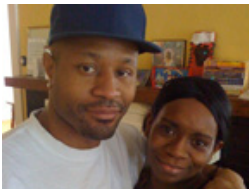




Neighbor Celebrated



Ending homelessness



New face with YEP



To empower people and build community in McLaughlin neighborhood by sharing God's love, as we walk alongside neighbors, seeking justice and a better quality of life for all through long-term, sustainable changes.

A word from Sarah:



Recently the Community enCompass board set aside some time to step away from regular board business and think more broadly about where Community enCompass is and where it's headed. When we get down to the core reason for why Community enCompass exists, we end up with phrases like "Neighborhood Transformation" and "Shalom in the City." Lofty dreams coming

from a rag-tag team of people--staff and board--who are often stumbling towards good. And I wonder how do we know once we've arrived? How will we know when our neighborhoods have been transformed and tasted shalom?

I heard a pastor speak recently on the Old Testament book of Zechariah, chapter 8, and paint a picture that helped me start to see how neighborhoods will look, feel, act differently when they have been revitalized.



The old will be honored and the children will play freely. A revitalized neighborhood is great place to grow old in and a great place to grow up in!

People will work together joyfully, hopefully, and productively.

Unity will be restored through the pursuit of truth and justice.

The rhythms of life will be marked by festivals of joy and gladness.

Others will sense the presence of God and seek God's blessing there. People will begin to move back into the city's neighborhoods!

This is the picture of transformation that we seek for our neighborhoods, with our neighbors. This, the shalom that we long to live into. Humbly, we walk towards that vision of hope.

Seeking Shalom in the City,

Sarah

the enCompass

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enStory

Bethany Housing

Muskegon is in the midst of a bold shift: from managing homelessness to housing people. It's a shift that calls for new thinking, particularly in how we approach homelessness. It means we must see beyond biases about psychological, emotional, or other factors affecting people in a housing crisis. It calls for understanding that homelessness often does not occur because of bad choices—it happens because of unrealistic choices, like choosing between paying medical bills or the rent.

Did you know.....?

- 1) 1601 people were homeless in Muskegon during 2010.
- 2) 531 people are homeless in Muskegon on an average night
- 3) 50% are children (Half of all homeless persons in Muskegon County are children)
- 4) Lack of Affordable Housing is the #1 reason people become homeless
- 5) A family pays an average of \$611 rent per month in Muskegon.
- 6) In the City of Muskegon over 50% of families pay more than 40% of their income on their mortgage payment
- 7) Over the past 10 years, incomes have



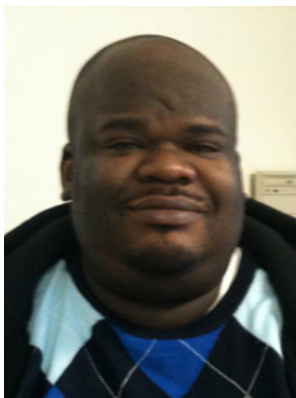
dropped over 20% yet rents have increased over 10% - 20%

8) 50% of the individuals in the Bethany Housing Program are the working poor.

Bethany Housing offers hope to families in Muskegon, many of whom are experiencing financial crisis and homelessness for the first time. Your donations to this program help us defray costs of rent and utilities, providing a refuge and rest for families whose finances have been beaten and battered by a variety of circumstances. Currently, there are 22 families in our housing program. Consider partnering with us and one of these families. A gift of \$600 will provide rent subsidy for one family for five months.

YEP Welcomes B!

Community enCompass welcomes **William Anthony** as our new Youth Employment Program (YEP!) Coordinator. Affectionately known as "B," he and his family attend New Life Christian Center, where he has served as mentor and youth group teacher. B is originally from Chicago, but has lived in Muskegon for seven



years. He and his wife Nicole have eight children, ranging from age 9 to age 24, and one grandchild who is 3 years old. B is living his own transformation story and is excited to journey with neighborhood youth on theirs.

"In the couple of months that I've been with Community enCompass, I've learned so much. And at the same time, I truly feel that every experience I've had in my life--both the good and the bad--has led me to this job as YEP Coordinator," B says. "Through this program, we have the platform to reach youth in their toughest years. We have the opportunity to walk with them, not just in training them for a job, but to give them hope for a future. If I pray for anything, I pray boldly that God

will use me to destroy the walls of hopelessness and despair that so many of our youth have built around themselves."

Send him a welcome email at b@communityencompass.org. If you know of youth between the ages of 18-21 who are interested learning home rehab/repair skills or urban agriculture, send their name and contact info to B!





Summary of 2010 in Numbers

Numbers never tell the whole story, but they shed light on the “what for” question for each of our programs. A summary of 2010 in numbers:



Sacred Suds:

6,140 loads of laundry washed, and 913 showers. Close to 2,500 volunteer hours logged!!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance:

Volunteers brought

back over \$230,000 to our neighbors through tax credits. When combined with our other Muskegon VITA partners, over \$1 million was brought back!



Youth Employment Program:

28 neighborhood youth employed earning \$33,012 in wages; Of the 17 graduates: 10 found employment; 7 enrolled in higher-education; 3 completed their GED.

Bethany Housing:

Total housed in supportive housing: 27 singles; 18 adults in families; 29 children. Of the 10 graduates: 4 to rental housing; 1 to subsidized housing; 5 to home ownership.



Housing Rehab: Over \$300,000 invested in home rehabilitations in McLaughlin Neighborhood

McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm:

16 neighborhood youth employed; 8 Neighbor Adult Volunteers. Produce sold: \$3,200.



McLaughlin Healthy Neighborhood Project



We celebrate with **Charlotte Johnson** who is one of our neighbors and, as our Healthy Neighborhood Project Coordinator, someone we have the privilege of working alongside everyday. Her diligent and faithful work in the neighborhood has received community-wide recognition in two recent community award programs. In the past two months, Charlotte has named a recipient of both the **Love in Action Award** and a **Woman of Accomplishment Award**. “It is a rare occasion that I hear Charlotte speak and don’t hear the voice of the Lord in her words,” stated Pastor Dave Sieplinga from Bethany Church. “She is a prophet in our times, and well-deserving of these awards. We are blessed to be led by this woman.”



The McLaughlin Healthy Neighborhood Project is an asset based community development partnership that seeks to identify, mobilize, and equip neighbors to begin, grow, and sustain positive projects that strengthen community and build collaboration. We thank our collaborative partners: Bethany Church, New Life Christian Center, McLaughlin Elementary PTO, Agape Christian Fellowship, and the McLaughlin Neighborhood Association.



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To empower people and build community in McLaughlin neighborhood by sharing God's love, as we walk alongside neighbors, seeking justice and a better quality of life for all through long-term, sustainable changes.

How Can You Help?

My donation will allow Community enCompass to continue working in the McLaughlin neighborhood to seek positive and lasting change.

Therefore (please check):

- I have enclosed my donation of \$ ____
- I pledge to give \$ ____ monthly
- I request to be informed of ongoing work by Community enCompass

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Email: _____

 Please send to
 Community enCompass
 289 E. Larch
 Muskegon, MI 49442

Would you consider giving to, or engaging in, these two projects?

1) The McLaughlin Healthy Neighborhood Project's (HNP) CATCH Camp is in its fifth year this year. **We are looking for churches and individuals to sponsor an entire week at \$400 or a camper at \$50 for the entire eight weeks.** Please consider joining us during one of the following weeks:

- June 20th – June 25th Music Week
- June 27th – July 2nd Visual Arts Week
- July 4th – July 9th Nutrition Week
- July 11th – July 16th Dance Week
- July 18th – July 23rd Bike Week
- July 27th – July 30th Photography Week
- August 1st – August 6th Soccer Week
- August 8th – August 13th Drawing Week

2) Sacred Suds is in need of High Efficiency (HE) Laundry Detergent and volunteers to “person” the front desk. If you are a lover of people and community, Sacred Suds is the place for you. WE invite you into this family of neighbors who gather daily to talk, wash clothes, share

some food, read, crochet, cross-stich, joke. Sacred Suds guarantees you won't leave without a smile on your face. It's a special place, so stop by anytime!!

We continue to need believers for this ministry to continue its work. We need neighbors who believe that our neighborhood can become stronger and who see their gifts contributing to that stronger place. We need volunteers who believe that God's finger and His picture of SHALOM can touch any person and any place and that transformation can happen. We need supporters who believe that vision --- of our neighborhood of poverty becoming a picture or preview of heaven---is worthy of investment.

Thank you all for being believers. You are dear to the heart of this ministry. Your support—financially and through your prayers—is making a difference in the life of our neighborhood and our neighbors.

Seeking SHALOM, Sarah