

The *Helping Hand*MISSION  
STATEMENT

Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministry is a faith-based, non-denominational mission established to provide free emergency food, clothing, household, personal items, and youth programs to those most in need in our community. Providing Faith based services and programs, showing the love of Christ, restoring hope, and rebuilding lives.

CROSSOVER  
WISH LIST

- ⇒ Flooring for the 2nd Floor
- ⇒ Phone System with Intercom and 2 Line Capacity



*Have you ever heard the tears of a hungry child?*

**A Word from our Executive Director, Craig Leavitt**

Crossover is giving HOPE, FIGHTING Hunger in our community! Think **Orange!**

At Crossover, our Clients know hunger...it visits them often.

Here at Crossover we have been at war with hunger since we were founded in 1991. A big part of the HOPE we provide at Crossover is in food assistance...**Emergency Food Assistance!**

Our client's demographics are ever changing and we now find ourselves assisting the ever growing demographic known as "**The Working Poor**". These are a group of folks, young and old who look something like this; A family of four, mother and father (both working) with two children. Some of them have college degrees. Let's do the math. Our state's minimum wage is \$7.40 per hour. Multiply that by 40 hours, then by 52 weeks, and you get \$15,392.00 (**that's before taxes**). After removing 20% for taxes, you are left with a take home pay of \$12,313.60. So that amount times two gives our family of four an annual take home pay for the year of \$24,627.20. Now keep in mind this is a **best case scenario** as most of our clients only work 32 hours or less per week. At 32 hours per week the take home pay is \$19,701.76. Now take away money for safe housing and childcare! (Forget about a car or any form of transportation to get to work.) What about clothing, water, heat, and PRAY you don't get sick. Oh and did I mention paying down college debt? What does that leave for food?

**This is what our new demographic looks like.** Last year at Crossover we spent \$35,000.00 on food alone. Let's do the math again! That number multiplied by \$6.00 (*because we buy our food from the "Food Bank of Eastern Michigan"- thank God for them*) equals \$210,000! Yes, our little Crossover, **with your continued blessing, provided \$210,000 worth of emergency food assistance in 2012.** Blessed are those who see the need and give!

**2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 48 contiguous states is \$23,550.00 for a family of 4 in 2013**

September is hunger action month and orange is the color of hunger.



**DOWNTOWN OUTREACH MINISTRY**  
414 W. Court St. • Flint, MI 48503

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# Summer Camp a Huge Success

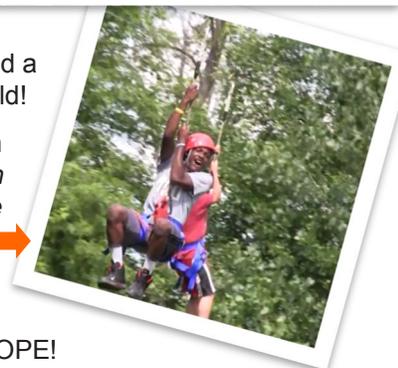
34 children attended camp this year. From the fun had by all at our pre-camp party to the week of excitement, worship and outdoor fun at camp, this year's summer camp program was a huge success!

**The children themselves are the proof of this success.**



† One girl was so concerned about her makeup and cell phone at the pre-camp party, we worried she would not do well. When we visited, she was sitting with a group of children while wearing whiskers and a mouse nose painted on her face – remembering to have fun and be a child!

† Another boy who was recently removed from his home and placed in foster care noted that *“the best thing about Bay Shore Camp is when everybody whorship God and some people cried out to Jesus and some people ask for Jesus to forgive them.”* This was his response even though he obviously had fun on the zip line!



These are just two examples of the blessings this week of camp brings to the children who attend. Thank you for helping send these children to camp and giving them the gift of HOPE!

## Back to School Crossover Serves 181



*Bags filled with school supplies, backpacks and new clothes, just waiting to be picked up by their new owners!*

What a phenomenal year for Back to School. Due to a generous donation of new underwear and socks by the Needlework Guild of America, and some frugal shopping, we were able to far exceed our goal of serving 100 children! As of September 4th, we have provided the following to **181 children**:

- 1 new backpack (filled with spiral notebooks, folders, a pencil case, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils, ruler, scissors, pencil sharpener, glue sticks, erasers, hand sanitizer, facial tissue plus a calculator and stapler for kids in 4th grade or higher)
- 2 new outfits (2 shirts, 2 pair pants, a belt, a \$20 shoe voucher, 2 new pair of underpants & socks)

Thank you to all who helped give these children a worry free start to their school year, and for providing HOPE!

Thanks to GENEROUS cash donations by **individuals**, the **Jennings Memorial Foundation**, the **Kiwanis of Greater Flint**, and an anonymous donor! Thank you also to the **Needlework Guild of America (NGA)** for their generous in-kind donation of socks and underwear!

## 1st Annual Community Open House

**Very Successful!**

On Tuesday, July 30th, we held our first ever Community Open House to raise awareness of Crossover. Over 100 people stopped in between 10am and 2pm for a hot dog, soda, and Crossover's Famous Nickel Tour.

There are still MANY people who don't know who we are and what we do. Please **SHARE** what you know with your friends so we may continue to help those most in need in our community.

Special thanks to Tim Bishop for donating his time to prep and serve hot dogs from his B-Dogs Hot Dog Cart and to Jim Moore and The Hot Dog Stand in Grand Blanc for donating the hot dogs and buns!



**Thanks to ALL who Help Us Give Hope**

## Mobile Food Pantries

September 14—Greater Heights Academy @ 10 a.m.  
September 28—International Academy of Flint @ 10 a.m.

Let us know if you'd like to volunteer to work at OR if your church would like to host a Mobile Food Pantry, call us at (810) 234-2479.

*More mobile food pantries are being planned.  
Please check online or call us for dates and times!*

# Letters From Camp!



Lorion

Concerning your fears

7/26/13

My favorite thing about the camp is the zip line because I thought I was going to fall but I conquered my fears. and went on it and then I thought it was not scary anymore.

Jeremiah

7-25-13

## A Good Week

This week when I went to camp I wasn't in the same cabins as my friends so at first I had nobody to talk to but then after a while I made a friend Chase and then everybody in my cabin was my friend I was one of the popular kids. On the next to days we went swimming, played basketball, zip-lining and mini-golf my favorite was the swimming. Those days I conquered my fear of swimming and zip-lining. I made new friends and they voted the coolest and funniest kids in the cabin. I also got a cross from the gift shop. And then I learned new christian songs that I will tell my friends and I also reunited with Jesus if you haven't I hope you do and I hope you like my reports



Sincerely Jeremiah

# Thanksgiving 2013

It's hard to believe it but, Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we're already planning here at Crossover. Can you picture it? You'll be sitting around the table with your family, praying, thanking God for the blessings he's bestowed upon you, eating a wonderful meal and watching the big game! Sounds like a wonderful day, right?



Unfortunately, Thanksgiving is just another meal that's hard to come by for many. When struggling to even provide food day to day, a celebration that revolves around food can make you anything but thankful.

Each year we provide up to 100 families with a full Thanksgiving meal so they may enjoy fellowship and love with their families without the worry of where the food will come from. You can help provide HOPE to a family on Thanksgiving by sponsoring a family with a donation of \$50. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your contribution!

Thank you for providing HOPE!

# Christmas 2013



## *This Christmas...*

Let's Give a Little Jesus,  
a thoughtful word or deed,  
An act of generosity  
for someone who's in need.

Let's Give a Little Jesus,  
that's what really counts—  
Not what's spent or bought,  
for whom, in what amounts.

Let's Give a Little Jesus  
to everyone, large or small...  
For Jesus, the Messiah,  
is the Greatest Gift of All!



Again this year, our goal is to provide approximately 100 families with Christmas gifts to insure a happy, blessed celebration is had by all!

Though many agencies help with Christmas for children, we are one of the few who try to help the whole family. We strive to provide each child in the family with a new outfit, new pajamas, a new winter coat, hat and gloves, two books, a coloring book and crayons, a game, a doll or action figure and one more toy. We also provide the adults in the family a towel set, blanket, lotions or cologne and another gift.

Our goals are great but so is God! With His help and yours, we will be able to insure that families in our community who can barely put food on the table every day are given a Christmas to remember. It may be the only "Little Jesus" they receive.

You can help provide a little Jesus to families in need a number of ways:

1. You can make a Monetary Donation and we will purchase the gifts needed for the families.
2. You can Sponsor a Family yourself or gather a group of friends to sponsor a family. We'll give you a list of family members and ages so you may purchase gifts specifically for them and bring them in to Crossover for distribution.
3. You can volunteer your time! We're always in need of help wrapping the presents and packaging the gifts for each family.

Help us Give HOPE (and a little Jesus!) this Christmas. You can make a donation using the enclosed envelope, online via PayPal, or simply call us at (810) 234-2479!

## *Special Thanks!*

So many people help us that we're sure we miss some. Know that we appreciate you and are blessed to have your support!

*Thanks to First Presbyterian Church for giving us the use of your hall for our Spring Luncheon this past May.*

*Special thanks to Court Street United Methodist Church for providing blankets, Bibles, hygiene kits and beach towels for camp and for hosting a pre-camp party to prepare the children for a wonderful God-filled experience at Bay Shore Camp!*

*Thanks to St. Paul's Episcopal Church for letting us set up a table in the front yard for Back to the Bricks! Many learned of Crossover for the first time and donated to our cause.*

# Thanks to the MANY Volunteers who brought HOPE-Summer 2013!

In addition to our AMAZING regularly scheduled volunteers (who make Crossover run like clockwork), this summer we were blessed with a number of groups who wanted to help Give HOPE to our community:

## U of M Flint CEO Program

CEO stands for Committed to Excellence and Opportunity. We had 2 to 5 youth Monday through Thursday from 9am to Noon, 3 weeks in a row, helping sort and label clothing, wrap presents, stock shelves and more! The CEO program identifies, recruits and develops students who have the opportunity to be known as Wade H. McCree Incentive Scholarship Scholars upon successful completion of the CEO program. While the program serves both males and females, the primary goal is to address the crisis facing young men from low income and academically underrepresented families. We are grateful for their help and pray for their future success!



## Gifts of Memory

We offer our deepest sympathies to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one and we are truly grateful for the loving donations in their memory.

**Carl McVey:**

by Janet Williamson

**Phyllis Faust:**

by Judy Clippard

**Margaret Race:**

by Leonard & Sharon Thomas

**John Minkler:**

by Mr. & Mrs. David Weller

**Dorothy Harris:**

by Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

**Barbara Landaal Terry:**

by Barbara Smart

## Catholic HEART Workcamp

St. John the Evangelist & Blessed Sacrament hosted Catholic HEART Work camp from July

17-23. Teens from around the country came to help our community. We were blessed to have a group from Pittsburg, PA volunteer to paint our building, covering the graffiti which had been painted on the back wall. The painted all of the white block and the



rusty area of our dock. What a wonderful opportunity for youth to give back and a fantastic blessing for us to have the work done!

## YouthQuest

20 energetic young men (ages 10 and 11) came to help us on Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Part of YouthQuest, these gentlemen helped weed our flower beds, sweep the parking lot, and stock pantry shelves! With their help, we were prepared to put our best face forward for our Community Open House! Thank you boys!

YouthQuest is a free, innovative afterschool enrichment program for K – 8 youth in Genesee County, Michigan serving Carman-Ainsworth, Flint, Mt. Morris and Montrose school districts!



## Gifts of Honor & Celebration

Thank you for helping those less fortunate while honoring loved ones or celebrating the milestones in these peoples lives:

**In Honor of the Genesee Sewing Circle:** by Judy Clippard

**In Honor of Elaine Stermer:** by Nancy Stermer

**In Appreciation of Crossover Staff:** by Joseph & Ruth Thrash

**In Celebration of Joyce Ballentine's Birthday:** by Wilma Ballentine

**In Honor of Barbara Walters and Tim & Melissa Bishop:** by Joseph & Ruth Thrash

**REMEMBER:** You can find us online at [www.crossoverministryflint.org](http://www.crossoverministryflint.org), find us on Facebook listed as Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministry, AND you can donate on our website using PayPal!





**DOWNTOWN OUTREACH MINISTRY**  
414 W. Court St. • Flint, MI 48503

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# *Donation Needs...*

**Winter Coats:** men's and women's coats (especially larger sizes like XXL, XXXL, etc.)

**Personal Care:** toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, shampoo, feminine products, toilet paper, lotion, shaving cream and razors.

**Household:** bedding—any size sheets.

# *Thank You!*

*Crossover thanks Dawn Vallee and Dee Lada for their continued willingness to serve as our two newest Advisory Board members!*