



## Waiting on the Rainbow in 2021

Looking back on 2020 and the pandemic, the adversity experienced looms large, but there is another, equally as powerful narrative present, which is that of the people of Community Opportunity Center. The residents, their families, and staff of COC pulled together, and changed their pre-pandemic lifestyles to adapt to the new normal shaped by COVID-19. We had to learn ways to fight the virus biologically and cope with it psychologically, both of which were challenging.

Families and friends of COC donated masks and made financial charitable contributions. They paid for and brought dinners to homes. Families encouraged staff with cards and gifts. They cooperated with testing and visitation protocols mandated to COC through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which in many cases required adjusting or cancelling holiday plans and family gatherings to prevent COVID spread.

The residents were incredibly patient and good natured regarding the impositions of the pandemic. Their indomitable and optimistic spirits carried them through these times of quarantine and limited activities. They remained open to home-based leisure activities, tolerant of reduced community outings and accepted new ways to participate in visits with family and friends using remote technology. They learned about and participated in wearing PPE, increased handwashing, and sanitizing routines to reduce their risk of exposure. Residents who contracted the virus endured it with calm and courage. Sadly, two residents lost their lives to COVID and are remembered in this newsletter edition.

The employees of COC repeatedly made personal sacrifices and took risks with their personal safety to ensure residents received care. Those working in our homes continued to come to work each day, demonstrating courage and commitment in the face of fear and uncertainty posed by this new illness. They were and are the heartbeat of COC, enabling our organization to carry out its mission of caring for others in the toughest of circumstances.

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### Our Mission

We promise to help the people we serve lead fulfilled lives by providing quality, individualized support.

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## Update from the Office

In July of 2020, **Zakia Dixon** was hired as our new Human Resources (HR) Manager. She lives in Canton with her husband Russell and their daughter Ari and is expecting her second child in July. Zakia comes to us with ten years of experience in the human resource field. We appreciate her leadership in the area of the Family Medical Leave Act, benefit management and enrollment, unemployment insurance, workman's compensation and employee relations activities. She is a welcome addition to the office, has learned and quickly adapted to the characteristics and demands of staffing and running 24/7 home settings. It is a blessing to rely on Zakia for all things HR.



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As a result of all these efforts, we pulled through it together. As most of you know, this was my first year as Executive Director and the pandemic posed additional challenges to the typical learning curve of a new position; having the help and support of the Board of Directors, office staff, home staff, families, and friends of COC has been invaluable to me during this difficult year. The difficult moments of 2020 are evidence of the commitment the people of COC have to one another. It is for this reason, that I am honored to work for and with the residents, families, and employees of COC and know that the rainbow after the storm is at hand in 2021.

**Holly Heath,**  
Executive Director

**Tom Byrne** was hired as our Director of Development in January of 2021. He lives in Lapeer with his wife, Kimberly and four boys Brandon, Evan, Logan and Sean. He will be assisting Community Opportunity Center with raising additional funds to support continued quality operations and capital improvements. During his career, Tom has worked for Beaumont Hospital, Easter Seals and multiple local churches to raise funds to assist these organizations in carrying out their mission. He has experience with securing grants and corporate donations, as well as executing fundraising events and direct mail appeals. We are pleased to have Tom as part of our team and look forward to working with him on upcoming fundraising activities this year.



**Andrea Bey** was hired as our HR Assistant in August of 2020. Andrea lives in Canton with her husband Kevin and her two daughters, Kyiana and Kyra. Her role includes posting job openings on multiple electronic job boards, accepting applications, scheduling interviews, and coordinating the onboarding and training process for new hires. Andrea comes to us after 16 years as the Home Administrator for Redford Opportunity House and Curtis House, which makes her uniquely qualified to recruit new employees for work in our corporation; she understands the requirements of direct care work inside and out. Andrea is currently enrolled in a human resource program with Phoenix University and is scheduled to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Human Resource Management in May of 2024. She continues to work hard to recruit new employees.



## COVID-19 Pandemic Creates Recruiting and Staffing Challenges

The loyal and steadfast employees of COC continue to put forth extra time and effort to manage the staffing shortage created by the pandemic circumstances. Home administrators and staff are working long hours and added over time to ensure that residents continue to receive quality care. Maintaining quality care using a smaller workforce requires teamwork and sacrifice on the part of COC employees. To acknowledge the fact that employees are working under strenuous conditions, COC has created a COVID Direct Care pay structure to compensate employees who agree to work in COVID exposed homes during quarantine periods. In addition, beginning April 1, 2020, the State of Michigan recognized the difficulty residential care providers were

facing and instituted a general \$2.00 per hour wage increase, which COC passed along to its employees. As of April 1, 2021, this increase was adjusted to \$2.25 per hour, and remains in effect until September 30, 2021. While the state wage increase is greatly appreciated and helpful in retaining employees, other pandemic related issues work against recruiting new employees. The Federal stimulus program and increased unemployment benefits, while helpful to many, have created unintended consequences by disincentivizing employment. Family and friends of COC are encouraged to refer anyone they may know who is interested in caregiving and looking for work, to COC. We would love to meet them.

# Community Opportunity Center

## Join Our Team!

Full Time, Part Time  
and Casual Shifts  
Available

Sign On Bonus  
and Paid Training

Direct Care  
Workers

Great Benefits:  
401k, Medical,  
Dental

Competitive Pay

### Candidates Must Have:

- Valid Driver's License
- Pass a Pre-Employment Drug Screen
- High School Diploma or GED
- Authorization to Work Within the US

We are looking for compassionate individuals committed to providing day to day support to people with developmental disabilities in a community residential setting.

### Positions Available In:

Livonia | Plymouth | Redford | Garden City

[www.cocliving.com](http://www.cocliving.com)

Contact Andrea Bey, HR Assistant: [Abey@cochomes.net](mailto:Abey@cochomes.net) (734) 838-0542

## Health and Wellness at COC



While challenges of social distancing required that we suspend some of our classes, we have been able to keep people moving and connected by adjusting how we lead our exercise sessions. Currently, we have a weekly, well attended walking club at Garden City Opportunity Manor. We start with gentle stretching, talk about dietary choices and menu planning, and culminate with a 45-minute walk. The dedicated staff and enthusiastic participation of the GCOM folks make this a session that is full of laughter, determination, and shared encouragement. As the weather warms up, we take the walking outside, where neighbors look forward to seeing us every week, and sharing friendly smiles and greetings. Well done, to all participants.

Plymouth Opportunity House has a weekly cardio drumming class that has been going strong for well over a year. It is the perfect combination of music, movement, sweat and friendship. We have seen huge improvements in coordinating the movements to music, the sense of camaraderie, and the laugh levels. The residents are proud of themselves and their personal improvement, and they should be!



Friendship House continued their weekly seated yoga classes, with residents following along in guided gentle stretching and balance targeted routines. We are anxious to get back to the more social, larger group classes, where not only flexibility and strength are improved, but friendships are strengthened. In the meantime, we will keep moving together in individual home settings.

Here's to a happy and healthy 2021!

## Music Therapy with Living and Learning

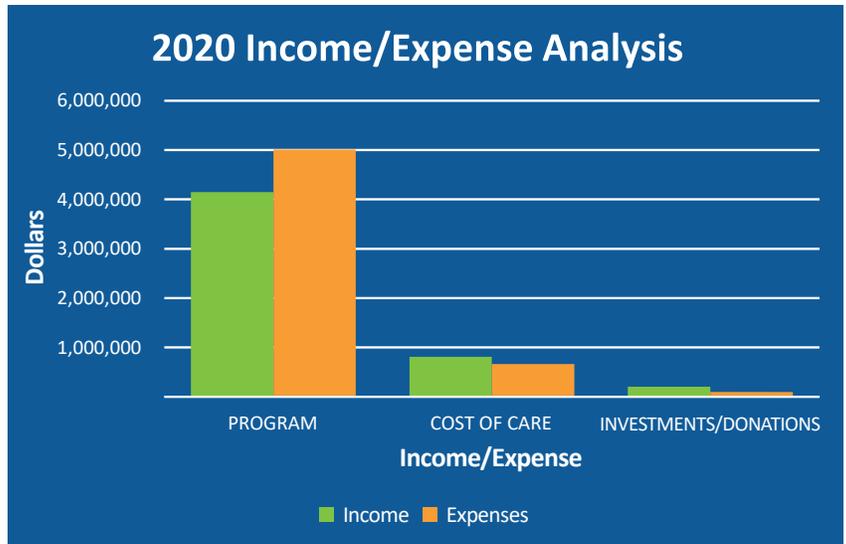
Community Opportunity Center, NPHC and Living and Learning, an enrichment and vocational program in Northville, partnered together to offer music therapy classes to our residents. The residents of Milburn and Redford House participated in music therapy facilitated by a certified Music Therapist. The logistics and sound systems for the classes had to be planned out and reconfigured to allow for a remote model due to the pandemic. The classes provided a safe recreational experience and opportunity for residents to use their social and cognitive skills. During class, residents used language skills to sing and create song lyrics, cognitive skills to follow musical patterns and motor planning skills to play musical instruments. COC and Living and Learning have plans to partner together on future activities in the coming year.



## Cash Summary for 2020

### KRX Pharmacy Assists COC Through Pandemic

Dr. Will Khanafer, Ph.D. has been a good friend to COC for many years. His Pharmacy, KRX in Westland, manages and fills prescriptions for most of the residents served by COC. In years prior to the pandemic, he assisted COC with establishing wellness initiatives around nutrition and exercise. More recently in November 2020, when the state of Michigan mandated weekly testing for homes licensed for 13 residents or more, COC reached out to KRX and asked if a partnership could be formed to carry out testing. Dr. Khanafer did not hesitate, he worked with COC to address state regulations and quickly set up weekly testing by late November. KRX also performs testing for our unlicensed homes on an as needed basis when it is determined a potential exposure may have occurred. During home exposures, Dr. Khanafer went out of his way to test staff and residents in their homes so that travel was not necessary. He provided research information regarding nutrition and supplements which showed promise in helping people recover from COVID-19. With the many regulations and emergency orders issued by the state during this pandemic, all of which need to be address timely and correctly, having KRX as a steady trusted partner has been a blessing.



The above analysis as of September 30, 2020 does not reflect the \$695,000 PPP Loan received in May of 2020. The PPP Loan was forgiven in March 2021. Due to timing issues, the loan substantially decreased our cash deficit for 2020; however, will inflate our income in 2021.

### 2021 Membership Dues

Family members, friends, guardians, Durable Power of Attorneys, and personal representatives of the men and women supported by COC are asked to pay the annual \$25 membership dues. Membership is required to vote at the COC Annual Meeting and ensures that you are on our mailing list for all important correspondence. The dues help defer the cost associated with mailings that take place throughout the year, cost associated with the Annual Meeting and other functions open to family and friends. Please use the enclosed envelope for your membership dues.

### Special Envelope Has Many Uses

The envelope inserted in this newsletter can be used for several purposes: make a donation, to extend a memorial or honorary gift, submit annual membership dues, and to support our annual appeal at the end of the calendar year.

Thank You.

### Employee of the Year 2020



Starting in 2020 this award will be given annually to the employee who demonstrates a heart and passion for COC and who best demonstrates the work and philosophy of COC's long-time Executive Director, Denise King. This year's winner joined COC in 2016 and has made a huge impact in our ability to complete our Mission. He

has created meaningful relationships with fellow staff and residents along the way. We are pleased to share that our Employee of the Year for 2020 is **Glen Hearn**.

Since his first day of employment, he has remained constant in his availability and willingness to help. He is reliable not only in his daily work, but most importantly in times of uncertainty; we know we can always count on Glen. The last fifteen months presented us with the most challenging of times dealing with the COVID pandemic. Glen was someone who did not hesitate to help during this crisis.

While his official title is Operations Coordinator, which already holds a variety of tasks under this job description, he is always willing to help and pitch in on any task. With consistent high scores in his yearly evaluations, he is always striving to meet and exceed his goals both personally and professionally. There is no task too big or too small for Glen. One might call him the swiss army knife of COC. He has been called on to help with tasks for all homes including putting furniture together, managing PPE inventory, mixing and distributing cleaners, grilling for staff lunches, tech support and landscaping. He is a friend to all and always demonstrates respect in any encounter. He addresses each resident by name and takes the time to make them feel noticed and important. Glen's quality of versatility makes him a great teammate.

Glen continues to contribute to the success of COC. We look forward to many more years with him at our side as our COC co-worker and friend.

### Welcome to our employees who joined COC in 2019-2020!

Muibat Ajiboye  
Chelsea Avant  
Tracy Bounty  
Thomas Byrne  
Destiny Chappell  
Susan Clay  
Zakia Dixon  
Ezanjolo Draper  
Brandy Drayton  
Angela Fuqua  
Capri Golson  
Shaunnise Gurley  
Tanisha Heath  
D'jion Hesson  
Daelon Hill  
Rhonda Holtyn  
Marchelle Huntley  
Jessica Huynh  
Lunda Johnson  
Raschaad Jones  
Betty Kurc  
Lolita Kyser  
Alyshia Magee  
Linda Martin  
Elaine McReynolds  
Catherine Millman  
Omar Morris Jr.  
Victoria Nwosu-Buti  
Kyiana Parrom  
Eileen Smith  
Thelisa Smith  
Lavasia Tabb  
Janeiva Treadwell  
Janice Wallace  
Necola Williams

# Staff Appreciation Events

COC's Staff Appreciation Committee has been meeting quarterly to share ideas and fine tune events planned for the upcoming months/year. There are several activities that have taken place since 2019 that are intended to show our staff just how much we appreciate their dedication and hard work to our mission and the people we serve. Some of those activities include:

## 2019 Events

**Spirit Calendar:** Dates were chosen for staff to participate by wearing theme-based clothing, which included "Sports Team Day", "Slipper Day", "Silly Hair Day", and "COC Apparel Day". Staff sent in pictures of the folks and themselves in participatory gear.

**June 2019 - Staff Appreciation Luncheon:** We hosted a Staff Appreciation Luncheon at the Plymouth Cultural Center. This was an annual event (until COVID) where all staff were invited to have lunch and share in recognition of staff anniversaries (3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years). We raffled off numerous gift cards and a few donated items, as well as the centerpieces. The theme for the luncheon was "A Day at the Beach". We unveiled the 2019 Staff Appreciation t-shirt with the logo of "Professional Dream Makers". Each staff received a t-shirt.

**September 2019 - Fall BBQ:** The committee organized a barbecue in the parking lot of the COC administrative offices for staff to attend any time between 11:30 am and 5:00 pm. Our office "yard" was decorated with

fall décor and the weather was cooperative, so the event was a hit. We served hamburgers and sausages with all of the sides. For dessert, we had s'mores over an outdoor fire pit and Karen Parkinson made a beautifully decorated, delicious, homemade cake that was enjoyed by all. The event was well attended. We had two chefs at the grill, Glen Hearn and John DeGeorge, who is one of our faithful volunteers. We raffled off \$10 gift cards throughout the day, and staff could help themselves to COC swag that we had left over from previous events.

**December 2019 - Holiday Decorating Contest:** Our 2nd Annual Holiday Decorating contest involved all the homes' staff and residents decorating their houses. Two volunteers, Mary Babcock and Bill Heaton, had the difficult task of selecting first, second, and third place winners, who received \$100, \$75, and \$50, respectively. The prize money was spent on a meal for the staff and residents. Our other homes received \$30 for a pizza party. ALL of the homes were beautifully decorated, and all the hard work was much appreciated!

## 2020 Events

2020 started off with good intentions, however COVID began so we had to adjust our event planning accordingly. The Staff Appreciation Committee continued to come up with fun and creative ways to show our appreciation for our staff while observing COVID limitations. Here is a snapshot of what we were able to accomplish during 2020.

**T-Shirt Slogan Contest:** All staff were encouraged to submit a slogan that we can use on our staff shirts for the year. In 2020 the winner, Mary Bernardi received \$50 for her slogan "TEAM COC".

*Continues on page 8.*



*Tracey, Sheanell, and Ferrari.*

**July 2020 - Drive Thru Luncheon:** We had our first “drive-thru” lunch for all employees, again held in the COC parking lot. We grilled up hamburgers and sausages, with side dishes to go. Our chefs (Glen and Patrick) grilled up the made-to-order lunch items and committee members filled the to-go bags with the sides, a drink and brought the completed order to the vehicles as staff drove by. Although it was different than we expected, the drive-thru lunch was enjoyed by many of the staff. Since this event would have been our annual staff luncheon where we raffle off gifts and gift cards, we put all staff names in a jar and Holly Heath drew a name for each of the 31 gift items we were giving away. Included in the gift items were two Echo Smart Speakers.

**October 2020 - We hosted a Chili Cook Off:** We had nine entries and three judges (Bev, Glen, and Patrick) from the COC office. The judges sampled all nine batches and voted on their favorites. The top three batches of chili were selected and the cooks who prepared those were awarded a cash prize! The winners were as follows:



First Place – Angela from Redford House  
*(pictured at left)*

Second Place – Capri & Tracy from Plymouth House

Third Place – Corielle from Livonia House

We then served the chili varieties to all staff for their lunch along with some tasty sides.

**September–November 2020 - Gear up and Get It:**

From September to November, we organized an event that encouraged staff to wear their COC gear to work. Those from the Appreciation Committee dropped by for surprise visits to each of the homes and presented gift cards to any staff wearing a face mask and a COC shirt!



*Kaitlyn shows off her prize.*

**New Administrator  
Chelsea Avont**

**Chelsea Avont** joined COC in January 2020 as a Program Trainer working in our Community Enrichment Services program and Curtis House.



Within a year she moved up to Assistant Administrator of Redford Opportunity House (ROH). In January 2021, the Home Administrator position at ROH became available and Chelsea was promoted. Chelsea came to COC with many years of experience in this field. Starting at age 13, she both worked and volunteered with her mother in group home settings. Chelsea also worked as a sheriff in Georgia for three and a half years. She is currently in nursing school. She has two daughters and a fiancé who are very supportive of her new administrative role. Chelsea has proven herself to be dependable, respectful and a quality care giver to our residents, keeping their needs as the primary focus in her daily interactions. She jumped right in, rolled up her sleeves and put her talents right to work. Chelsea’s contributions to COC’s mission are appreciated by her peers and the families of those she supports. Way to go Chelsea and Welcome to COC!

## Crafts at COC

Did you know that many of the individuals supported by COC like to express themselves through art and crafts? To address this interest, COC has offered monthly craft classes for the past several years. The classes are organized by Lisa Lindner, Chris Compton, and several volunteers. Barb and Debbie, two volunteers who never miss a class, suggest creative craft ideas that are always a hit. After each monthly class, friends and families can go to the COC Facebook page and check out the projects that are showcased along with the individuals' smiling faces.

The pandemic brought on a new challenge. How could we continue tapping into our residents' creativity without being able to congregate in one room? That did not stop Lisa and Chris from finding ways to keep everyone engaged as they adjusted to being home bound.



Some of the concern was that the staff in many of the settings are not necessarily crafty so we began the venture with "The Quarantine Project". Each week there was a fax sent to each setting with directions on what craft they were to complete. They were asked to take a picture that included the completed craft and the residents that participated in its creation and send it to be posted on the COC Facebook page. Most of these projects could be done over a week's time. Although we tried to incorporate items that could be found in the



homes, some items required going outdoors to find things in nature (rocks, sticks, flower petals, etc.).

Later in the year, the realization hit that we were going to be faced with COVID for many more months and monthly craft classes were still on hold. Meanwhile, we tried to keep the momentum going by sending the homes brown bags filled with craft supplies for a project to be completed according to a flyer that was placed in the bag. Most of the ideas were big hits.

Projects included: pumpkin carving; making fairy doors to place in Livonia parks; decorating styrofoam snow people; making and delivering love-bombs; creating canvases describing their home; and of course, decorating face masks. The new Human Resource Manager, Zakia, even helped out with a painting projects for Friendship House. Some of the homes started coming up with their own ideas. Crafts and hobbies are fun and rewarding, giving us something to look forward to.

We hope to return to in-person craft classes this June. We will keep safety in the forefront with fewer participants and volunteers. Our projects will be showcased on Facebook for your viewing.



Lisa and Chris wish to express appreciation to Nancy Green who made two generous donations for the craft classes in memory of Julie Krebaum. This allowed us to keep our craft closet full of unique items that are available to the homes when they are in need of craft supplies. We also want to thank the friends of COC who consistently provide craft items and volunteer their time for craft projects. Volunteers and donations are always welcomed!



# Home Life at COC

## Bassett House

**Three residents, Home Manager: Carol Bailey**  
**Three Satellite Sites: one resident in Livonia, three residents in Plymouth**

In April of 2020, our home located on Rocker Street in Plymouth moved to Bassett Street in Livonia. Initially there was one original resident from Rocker that moved to Bassett and within the last year two new residents have been added to this home. Over the past year, the residents kept busy with table games, cooking and baking activities, while keeping community activities to a minimum. We celebrated Brian's and Mark's birthdays with small home parties in August and September. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia visited in September to assist with landscaping. We thank Mary Ellen and Dennis Clancy for their assistance with meals, face masks, furniture and decorating items for Bassett.



## Milburn House

**Four residents, Home Manager: Sheanell O'Neal-Horton**  
**Medical Coordinator: Kelsey Adams**  
**Two Satellite Sites: three residents in Livonia**

Prior to the pandemic Rosie and staff went to the Fox Theater to see her favorite characters from Paw Patrol. Jackie attended some date nights with her significant other from Plymouth House. Home based activities became the norm during the pandemic. Residents enjoyed Bingo, Uno, cookie decorating and crafts. Debbie and staff spent time reading books from her favorite mystery series, Trixie Beldon. Sheanell and staff celebrated birthdays and planned a Christmas party for residents and staff. Milburn appreciates the support of Kevin Hardy, resident family member, for dropping off treats for residents and staff.



## Friendship House

**Four residents, Home Manager: Crystal Chappell**  
**Assistant Manager Rachaad Jones**  
**Two Satellite Sites: three residents in Plymouth**

As many know, Home Administrator Becka Birman resigned in November, 2020. Chris Compton, Program Manager, has provided support to the home during this transition. Crystal Chappell, formerly from ROH, and Rachaad Jones, from Bassett House, are now in leadership positions. In the past year, two residents had drive-by birthday celebrations. There were many safe outdoor outings during good weather months which included Greenfield Village, a dog show, the apple orchard, picnics, walks, the Farmer's Market and Newburgh Lake. In October, Chris Compton and staff planned a fun Halloween Party for the residents. The landscaping at Friendship house was improved last summer and will continue to be added to this spring/summer season. We appreciate the Kopka and DeGeorge families ordering dinner for residents throughout the year.



**Plymouth Community Opportunity Center**  
**Thirteen Residents, Home Manager: Felisha Wilkerson**  
**Assistant Manager: Gospel Okereke**  
**Medical Coordinator: Sharonda Gamble**

Despite the pandemic, Plymouth House kept busy with many in-home and some outdoor activities. A luau party was held in the summer of 2020 and a Sweetest Day dinner occurred in October. Gospel launched his signature activity, “POH Got Talent”, which was a blast. Plymouth House did experience a COVID exposure and quarantine over Christmas. We were grateful for the support, understanding and flexibility of families as holiday plans were interrupted by a COVID quarantine. COC staff and families, worked together to ensure the residents had a very nice Christmas dinner and presents to open on Christmas day. Serene Surroundings of Plymouth and the Plymouth Rotary did a beautiful job decorating with Christmas lights, which kept the Christmas spirit alive for staff and residents who spent their holiday at POH. Over the past year, many meal donations to Plymouth House were made by Joyce Wickman, Mae Young Ogletree, Diane Janes, Kathleen Flynn, Dorothy McCulloch, Dixie Hibner, Marilyn Cantrell and Capri Golson. We also thank Mae Young Ogletree for donating a very nice treadmill. In addition, the Plymouth Aktion Club donated a 65-inch flat screen TV and laptop computer. This allows the Aktion Club volunteers to display internet content in an engaging way when they come into the home to present current event topics. In addition, the TV can be used by residents to participate remotely in leisure and exercise classes.



**Semi-Independent Program (SIP)**  
**Six residents, Home Manager: Ashley Morris**

SIP participated in the quarantine arts and crafts challenge, launched through the COC Facebook page, which occurred for many weeks during the initial months of the COVID pandemic. Ashley worked with Jeff Campbell’s family to organize a wonderful drive by birthday party for Jeff’s 60th birthday. A long line of cars paraded down his sister’s street offering gifts, balloons, and well wishes. Jeff was in his element, as he walked up to every car and greeted his friends and family; he loved it. Sadly, Jeff passed away in November 2020. SIP put on a very nice home-based Halloween party in October, and had a creative scavenger hunt activity, both of which were enjoyed by all. Jeff’s and Brian’s apartment was updated with new décor. The families of SIP made many donations to help SIP through the pandemic. The Deacon family made a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner to assist staff through a quarantine period in November and provided appreciation gifts to staff who worked through this difficult time. Pat Rize donated masks and purchased dinners for residents and staff to support them during the quarantine period. Emma Kelly donated helpful sanitizing products. She connected COC with a source for face shields and supplied arts and craft projects to help engage residents.



## Livonia Opportunity House

**Nine residents, Home Manager: Ferrari Griffin**

**Assistant Manager: Corielle Duley**

**Medical Coordinator: Eric Thompson**

**One Satellite Site: two residents in Livonia**

Livonia House kept busy by celebrating all birthdays and holidays during this past year. They set up musical chairs, mid-day dance parties, themed dinners, scavenger hunts, and took plenty of car rides as a way to get out of the house while limiting COVID exposure. Staff worked with residents to help them face time their family and friends regularly. The home attended the annual drive through Hines Park Lights Festival. Members of St. Genevieve Church performed a cardio drum Christmas concert in the backyard and donated Easter and Christmas gifts to residents. We are grateful to the LOH families for their assistance throughout this past year. The Fowler family donated toiletry and cleaning items and a Keurig coffee maker, the Brennan family donated a 32-inch TV, the Abar family donated toiletry, cleaning and snack items, Pat Hansen donated games, and a chicken dinner, Mary Kay donated games, coloring books and snacks. COC replaced the double oven, cook top and stove with new appliances.



## Curtis House

**Four residents, Home Manager: Bridgett Lawson**

**Assistant Manager: Joslyn Williams**

**Two Satellite Sites: three residents in Livonia and Plymouth**

Curtis House kept busy with crafts, gardening and cooking activities. The residents visited Frankenmuth and went to the circus before the onset of the pandemic. There is a walking path labeled the “Fairy Path” in the Curtis House neighborhood. Staff and residents enjoyed walking this path in good weather. Bridget and her staff organized an ice cream sundae night and Cinco de Mayo celebration. A joint trip with Friendship House to Disney World in Florida was planned for spring 2020 but had to be canceled due to the pandemic. We look forward to rescheduling this trip. An additional storage room was built in the basement at Curtis House by our trusted and talented maintenance man, Patrick Malone. Curtis House received a great deal of support from Ellen Stefaniak and her sister Beth, both of whom are sisters of the late Curtis House resident Lori Henry. Ellen and Beth donated home supplies, cookies, flowers and gardening time, food, special meals and crafts.



## Redford Opportunity House

Six Residents, Home Manager: Chelsea Avant

Assistant Manager: Tracy Bounty

Medical Coordinator: Catherine Millman

One Satellite Site: two residents in Livonia

Redford Opportunity House attended several community events before the onset of the pandemic including a fall festival, a historical museum, a dinosaur exhibit, the circus, and a Harlem Globe Trotters game. The residents also enjoyed outings to Campus Martius Park in Detroit to walk and dine out. In-home activities included the Facebook pandemic crafting challenge, gardening projects, puzzles and baking. Staff and residents planned a Halloween party, a Christmas party, a trip to the Hines Park Lights Festival, and a Super Bowl party. Recent improvements in the home include new flooring in two bedrooms. Marilyn Darkangelo donated a new stove and microwave. Redford House received a great deal of support from resident family members, Steve Kanyo, Phyllis Martino and Marilyn Darkangelo, all of whom provided meals and support to staff and residents throughout the COVID pandemic.



## Garden City Opportunity Manor

Fifteen residents, Home Manager: Kim Stack

Medical Coordinator: Cheryl Ross

One Satellite Site: two residents in Garden City

Prior to the pandemic, four residents took a trip to Dollywood in Tennessee. Four residents went to Disney World, and the Aktion Club along with Judy Wilmot and the American Legion organized a great “Bike Night” activity. Residents also went on the Clinton River Cruise and visited Henry Ford Museum to enjoy the Star Trek exhibit. There were outings to an arcade, Downtown Detroit, an alpaca farm, apple orchard, and a terrarium. Residents and staff went to Hell Michigan for ice cream and antique shopping. They also enjoyed an outing to see the Harlem Globetrotters. Kim and staff planned their signature luau and Superbowl parties which are always a hit with all involved. There were many barbecues, walks, crafts, board games and an outdoor movie night. The families of Garden City residents have provided meals, donated supplies, and funded parties. We appreciate the support shown to Garden City staff and residents during its quarantine period in November and all throughout the pandemic period. Families were especially patient and flexible when their Thanksgiving plans were interrupted by a necessary COVID quarantine. We truly appreciate the understanding and support of families during this unusually difficult year.



## A Welcome to Our New Friends

### Ronald Walzak

Ronald's parents submitted a COC residential application for Ronald in February 1988 knowing that someday he would need a suitable place to live when they were no longer able to care for him. That day came in November 2019 when Ronald moved from the home that he shared with his father to Garden City Opportunity Manor (GCOM). Ronald, who also goes by Ronnie, has adjusted very well to apartment living with his new friends. Ronnie is a very hard worker who truly loves his job of 21 years with Haggerty Metals, where he works 35 hours a week. His boss and co-workers appreciate Ronnie's work ethic and enjoy working with him. Ronnie participates in Special Olympics basketball, weight-lifting (where he has won several medals) and hopefully baseball next spring. His favorite sport team is Michigan Wolverines, and he likes walks, going to concerts and music of all genres. Ronnie is a very happy guy, who is kind to everyone he meets. He is always willing to help GCOM staff and residents with any tasks. Lori, Ronnie's sister, is a wonderful advocate for him and keeps in touch with her brother regularly. Welcome Ronnie, you are a wonderful addition to the GCOM family.



understands the benefits of budgeting to save up for something he wants to purchase. Kevon is decisive and makes decisions based on what he likes and dislikes. He enjoys movies (he has an extensive collection), music, watching TV, shopping, and spending time with family and friends. Kevon's mother is very supportive and very much part of his life. Welcome Kevon, we are glad you are part of the POH family.

### Mark Banach

Mark was part of COC's Community Enrichment Services prior to his move into Bassett House on May 1, 2020. Prior to moving to Bassett Mark lived with his sister, Mary Ellen, and brother-in-law Dennis. Mark is a self-proclaimed "Rock Star" and enjoys playing guitar in his room, listening to rock music, and singing the lyrics to rock songs. He is an avid bowler and cannot wait until the COVID limitations are lifted so he can once again attend bowling. Mark has a small "car detailing" business that he does in the driveway of his home. He will wash the outside and clean the inside of your vehicle for a pre-negotiated price. Mary Ellen and Dennis are very much involved in Mark's life; with Mark's help they decorated his bedroom and purchased furniture for the living room. Mark often assists staff with grocery shopping and enjoys a Subway sandwich occasionally. Welcome to Bassett House, Rock Star!



### Kevon Brown

Kevon moved into Plymouth Opportunity House (POH) in January 2020. Prior to joining the POH/COC family Kevon lived at home with his mother and twin brother Kenneth. Kevon has been a breath of fresh air for the staff and residents of POH. He greets staff and housemates daily with a smile and "movie star" complement. Kevon is very friendly, upbeat, energetic, independent, and has a very positive disposition. He is very helpful with home chores and often does them without being asked. He demonstrates great follow through skills. Prior to COVID Kevon enjoyed his job with Goodwill Industries. Kevon is very thrifty with his money and



### Lawrence Aune

In May 2020 Larry joined the group of men that live in our Redford Opportunity House (ROH). Larry is an older gentleman with the energy of a 40-year-old. In his younger years Larry walked everywhere in Redford; he knows just about every street and establishment in Redford. Prior to moving to ROH Larry lived in a home with a friend who took care of him. Larry does not have



any surviving family members. However, he does have a wonderful support system through friends at his church which he attends weekly. Larry is a very pleasant man with a sense of humor, he likes to tell jokes and enjoys a good conversation with ROH staff. He has adjusted well to his new home and is very helpful with giving suggestions for the monthly meal menu and sweeping the kitchen and dining room floors regularly. He loves eating at Redford Grill and Redford Coney Island. Larry has two good friends, Charla and Dawn, both who advocate for him and check in with him regularly. Welcome Larry, your conversations and good humor are much appreciated at ROH.

### **Kenneth Brown**

In August 2020 Kenneth joined his twin brother Kevon and moved into POH. Kenneth is very similar to his brother, not only in appearance but in disposition and mannerisms also. Because of this, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish the two of them. Kenneth, who prefers Kenneth opposed to Kenny or Ken, is friendly, upbeat, energetic, independent, and has a positive attitude. He likes to refer to staff by “movie star” names. Kenneth is very helpful to staff, frequently offering to assist with the groceries and taking out the garbage. Kenneth enjoys shopping and spending his money on a regular basis. Kenneth keeps his room neat and independently does his laundry. He is eager for the COVID limitations to be lifted so he can experience the fun and social activities POH is known to do. Kenneth’s mom is very much part of his life and happy that both of her sons can remain living together. Welcome Kenneth to the POH family, we are delighted to have you.



### **Mark Murphy**

Mark moved into our Bassett Home in Livonia in February, 2021. Prior to moving to Bassett, Mark lived at home with his mother. Mark is very close to his mother and his brother Bob and his family. Mark is quiet and kind. He loves outings, car rides and keeping busy. Mark attends “It All About You” one day a week with one of his housemates and STEP three days a week. He has been going to STEP since 1992 and recognizes several of our COC family members from there. Mark has electric blue eyes and can almost always be found smiling. Mark does not like furry, four-legged animals. He enjoys music, going for walks both indoor and outdoor and attending church. Although Mark has only been in his new home for four months, he seems to be very happy and enjoying his new surroundings. When you see Mark in passing, please welcome him to COC.



### **Jonathan Boulton**

On May 8, 2021, our newest COC family member moved into POH. Jonathan previously lived at home with his parents in Livonia and is very excited to become more independent. He is close with his brother and likes spending time with his three nephews. Prior to COVID Jonathan worked at Business Ventures Corp. (BVC) and hopes to return after COVID restrictions are lifted. He enjoys delivering Meals on Wheels with the support of BVC. He is very active in Special Olympics and plays baseball, basketball, and bowling. He knows several of the folks who live at POH through his involvement with the ARC and Special Olympics; this has made his transition to POH very comfortable. Jonathan is very involved with his church where he has many friends and likes to attend social gatherings. His parents are great advocates for him and are very involved in volunteering at COC. He has a happy and friendly disposition that will be enjoyed by his housemates. We are delighted Jonathan has joined the COC family at POH.



## In Loving Memory

### Carl Sabuda

A long time COC family member, Carl Sabuda, passed away September 14, 2019.

Carl joined COC in July 1975 when he moved into Plymouth Opportunity House (POH) where he lived the active city life in



the heart of Plymouth for 17 years. In 1992, he moved to Livonia Opportunity House (LOH) and enjoyed his time with new housemates and friends. In 2004, Carl was eager to be more independent and moved to the Semi-Independent Program (SIP) apartment in Plymouth Township for three years. In 2007, Carl moved to Rocker home and shared the bachelor's life with two other gentlemen. As a result of suffering from Parkinson's disease and its physical limitations, in the fall of 2016, Carl moved to our barrier-free home, Redford Opportunity House (ROH), where staff cared for his many needs. Carl was an animal lover, enjoyed riding his bike for many years, was fascinated with watches, trains, enjoyed a good hamburger and dancing with the ladies. Carl was blessed with a loving and involved family, especially his mother, whom he adored. His mother spoke to Carl daily and was very active in his life. Carl was 65 years young when he passed away from heart failure.

### John Norton

John moved into POH in May 2016. John's initial application to live in a COC supported home was submitted in 1986. It was not until 2015 that his family began to actively seek alternative housing options.



Although John enjoyed all the activity of POH, it soon became apparent that John preferred a smaller setting. In December 2016, John's family chose to move him to the Rocker home which he shared with two other gentlemen. John thoroughly enjoyed his job and co-workers at Wendy's where he was employed for over 20 years. John's passion for

bowling was apparent as he remained in the same Thursday night league for 20 years. John had a great sense of humor, was a John Denver fan, avid swimmer, and water skier, and loved the music from "High School Musical". John's sister, brothers and cousins were very much part of his life. However, John's mom was his greatest advocate and friend until her passing in early 2019. John was 49 years old when he passed away on October 14, 2019 from complications associated with Alzheimer's disease. A generous donation from the Norton family was made to COC in memory of John.

### Linda Hoffman

Linda moved into LOH in January 2003 and truly enjoyed all the fun and hustle and bustle of living in a large home with 15 other residents. However, when an opportunity to live in a smaller setting with



three housemates became available, Linda jumped on it. In the fall of 2005, Linda moved to Curtis House where she appreciated the privacy of her own quiet bedroom for almost 15 years. Although Linda was blind and petite, she did not let anything stop her. Linda enjoyed her job at STEP where she made money to help fund her passion to travel, (Niagara Falls and Hershey, PA were her favorites) and shop. Linda found pleasure in going out to dinner, good food, the holidays, doing crafts, sitting in her bedroom listening to music or by her window listening to the sounds that many of us take for granted. Linda never complained about her physical limitations and had a wonderful disposition. She was a pleasure to chat with and was very independent despite her disabilities. Linda passed away during the height of the pandemic from complications of COVID-19 on April 1, 2020. It was a heartbreaking experience for both the Curtis staff and her family because they could not be with her in the hospital the last three days of her life. However, we feel in our hearts that Linda sent down a miracle from heaven to protect her housemates and direct care staff from contracting the virus. Linda was 61 when she passed away. RIP our little Angel.

## Greg Neschich

Greg was another long time COC family member who started his 30+ years with COC at POH in October 1989. Greg lived at LOH from February 1991 until moving in August 1992 to Garden City Opportunity Manor (GCOM) where he lived for over 25 years. This is where he met and shared an apartment with his best friend, Peter. Greg was a very kind and gentle soul who always had a smile on his face. Greg was one of the sharpest dressed men in COC. He was very much aware of clothing fashion and was often seen wearing a dress shirt and tie no matter what the occasion. Greg very much enjoyed his independence living at GCOM. Greg and Peter would often be seen together in their neighborhood. Greg loved his trips to Texas to spend time with his family. Greg's Aunts Jane and Alice were great supports for Greg, frequently taking him out shopping, out to dinner and to their homes for overnight visits. Greg especially enjoyed soaking in their hot tub. Those who knew Greg well will remember his devotion to saying a blessing before his meals. Greg would ask everyone to hold hands while he sang the blessing. No one ever knew exactly what he was singing, but his facial expressions and sincerity in his voice let you know it came from his heart. To better assist Greg with his personal care and activities of daily living, in September 2017 he and Peter (who passed away in September 2018) moved to POH together. Although Greg's health was on a slow decline he never complained and continued to dress dapperly with a smile on his face. On April 15, 2020 Greg passed away in the hospital from complications of Alzheimer's disease at the age of 57.



## Jeff Campbell

Everyone loved Jeff or "Coach Jeff" as he preferred. Jeff was part of the COC family for almost 27 years. In January 1994, Jeff moved into COC's GCOM and shared an apartment with another resident. Jeff's dad was very involved in his life and Jeff spent much time visiting his family home. In November 2003, Jeff moved from GCOM into a SIP where he shared a two-bedroom apartment with Brian. Jeff and Brian became best friends and lived together until Jeff's passing on November 29, 2020. Jeff and Brian shared a mutual passion for sports. Jeff loved playing sports but when health concerns sidelined him, he became an assistant coach for his basketball, baseball, and poly-hockey teams. In true coach-style, Jeff always wore a suit and tie to games. Jeff attended many Red Wings, Lions and Tigers games with friends Brian and Donald, his staff and family. Jeff often enjoyed a cold beer as a spectator of a sporting event or with a good bar burger. Jeff loved watching the WWE, he especially adored Brie Bella. He also loved to watch Lawrence Welk reruns, clapping and singing along. Jeff worked at STEP for many years and always dressed professionally in his suit and tie. Jeff's sister, Sue, was a very important part of his life. She stepped in when their dad died in 2010. Jeff would often tell her "I love you my sister". Jeff spent many holidays and weekends with his family where he liked to say grace before family dinners and always led the holiday sing-alongs. He loved golfing with his brother-in-law, Kevin. Jeff was funny, polite, compassionate, and affectionate to everyone. It was heartbreaking for his family, direct caregivers, friends, coaches, and teammates when Jeff quickly succumbed to the COVID-19 virus. Jeff was 60 years old, but very young at heart. He is dearly missed by many.



*"In Loving Memory" continues on page 18.*

### **Russell Kanyo**

Russell Kanyo died of kidney failure at ROH under the care of hospice on February 24, 2021. Russell was the first resident to move into ROH when the home opened October 1984. Russell very much enjoyed living at ROH and always called it his home, even when spending time at his family's home. He loved his family but would often say, "time to go home" before the end of the family visit. Russell had charisma, and always referred to himself as "Russell Kanyo". He loved having his picture taken, and always gave his bright, signature smile for the photo. Russell enjoyed going to dances and bowling. He developed close relationships with ROH staff over the years and had special jokes and interactions with various staff. He was always respectful to others. If he did not know a person's name and was trying to get their attention, he would address them as "Miss". Russell was able to read and could be counted on to know when he had an appointment. He loved reviewing the TV guide and if it was late, he could be found waiting for the mailman. Russell's biggest advocate was his mother, Virginia. When Virginia passed away Steve, his brother, followed in her footsteps and advocated for Russell. Steve visited Russell regularly and worked with ROH staff to make sure all of Russell's needs were met. Steve was at Russell's bedside when he passed away and shared memories of Russell with ROH staff. Russell was 60 years of age when he joined the angels in heaven.



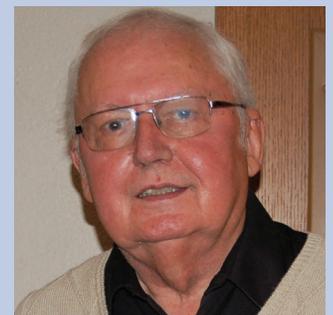
### **Lori Henry**

Lori brought a ray of sunshine to COC when she moved into Curtis House in March 2018. Lori was one of eight children all of whom were very close to Lori. Her sister Ellen (with Lori's assistance) tastefully redecorated Lori's bedroom, living room, and entry hall along with beautifying the landscaping of Lori's new home. Lori loved the comfort of her beautifully decorated bedroom. Her smile and gentle demeanor were contagious. She liked to help others, enjoyed bowling, doing crafts, her staff, and housemates. She looked forward to flying to Florida to visit her sister Ellen each winter. Lori was a dedicated Kroger employee for almost 20 years and did not want to retire when the time came. Lori had been on the COC waitlist since 1984 and lived with her siblings prior to Ellen advocating for her to join the COC family. Six of Lori's siblings were able to spend time with her before she passed away on October 19, 2020 from complications of Alzheimer's disease, she was 51. Although Lori's time with COC was short, her positive impact on those that knew her will be long lasting.



### **COC Board Member Emory Daniels**

All who knew Emory Daniels, were saddened by his untimely death on August 19, 2020. Emory joined the COC Board in 1992. In 2009, he became the Board Treasurer and served in that capacity until his passing. He is survived by his wife Beverly, children Bridgette and Lyle, and a grandson Dominic. Emory was pleased to see his son move into his own apartment, with a compatible roommate and COC staffing support. Emory was a devout Christian and a journalist by profession. Though he was a quiet person, he was able to eloquently express his thoughts and deep convictions. He was a great contributor to COC and will be truly missed.



# Support the Mission of COC

## Legacy Giving Program

As the people supported by Community Opportunity Center (COC) age, the Corporation is in a position of self-funding extra staffing and services needed as well as modifications to homes and vehicles. Mental Health funding does not adequately support persons living in smaller home settings and the Corporation's commitment to providing quality staff is demonstrated by enhanced wages and benefits that are not fully funded by the mental health system.



For these reasons and more, we need to strengthen COC's resources to continue helping people achieve their greatest potential while living in a caring and safe environment. You can help by considering COC in your estate planning. Means of offering support include:

- Make a donation in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special occasion, a matching gift through your employer or a direct contribution.
- Identify Community Opportunity Center as a beneficiary of a portion of your Retirement Plan, Life Insurance Policy or financial accounts such as a bank or brokerage account or a CD.
- Those over 70½ who must take the required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA annually can donate directly from their investment source. In this way it's treated as a reduction in income and the standard deduction on your tax return can still be taken.

Donations are tax deductible. With your gift, you can help us do what we do today, even better tomorrow.

Please visit our website:  
[www.cocliving.com](http://www.cocliving.com)

 Like Us on Facebook!

## Please Participate in These Donation Programs

Community Opportunity Center, NPHC (COC) is currently enrolled in three different donation programs. Donating through these programs will never cost you more money. Each year we receive contributions as a result of families and friends of COC who shop at Kroger using their rewards card, Amazon using smile.amazon and iGive.com. In 2020 COC received a combined amount of \$784. Thank you to those who participated.

**1** Sign up for a Kroger Plus shopper's card and enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards Program to ensure COC receives your donation. To confirm your contribution, Community Opportunity Center will be printed at the bottom of your receipt. Register at: [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)



**2** Every time you shop Amazon,  log into [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for COC to receive donations from Amazon. Confirm you have selected Community Opportunity Center as your non-profit organization. Amazon will donate 0.05% of your total bill to COC on a quarterly basis. Sign up at: [smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3143428](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3143428)

**3** Shopping online through  iGive.com connects you to over 700 brand name stores including eBay, Staples, JC Penney, Barnes & Noble, Office Depot, QVC, Expedia, Home Depot, Best Buy, Gap and Nordstrom. A portion of each purchase will be donated to COC. In fact, shopping through iGive.com will often save you money through exclusive coupon codes and deals offered just for our members. Sign up at [www.igive.com/welcome](http://www.igive.com/welcome)

If you need help signing up with any of the above, please contact Glen Hearn in COC office at 734-838-0540.

## Generosity Lifted Our Spirits

So many family members and friends of our COC residents, and friends to COC staff were exceptionally generous during the unsettled times of the pandemic. Many people expressed their concern through the giving of their time, talent, and money. The gift of meals, snacks, games, sanitizing supplies, or face masks improved the outlook of residents who were sheltered in place and the staff caring for them. Below we have tried to list all that was donated to COC homes, individuals, staff, and main office since the beginning of the pandemic. Thank you to each one who donated and to those who kept us in their prayers. We are blessed in so many ways! Some items were dropped off anonymously, thus we apologize if we missed anyone or did not capture your name correctly.



The Abar Family - Air fryer, microwave, and iPad (LOH)  
The Bailey Family - several dinners (SIP)  
Linda Baker - snacks (GCOM)  
Alicia Baker - dinner and salad (GCOM)  
Flo Champagne - 150 face masks  
Tom Chontos - pizza, salad and sides (GCOM)  
Mary Carol Clark - snacks (GCOM)  
Marilyn Darkangelo - several sets of bath towels, dish ware, silverware, bottles of disinfectant (ROH)  
Kevin and Sue Deacon - three dinners (SIP), 100 homemade face masks, with an additional 250 homemade face masks which yielded many generous monetary donations to COC.  
Raenae Deline - DeLuca's dinner (GCOM)



Kim & Allison Delproposto - 201 face masks  
The Diegel Family - 15 face masks, homemade cookies (SIP)  
Kathleen Flynn - cleaning supplies (POH)  
Joyce Gabert - DeLuca's dinner (GCOM)  
Ed Hibner & Barb Krasiecko - monetary donation for COVID relief  
Dawn Hyder - Quilts of Compassion - 155 homemade face masks  
Cindy James - face masks  
Diane Janes - eight homemade masks, cleaning supplies (POH)  
Steven Kanyo - monetary donation for COVID relief  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Katlein - three laptop computers  
James and Emma Kelly - two dinners, games (POH)  
Denise King - several homemade meals to quarantined homes



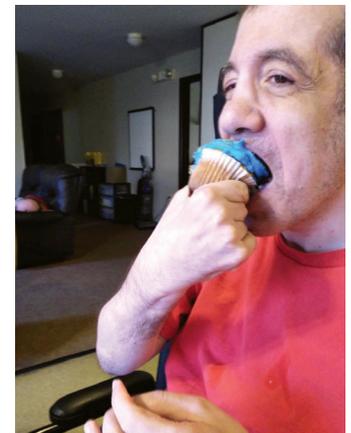
Ken Kopka - *weekly dinners since March 2020 (Friendship)*  
 Barb Kosciolk - *six homemade masks*  
 Jean Krammer - *dinner - POH*  
 Jerry & Laurie McGuire - *several boxes of Russell Stover chocolate candy (GCOM)*  
 John & Phyllis Martino - *wipes, garbage bags, toilet paper, paper towels, cookies, coffee, masks (ROH)*  
 Laurie McMillan - *50 face shields*  
 Mike Mies - *100 face shields*  
 Mae Yong Ogletree - *lunch (office) cleaning supplies (POH)*



Plymouth Rotary - *monetary donation for COVID relief*  
 Rotary District 6400 - *monetary donation for COVID relief*  
 Service to Enhance Potential - *1,200 pairs of gloves, N95 masks, 400 disposable masks*  
 United Specialty Pharmacy - *50 face masks, hand sanitizer, first aid kits, pens*  
 Ward Church - *20 gallons hard surface cleaner, five gallons hand sanitizer, 154 homemade masks*



Mike Parkinson - *cookies, two gallons bleach (Curtis)*  
 Jenny Pearson & Family - *dinner (GCOM)*  
 Philip Rea - *12 masks (ROH)*  
 Tom & Val Schilling - *40 surgical masks (GCOM)*  
 Fred Stone - *pop, chips, cookies, cleaning supplies (ROH)*  
 Judy Taulbee - *five containers disinfectant wipes*  
 Vikki Thomas - *50 face shields, arts & crafts supplies*  
 Barb Unknown - *55 face masks*  
 Martha Vanderhayden - *snacks (GCOM)*  
 Joyce Wickman - *20 face masks*  
 Judy Wilmont - *pizza, salad dinner (GCOM)*  
 Mark Wira - *cleaning supplies (GCOM)*  
 Ann Arbor Group - *120 face shields*  
 KRX Pharmacy - *40 personal sized and ten large bottles of hand sanitizer, N95 masks*  
 Livonia Chamber of Commerce - *Face shields, hand sanitizer, gloves*  
 Michigan Mask Donation Center - *30 masks, ear and forehead thermometer*  
 Plymouth Community United Way - *200 face shields*



## How to Get Involved!

If you know anyone who would be interested in working with extraordinary people and for an exceptional non-profit, please refer them to our website, [www.cocliving.com](http://www.cocliving.com). Click on the "Get Involved" tab.

# We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

## How You Can Help...

Volunteers have always played a significant role in supporting the COC community. Interested persons will collaborate with the home administrators to determine the type of assistance needed and make plans to implement activities to benefit the homes and those living in them. These pages highlight the various ways volunteers help COC and our residents. If you would like to volunteer within our homes or specifically for the home where your family member resides, please contact Glen Hearn at 734-838-0540.

Norm Augustine	Debbie LaFontaine
Mary Babcock	Abe Lindner
Larry Boulton	Dennis McGuire
Charles Chapman	Ashley Morris
Laura Chapman	Rob Noel
Robert Chapman	Jackie Norris
Kelly Collins	Kurt Norris
Kelly Cousins	Sunny Nwogwugwu
Sue Deacon	Mae-Yong Ogletree
John DeGeorge	Kyiana Parrom
Kathryn DeGeorge	Kyra Parrom
Doc Dockery	Ed Peters
Adam Falinkski	Connie Quinn
Jack Falinkski	Tim Roth
Beth Gaujanian	Sue Scott
Patricia Hansen	Kaitlyn Scroggs
Mary Beth Hausman	Sheri Staub
Abed Hawari	Ellen Stefaniak
Glen Hearn	Townley Family
Bill Heaton	Kathy Uhligh
Patrick Herlihy	John Vella
Paige Jacobsen	Ronald Walzak
Diane Janes	Lou Whitlock
Erica Johnson	Blake Woodruff
Julia Jones	Brent Woodruff
Steve Kanyo	Bryan Woodruff
Denise King	Jaylen Woodruff
John King	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Barb Kosciolk	Madonna University Football
Jean Krammer	Our Lady Good Council
	Plastic Omnium

## Volunteer Projects Completed from 2019-2020

- Sue Deacon designed all COC public relations literature, which includes brochures and the *Spotlight* newsletter.
- Family and friends of COC helped during arts & crafts day on the first Thursday of the month.
- Alhambra Manresa members grilled the burgers and hot dogs at the COC Family and Friends Annual Picnic.
- Fiat Chrysler volunteers engaged in raking leaves at multiple COC homes.
- Volunteers helped with games and activities with our Community Enrichment Services (CES) program on Board Game Sunday.
- Employees from Varroc Lighting helped clean up Friendship and Norris house yards through Plymouth Community United Way (PCUW) Make a Difference Day.
- Our Lady of Good Council in Plymouth helped with yard clean up at Rocker and Friendship house.
- Volunteers from the court systems provided much needed maintenance assistance alongside Patrick, COC's Maintenance Associate.
- Plastic Omnium employees led by Kevin Deacon volunteered with COC for the last two years, cleaning up and taking care of the yard work at POH. They have done everything from pull weeds, trim bushes, fix the picnic table, paint door trim/railings and cut all the edging for a great curb appeal.



- The Townley Family, through PCUW, helped rake leaves, pick up twigs, clean out flower beds and clean-up the yard at Rocker House.
- Madonna University football team helped rake leaves at Milburn House, GCOM, LOH, and Balmoral House. They also replaced some decomposed wood and painted the outside of the Balmoral garage.



## Landscaping and Gardening Projects at COC Homes

At Livonia House, the backyard lawn was trampled by heavy equipment while installing the new generator system for the home. Six yards of topsoil were distributed across the yard and raked into the original soil. Grass seed was planted, covered with straw and watered. In addition, flower beds on the front and side of the house were weeded and cleaned out. The project took an entire day and required many hands to execute. We appreciate the volunteer work of Denise and John King, Adam and Jack Falinkski, Pat Hansen, Thomas Herlihy, Ron Walzak, Jaylen Woodruff and Tim Roth.



At Friendship House, old bushes were removed in the front of the home and new flower beds were created in the front, side and back of the home. This project took a weekend to complete with the help of volunteers, Jaylen Woodruff and Jean Kramer. Completing this project improved the curb appeal of the home and created a nicer outdoor space in the front and back of the home for residents to enjoy.



Another volunteer, Debbie LaFontaine, assisted with finding volunteers through her church, Holy Trinity Lutheran in Livonia, to assist our residents, Mark and Randy, with bush trimming and yard clean up at their home. Church members also visited Bassett House to trim trees, bushes and complete yard clean up.

There are always gardening projects and maintenance to be done when managing multiple homes. We frequently look for volunteers during the warm weather who are willing to give our flower beds and lawns some extra attention. If you or anyone you know enjoys gardening and light landscaping, please contact the COC office, or email Glen Hearn, [ghearn@cochomes.net](mailto:ghearn@cochomes.net).

# 21st Annual “Tee Off For A Friend” Golf Outing

On August 15, 2019, for the twenty first time Community Opportunity Center (COC) was fortunate to partner with Plymouth Community United Way (PCUW) for the annual “Tee Off For A Friend” Golf Outing at the beautiful Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center. The weather was beautiful, the golf course was packed, the food was delicious, and the volunteers were excellent. This event has always been a critical source of income for COC. Unfortunately, in 2020 this annual event was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. A big thank you goes out to all the families, friends and businesses that make this event a success. COC’s portion of the proceeds raised in 2019 was over \$73,000. Our 22nd annual “Tee Off for A Friend” will take place on Thursday, August 12, 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year’s event will be a smaller version of years past. Contact Glen Hearn at 734-838-0540 if you wish to volunteer or donate toward the event.

Anonymous Donors  
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Augustine  
 Mr. & Mrs. Marc Averill  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Baker  
 Mr. Daniel Baker  
 Ms. Linda Baker  
 Mr. George Bedro  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bedro  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Blamer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dante Borio  
 Ms. Diane Browning  
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Cantrell  
 Ms. Christine Compton  
 Mrs. Jean Crawford  
 Ms. Cheryl Lynn Daniel  
 Mr. & Mrs. John DeGeorge  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Diegel  
 Mr. Richard Ference  
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Ficara  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Fowler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Galeana  
 Mr. Dellore Goodreau  
 Mr. Tim Grzywac  
 Mr. Craig Hausman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Haydon  
 Mr. Edward Hibner & Ms. Barb Krasielko  
 Ms. Dixie Hibner & Mr. James Gallas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Huziak  
 Mrs. Diane Janes  
 Ms. Bonnie Jarlock  
 Mr. Stephan Kanyo



Ms. Marie King & Mr. Frank Piorkowski  
 Mr. John Lawrence  
 Mrs. Phyllis McCaffrey  
 Mr. Ed Mies  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Parkinson  
 Ms. Pamela Roy  
 Mrs. Margaret Sabuda  
 Ms. Renee Sayegh  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Schilling  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Stefaniak  
 Mrs. Jean Stegen  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Van Dyne  
 Mr. Raymond Wells  
 Ms. Susan Whipstock  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Whitehead  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wira  
 Mr. Richard Wykoff

Bay Pointe Golf Club  
 Benevity  
 BIGGBY COFFEE  
 Busch’s Plymouth-Northville Store  
 Cantoro Italian Market  
 CCS Business Machines  
 Community Foundation SE Michigan  
 Concise Computers  
 Dagwood’s Deli  
 Detroit Red Wings  
 Dial Drugs  
 E.G. Nicks  
 Farmington Insurance Agency LLC  
 Fox Hills Country Club  
 Joe’s Deli & Catering  
 Kroger  
 Little Caesar Enterprises, Inc.  
 Mark Ridley’s Comedy Castle  
 Meijer  
 Motor City Casino Hotel  
 Palace Sports & Entertainment LLC  
 Ralph C. Wilson Agency, Inc.  
 Thrivent Funds

# Thank You to Our Generous Donors

## Why Donate...

COC is committed to providing the best possible living situation for the men and women we support. A critical factor that contributes to achieving this goal is contributions of all kinds. Your generous monetary donations help maintain COC's high standards.

## General Donations

June 1, 2019- December 31, 2020

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Abar  
Mrs. Shirley Abar  
Mr. & Mrs. Fuad Ajlouny  
Anonymous Donor  
Mr. James Ashley  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Augustine  
Mr. Robert Augustine  
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Averill  
Ms. Mary Babcock  
Mr. & Mrs. James Baker  
Ms. Michelle Bartlett  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Beckwith III  
Mr. George Bedro  
Mr. Brian Binder  
Mr. & Mrs. Dante Borio  
Ms. Angela Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Budzisz  
Mrs. Louise Bumb  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Cantrell  
Mr. Harry Cendrowski & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Collins  
Ms. Christine Compton  
Mrs. Jean Crawford  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dahlke  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Deacon  
Mr. & Mrs. John DeGeorge  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Diacono  
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Mr. David Diegel  
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June 1, 2019 - December 31, 2020

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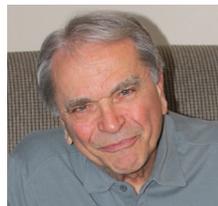
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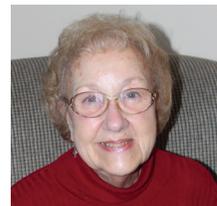
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