

# Holy Family Outreach

Bringing New Life, Hope  
and Healing to our Community



Issue 3: March 2015

## Outreach Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(810) 771-7279

11714 S. Saginaw  
Grand Blanc, MI  
48439



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## Where is God calling you?

We can help you reach out into the community.

### Outreach / Food Pantry

Contact: Brian Holyfield  
810-771-7279

### Family Promise

Contact: Amy Deloney  
810-444-2376

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Contact: Connie Lesley  
810-694-5713

### North End Soup Kitchen Teams

Contact: Liz Manzo  
810-603-2611



*“To love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely.”*



*Madonna of the Streets*

### Holy Family Outreach Prayer

Come Holy Spirit  
Give us patience and  
understanding to live  
this day your  
way. Bring to us the  
unity of working  
together to help those  
in need. We are here  
to do your plan without  
being prejudiced or  
judgmental, but with  
kindness and  
humility. We ask this  
through Christ our  
Lord. Amen.

**Check out the  
Outreach  
webpage on the  
new Holy Family  
website at:**

**<http://hfgb.org/>**

**Look under  
Ministries  
& Service**

## Brian's Corner

Our client's story this month may seem extreme, but, sadly, it is all too common to see clients in abusive relationships. Although we don't address that problem directly, we do attempt to connect our clients with other services in the area.

This scenario is often the case where the Food Pantry is the first place someone will reach out for basic needs of food and clothes. In some qualified cases, we may be able to provide limited financial assistance for rent or utility payments.

Brittany wanted to share her harrowing story to let people know that when they are in need, there is a place to go and get support and comfort. It meant so much to her. She also wants people to know that the Outreach is a worthwhile place to volunteer and support. She thanks God for what she has every day.

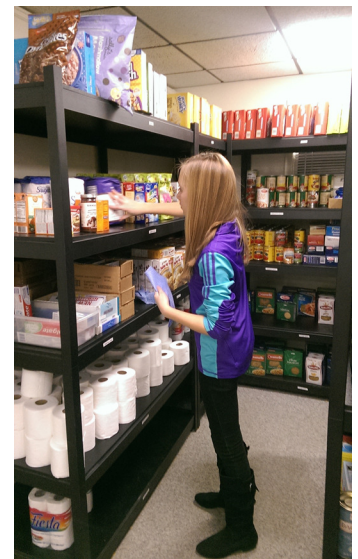
***Brian Holyfield***

## Salt & Light: The High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group is focusing on being Salt & Light to the world. Their light shone bright on a cold November evening when they cleaned the Outreach building from top to bottom to offer a clean, welcoming environment for our clients as we entered the holiday season.



**Be these.**  
Matthew 5:13-16



Nothing was left untouched from ceiling lights and window blinds to food storage and floors. Their influence, as followers of Christ, already is evident as they take on such projects.

A sincere Thank You from the entire Outreach Volunteer Team!

## Client Profile: A Woman of Hope

A woman with a difficult past wanted to share her story and how it led her to the Outreach Center and brought her hope for a better life. Let's call her Brittany. Brittany sits in her living room on a couch covered with a blanket and a pillow sits to the side. She sits with an oxygen machine at her side and a nebulizer on the table. Brittany needs to do a quick nebulizer treatment before she can tell her story.

Brittany's alcoholic father regularly beat and abused her while growing up. Her mother was abused as well. Her aunt's fiancé molested her at the age of 14 and was put in prison. Her father forced the termination of her pregnancy as a result. It still haunts her. Brittany became an angry teen and acted out. One day she stole collector cards at a store. At 15 years old, her father discovered she got a C on her report card. As punishment, her father threw her down the cement stairs of their basement. When asked about the bruises, her father said she tripped over their cat.

When Brittany was 21, a doctor noticed her spine and she was diagnosed with crushed discs. She ultimately had two surgeries as a result. It was determined that this was the result of the fall down the stairs years earlier.

Brittany married a man who was also an abuser. One night, at 30 years old, her husband didn't want to drive her all the way to work and just dropped her off in a bad area of Flint to walk the rest of the way. She was hit from the back on the head with a gun and was knocked out. This man dragged her into an abandoned building and repeatedly assaulted her. The man then put a gun at her forehead and pulled the trigger. The

gun kept jamming. He got frustrated and just started kicking her. She acted like she was passed out. He threw the gun in the toilet and left. When the police found the gun, it had a bullet in the chamber. She knows God saved her that night. This incident gave her hepatitis C. He is now in prison after killing someone. The DNA was matched to her assault.

At the age of 34, Brittany became severely jaundiced and was rushed to the University of Michigan Hospital. Her liver was shutting down. She was there for 31 days - eleven of them were on life support. She can't get a liver transplant because of the hepatitis C. To add to her trials, she has been diagnosed with Muscular Sclerosis.

One day a friend told her about the Outreach Center. She doesn't like to ask for help but came along for the drive. When her friend was putting her food in the car, Brittany sat with a volunteer named Mary Ann. She really felt comforted to sit and talk and pray together. It gave her hope. "I know God cares for me, but didn't realize other people out there also really care for people like me," said Brittany.

Brittany tries to stay strong for her two daughters, ages 15 and 18 years. She loves them dearly and wants to be there for them. They are the only family they have. She really doesn't have good friends in her life because she is too weak, has little money and has no car to get out. She now prays for a car so her girls can do more and she is able to get to the U of M hospital for treatments. She hasn't been getting her treatments for a few years now. She knows that when she prays, God makes things happen eventually.



### **Some statistics for Genesee County**

- 33% of children live in poverty
- 55% of children qualify for free/reduced school lunch program
- 40% of births are to teens (15-19)

### **For Michigan**

- 200,000 children live with families investigated for abuse/neglect.

*Source: Michigan League for Public Policy, Kids Count in Michigan National Data Book 2015*



**Donate to Outreach through the Online Giving program found on the Holy Family website.**  
**<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1417>**

## Did you know?

- 41% of client households have to choose between *housing or food*.
- 42% of client households have to choose between *heat and utilities or food*.
- 26% have to choose between paying for *medicine or food*.

## Other FBEM Programs

- **Backpack Program** provides meals to 5,960 children in 130 schools covering 21 counties.
- **Summer Food Program** provided 137,307 meals in 11 weeks.
- **Kids Café** provides 15,000 meals a month.
- **Senior Boxes** providing 410 meals a month.
- **Mobile Pantry** in 2014 had 14 distributions.

## Partner Profile: Food Bank of Eastern Michigan



The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM) is an important partner for our Outreach Pantry. We receive much of our inventory from the Food Bank. The Food Bank is a source of food for 400 partner agencies helping 331,500 seniors, children and families in our area. Tracy Fowler-Johnston of the Food Bank was kind enough to talk about the operation.

Because the need has been so great, the Food Bank wanted to give people experiencing hardship a chance to still receive healthier options for their nutrition. They have built an additional building with 62,000 more square feet to increase operations. Doubling the size offers more workspace for volunteers and enhanced children's meals. Over 7,700 people volunteer and now they have sufficient room to sort, box, store, and pick up product. There is also a production kitchen to help agencies with nutrition education and training. "Let's say we got a huge shipment of eggplant. The test kitchen can teach many of the facilities receiving the food many different ways to prepare it," explains Tracy. The new facility has ten more truck bays for more deliveries from grocers and farmers. They now can package fresh products as family-size packages.

The new Hunger Solution Center will increase fresh produce from 4 to 12 million pounds a year.

*"The Hunger Solution Center wants to: feed more, educate more, engage more, and support more."*

The center has a community kitchen that prepares 2500 meals a day for the Head Start Program directly out of their facility. They locally serve 1200 kids breakfasts, lunches and snacks in ten area schools. They have 75 feeding sites in the summer.

If you would like to volunteer at FBEM, contact Karol Conrad at (810) 396-0210.



## March to End Hunger / March 1st - April 30th

FBEM Agency

Please join in the March to End Hunger. For every dollar donated to FBEM (**designated to P152 - Holy Family Outreach**), the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will credit an additional 10% to Holy Family Outreach. The Food Bank Network of 417 partner agencies serves 331,500 people each year. FBEM distributed 24.3 million pounds of food in 2014 with a 13% increase to agencies. Questions? Call (810) 396-0214 or email [tfjohnton@feedingamerica.org](mailto:tfjohnton@feedingamerica.org) / [www.fbem.org](http://www.fbem.org)