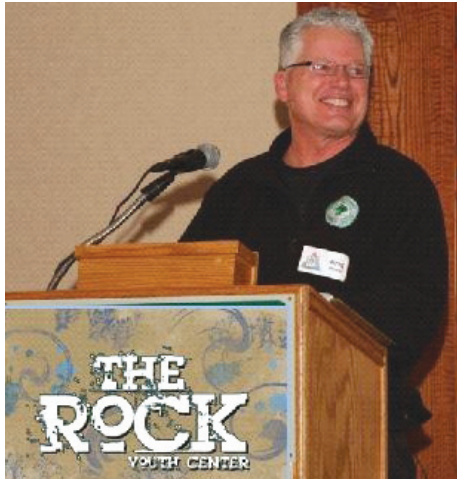
Family FOCUS

Enhancing the Quality of Life for Area Residents of all ages

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Community Benefits Because So Many Others Help at WMFC!

by Greg Dorrien



WMFC Executive Director, Greg Dorrien speaking on collaboration at The Rock Youth Center's annual meeting

Almost every local funding source has the following question in their grant application: Who in the community provides similar services to the community? Our standard response is: **No other agency provides the**

intense level of comprehensive services to families in the western portion of Midland County. Since possession is 90% of the law, we feel very comfortable with this response. That's not to say we're the only organization that is providing services to families... indeed many collaborating organizations help us provide services that allows us to be much more effective at accomplishing our mission. The following list is only a partial list of the collaborative partners that help us provide direct service to the community.

Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network, Mid Michigan Community Action Agency, Midland County Council on Aging (Senior Services). KINDERCARE, MSU Co-operative Extension Services, Catholic Family Services, Bullock Creek Schools, Midland County Quality Preschool Collaborative, The Rock Youth Center, Midland Area Partnership for Drug Free Youth, Legacy Center for Student Success, Coleman Public Schools, Helping Hands Dental

Center, Midland County Parks and Recreation, Shepherd Public Schools, The Care Giving Network, D Street Entertainment, Meridian Public Schools, Hidden Harvest, MITCON, RED CROSS, Midland / Gladwin Community Mental Health, Midland County: including the Department of Human Services and the County Health Department, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Chippewa Nature Center, Central Michigan University, Northwood University, County Connection, Education Training Connection, Gateway Martial Arts, Grace A. Dow Library, United Way ~ GOvolunteerNOW, Affiliates of Greater Midland Community Centers, Midland County ESA including the Success by Six Partnership, Safe and Sound Child Advocacy Center, Shelterhouse. **This list does not include individuals and organizations that primarily provide funding or in-kind donations which support service provision...you will find that DONORS LIST located on the inside pages of this Family Focus.**

Like all WMFC Volunteers~Board Members Bring Distinctive Skills

Among West Midland's extraordinarily committed volunteers are the members of the WMFC Board of Directors. This eleven-member board meets bi-monthly with each member holding an additional standing committees role. Standing committees include: Accounting and Budget, Investment, Human Resources, Facilities Management, Communications and the Program Activities Committee. At the first Board meeting of each year, new volunteer Board members are elected for a three-year term. This year's new members bring individualized talents to an already vital Board of Directors. Both are welcome additions. New Board member, Myra Dean will be featured in an in an upcoming issue of the Focus. In this issue we present Ann Schmitz.

Meet: Ann Schmitz

Ann Schmitz currently is Total Compensation Manager at MidMichigan Health, where she has worked for five years, managing the

compensation and benefits programs for the health system. Prior to joining MidMichigan Health, Ann worked for 12 years in the automotive supplier industry as a Human Resources Manager. Ann is a graduate of Michigan State University, holding a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Russian and a master's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations. Ann is also a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources as designated by the Human Resource Certification Institute. She is an instructor for Saginaw Valley State University, assisting other HR professionals in preparing for the HR certification exam. Ann enjoys volunteering her time with the Family Life Council at Midland First United Methodist Church, Adams Elementary School and Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan. She learned about the opportunity to serve on the West Midland Family Center Board after participating in Leadership Midland 2010. She looks forward to helping make a positive impact

in the lives of families that are served by the WMFC. Ann and her husband Jim Woehrle have lived in Midland for 14 years. They are blessed with two children, Ben and Hannah, who keep the family active with school, sports, music and scouting.



Ann Schmitz

WMFC Program *Connects* Volunteers with Opportunities to *Serve*

The needs in our community continue to outnumber the resources available. One of the best ways to address this issue is for agencies such as WMFC to partner with community members who also want to make a difference. Although volunteers have always been the backbone of the WMFC organization, recent changes in program direction have lead to great progress for the volunteer program at WMFC. Under the leadership of Program Director, Gail Crosby, volunteer efforts are growing by leaps and bounds. Thanks to Gail, the newly designated *Connect and Serve Program* has an exciting, streamlined and efficient means by which WMFC recruits, places, trains and retains volunteers.

Many of WMFC’s Connect and Serve volunteer roles are “customized” to allow for a very specific fit so the volunteer as well as the community benefit. According to Gail Crosby, “It’s much more exciting to volunteer in an area

that speaks to your heart rather than just volunteering for the sake of doing the work.” “Connect and Serve isn’t just about doing volunteer - time.” “One of the goals of the Connect and Serve program is to match volunteers to opportunities that utilize their unique skills and ignite their passions.”



Karen, diligently volunteers sorting donated clothing

Greg Janoch has been working with WMFC Maintenance Director, Jeff Myers, and had this to say about his volunteer experience. “I’ve been working at WMFC for about a year and a half helping the Family Center in its attempt to become more energy efficient. My background is in chemical engineering however, I’m very interested in energy conservation so working with Jeff has been a learning experience for me which makes

it more interesting. I get a great deal of satisfaction helping this non-profit in their quest to save energy *and* a buck. We’ve done a great deal to cut costs.” Jeff concurred saying, “Since Greg has been working with us, we have researched many ways to trim dollars off of the budget while conserving energy. We have been successful on that level with the building lighting. By changing all of the lights and ballasts in the building, we are getting more and better quality lighting while saving the Family Center up to \$530.00 per month on the electric bill! Jeff continued, “Given my current workload, there would be no way possible I could have explored these valuable money savings options, and implemented these changes without help. Greg has been a valuable asset to WMFC.” If you are interested in partnering at WMFC go to GOvolunteerNOW.org or contact Gail Crosby, Connect and Serve Director, at 832-3256 or crosbyg@wmfc.org.



Greg and Jeff analyze a temperature control sheet to discover greater energy efficiency

Every Day is Prevention Day At West Midland Family Center

At WMFC the system around which all else develops are the family programs and the resulting prevention efforts.

Child abuse prevention and family enrichment is what happens every day at WMFC.



Benjamin gets ready to cross the “treacherous” Bongo Climber

It is woven into in every aspect of service at the Family Center. Always thinking of prevention means our Family Services staff members approach parents non-judgmentally and with acceptance regardless of how or why a parent comes to the Family Center. An environment complete with respect and consideration encourages parents to become involved and share their concerns. WMFC Family Services staff members prove to parents that if they ask for help they will receive the assistance needed to become better parents. According to Renee Young, WMFC Family Services Director, “Staff members approach parents with the belief that they want to take good care of their children. They just may not know how, their own parents may have role-modeled improper parenting.”

The more public face of child abuse prevention at the Family Center comes in the form of Parent Education. According to Young,



Isaiah - such a happy boy

“WMFC offers Parent Education classes based on family need.” These classes are topical in nature covering subjects from budgeting, to blended families, parenting teenagers to anger management. Other

.... Continued on page 3

Each year, West Midland receives benefactor contributions given in honor of others or as homage to loved ones who have passed. This year, WMFC received the following gifts:

..... names of all benefactors are listed in black print

Given by John Reder in Honor of:

- Jeffrey and Torrey Derocher
- Bart and Michelle Dexter
- Patricia Fritz
- David and Louise Ganus
- Michael and Kerry Goodall
- H. Grant Helms
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In Memory of Phyllis Breedlove

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- Karen Schaar

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- Thomas & Roberta Sinclair

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Every Day is Prevention.... Continued from page 2

classes, i.e., Capable Kids are offered which are more instructional in nature with a skills development focus using the Dr. Becky Baily’s Conscious Discipline curriculum. Dr. Baily’s concepts are taught in class and then reinforced by Family Mentors (WMFC Family Services staff members who, in a nutshell, serve as good parenting role models.)

Parent, Sharla Partin is a strong advocate of the Capable Kids program. She and fiancée Randon Leser have found Capable Kids to be very helpful. “The Conscious Discipline curriculum has given us many helpful tools to make parenting easier.” These lessons have helped Randon and I do things differently. For example, we

make sure to notice the positive intent behind our children’s behaviors and even that of each other. We have found the lessons on maintaining composure to be especially helpful and have learned that the best time to discipline our children is when everyone has had an opportunity to calm down a bit. Rather than addressing an issue in the heat of the moment, we now have the child go to his or her ‘safe spot’ until he or she is feeling better. When we are all feeling better, we talk about what happened and how it should be handled.” Clearly, a valuable lesson for us all.



Sharla, Zachary and Randon