

COMMUNITY MATTERS



MANCHESTER
Community Resource Center



BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Our Mission

To serve individuals and families in need by offering effective programs that improve their lives, promote volunteerism, and enhance the welfare of the Manchester community.

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Administrative Assistant

December 2018

How can you help?

Sometimes people need a little help to get through hard times. Hours cut at work, a needed prescription drug is not covered by insurance, the furnace needs replacing, the car is in the shop – just a few examples of major impacts on low to middle income families that can put their finances in jeopardy. And sometimes that temporary impact can have a more long-term negative effect on the household if there is nowhere to turn for assistance. The Community Resource Center is here to help in Manchester; working with area residents to figure out how to manage through these financial challenges.

Sometimes it's enough to talk through the situation and refocus on what you "can" do. Other times, it helps to learn about the Community Resource Center programs and services that can ease some of the financial stress. Money saved on grocery spending by shopping at the food pantry can be used to pay toward a car repair. Free income tax preparation resulting in home heating and property tax credits can give a low/fixed income senior citizen extra dollars to afford new eyeglasses or a hearing aid. One-on-one assistance applying for healthcare benefits (Medicaid, Marketplace, or Medicare plans) can assure coverage meets the individual's needs at the most reasonable cost. Utility bill payment assistance in the form of a one-time bill pay to avoid shut-off, help enrolling in a payment plan, or scheduling a free energy audit or weatherization inspection can reduce future bills and keep up on household heating maintenance. Even though the root problem may still exist, we can help by lifting off the layers and working with the client to make that unexpected financial challenge manageable.

So, how can you help? The Community Resource Center works to help those in need in our community, and you can do the same by donating any amount to support the programs, services and resources we provide to make Manchester a better place for everyone. Use the form enclosed with this newsletter to mail in a donation or drop off your gift in person and get a tour of our facility. Either way your contribution will be appreciated by the organization and the community members served each and every day.

We've moved!

Welcome to the new Community Resource Center at Riverside Intermediate School! Volunteers and staff are here to greet you as you step through our private entry on the east side of the school building. The rooms are bright and clean, with seasonal artwork decorating the whiteboards and windows.

You'll notice the food pantry first, the shelves are neat and

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Manchester's 31st Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet & Community Resource Center Fundraiser

Sixteen superhero volunteers were recognized for their contributions to fifteen area organization during the November 3rd event held at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea. Five of those nominees were presented special awards at the end of the evening:

Claire Reck Award

Cathy Moore

Commitment to Community Award

Shelley Stace

Service to Youth Award

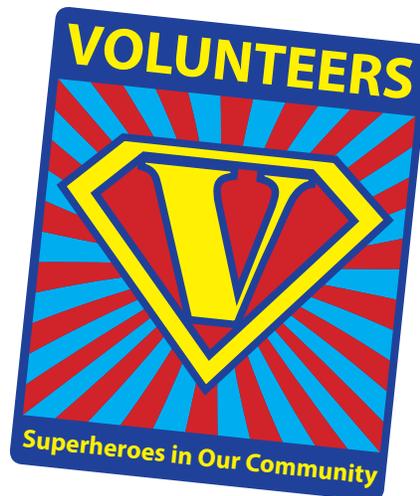
Pat Stommen

Star Award

Krista Scharpenberg

Star Award

Margaret Jacob



Other highlights occurred during the live auction as serious and generous bidders competed for a one-of-a-kind Manchester-themed t-shirt quilt and artwork featuring the former Manchester Mill. Overall the event's live and silent auction brought in nearly \$7,500 to support the work of the Community Resource Center!

Spotlight on our volunteers

Meet Joy Matthews, volunteer artist at the CRC. Joy has been volunteering with us for almost 3 years, working in a variety of capacities from assisting customers in the food pantry to distributing wooden nickels at the Manchester Farmer's Market to creating incredible artwork in and around the Community Resource Center. Joy was nominated as the CRC's outstanding volunteer at the 2018 Volunteer Recognition Banquet.



2018 Volunteers and Nominating Organizations

Tim Armentrout

Manchester Area Historical Society

Richard "Mick" Davis

Manchester Lions Club

Margaret Jacob

Manchester Area Senior Citizen Council

Joy Matthews

Community Resource Center

Jennifer Mayes

Manchester Community Schools

Elizabeth O'Hotzke

Kiwanis Key Club

Ellen O'Sullivan

Kiwanis

Krista Scharpenberg

Emanuel United Church of Christ

Michelle "Shelley" Stace

Manchester Community Schools Foundation

Pat Stommen

Riverside/Klager PTO

Andrew Supers

Community & School Gardens

Marlene Uphaus

Manchester Family Service

Jan Whittington

Kiwanis

Jennifer Wojtowicz

Manchester Chamber of Commerce

VITA Program Returns for the 2018 Tax Season

What is VITA? VITA stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. It is a volunteer-driven program that helps workers, senior citizens, and people with disabilities with lower incomes prepare and file their income taxes as well as the state home heating and homestead property tax credits for free.

The CRC will once again partner with United Way of Washtenaw County to offer the IRS sanctioned free income tax preparation in Manchester. Households with total income of \$54k or less may be eligible to participate. Appointments will be available on Mondays during February and March 2019. Additional services such as access to MyFreeTaxes software for households earning up to \$66k and onsite tax preparation will be offered as well. Contact the CRC to see if you qualify!



Weekend Kids Meal Program

This continuing partnership between Manchester Community Schools and the Community Resource Center brings nutritious, kid-friendly take-home foods to students at Klager Elementary, Riverside Intermediate and the Jr/Sr High School each Friday. Food pantry and free/reduced cost lunch eligible families may contact the school or the CRC for details and to register your student.



Value of Volunteer Time

Volunteer hours recorded at the Community Resource Center totaled over 1,275 during 2017. According to Independent Sector the average value of volunteer time is now \$24.69/hour. So, the value of our volunteer's time equals \$31,479.75!

Like to meet new people and share stories?

Join Kathy Walz, Behavioral Health Navigator from St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, for our monthly Social Hour – an opportunity to talk with neighbors and friends in Manchester. This one-hour gathering features guided conversation, refreshments and an occasional activity. Watch for future announcements on specific dates and times for this ongoing program at the Community Resource Center.

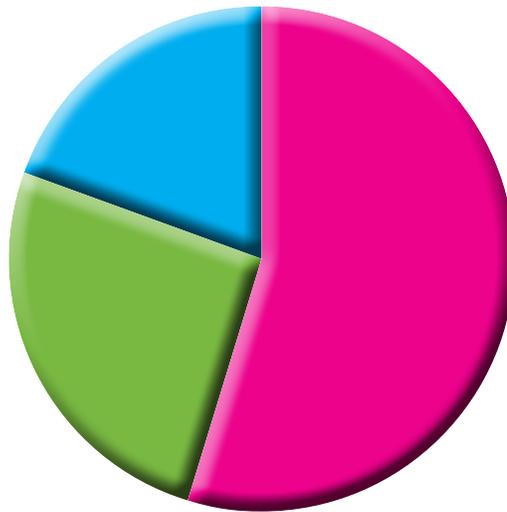
Utility Assistance

Are you behind on a utility bill and at risk for shut-off? Help is available for qualified low-income households at or below 150% FPL (Federal Poverty Level) through the Low Income Heat & Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This program can assist with not only natural gas and electric bills but also costs for deliverable fuels like propane, firewood and fuel oil to keep the heat on during cold winter months. While the application process now involves accessing resources from a few different agencies, the Community Resource Center can help you navigate the system right here in Manchester. Contact the CRC for more information or to schedule an appointment.



2017 Income

Contributions.....	\$52,084
Grants	\$24,313
Fundraising.....	\$18,353
TOTAL.....	\$94,750



Manchester Community Resource Center

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Web:
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Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/CRCManchesterMI48158/>

Manchester Community Resource Center is an equal opportunity provider.

Food Pantry Hours:

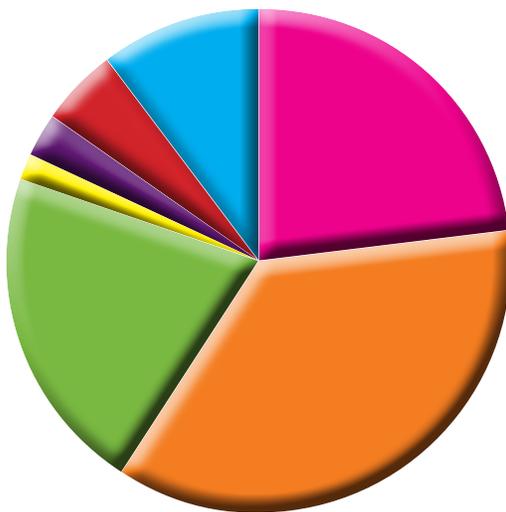
Monday 11:30 am–2:30 pm
 Tuesday 9:00 am–2:30 pm
 Wednesday 11:30 am–2:30 pm
 Thursday 9:00 am–2:30 pm
 Friday 9:00 am–noon

Office Hours:

Monday 11:30 am–2:30 pm
 Tuesday through
 Thursday 9:00 am–4:00 pm
 Friday 9:00 am–noon

2017 Expenses

Programs & Services.....	\$24,313
Administration Salaries & Benefits	\$37,924
Program Salaries & Benefits	\$22,000
Professional Fees	\$1,790
Rent, utilities, maintenance.....	\$2,995
Printing, publications, postage.....	\$5,277
Other expenses.....	\$10,505
TOTAL.....	\$104,804



We've moved! continued from page 1

orderly, stocked with kitchen staples and even some extras. Recent contributions including cleaning products and personal care items share space with everyday paper goods. The cooler holds a limited variety of dairy products and fresh produce, while the freezer stores breads, meats and more. Volunteers are ready to assist visitors, whether you're here for shopping or dropping off donations.

Next door, the office space is equally inviting. More artwork and a friendly atmosphere. Public work spaces are open for community members to access computers and printers, with faxing and scanning available at no charge for personal use. CRC staff are here to help -

listening, learning, answering questions, offering direct assistance and finding referrals for specific resources as needed. Volunteers share the office space too, lending a hand with weekly tasks and special projects.

Community members often stop by or call for assistance with specific needs, and sometimes people just pop in to say hello. More involved services like completing applications for benefits can be scheduled in advance to provide confidential, one-on-one support throughout the process.

Please plan to visit the new Community Resource Center to see all of the activity for yourself!