



Emmaus News

January, 2012

Christmas has come and gone, but here at Emmaus House, our home for women coming from jail/prison/rehab, our Christmas memories are alive and well. Like that first Christmas we had magi, gift bearers, from far and near. Gifts were sent from, Ohio, Indiana, South Carolina, Texas, Maryland, and of course, numerous cities in Michigan. And, the gifts were wonderful! – household items, personal care items, laundry & cleaning products, food, gift cards, gifts for all of our women, their children, ex-guests, their children, and some poor neighbors (well over 200 people in all). Below are the churches and organizations who were in our modern day parade of magi.

Assumption BVM, Bridgeport
City Rescue Mission, Saginaw
Merrill Area "Caring is Sharing"
St. Stephen Church, Saginaw
St. Andrew Church, Saginaw
St. Matthew Church, Zilwaukee
Lakeview Estates, Saginaw
Beta Sigma Phi, Saginaw
St. Mary Church, Parisville
Century 21, Saginaw
Ralph Lauren Store, Birch Run
Holy Spirit Church, Shields
Zion Baptist Church, Saginaw

St. Michael's Church, Maple Grove
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Saginaw
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Saginaw
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Saginaw
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Saginaw
Catholic Federal Credit Union, Saginaw
List Elementary School, Frankenmuth
Saints Peter & Paul Church, Saginaw
Sacred Heart Church, Merrill
St. John the Baptist Church, Carrollton
Blessed Trinity Church, Frankenmuth
St. Joseph/St. Anthony Church, Auburn
St. Helen Church, Saginaw

St. Mary Cathedral, Saginaw

Ascension Lutheran Church, Shields

State Street United Methodist Church, Saginaw



Other "magi" who made our Christmas special include the following:

- Tom Miller brought food baskets for 3 needy families, Swan Valley United Methodist Church brought baskets for 4 families, and Alyce & Dan Wechter provided a food basket for 12 families. 19 families had a beautiful Christmas meal!
- The Shoe Box Project gave us a shoebox filled with gift items for all of our guests and 50 of our ex-guests. Wow!
- Frank Tomsick provided us with two live Christmas trees for our homes.
- Eleanor Finger, Patricia Vogel, Loving Tie Quilters, and St. Mary Church (Parisville) gave us enough homemade blankets for all of our women and many of our ex-guests. Those that I saw open their blankets loved them!
- St. Thomas Aquinas School sponsored a bake sale and a Christmas tree festival for our benefit. The result was almost \$600. Amazing!
- Homes from Heaven, headed by Tammy Johnson, bought an outfit and a toy for each minor child of the women here. St. Mary Hospital Christmas Shoppe also provided each child with an outfit, toy, book, hat, and gloves. Even though our women are not with their children this year, their children had a good Christmas, - thanks to our many donors.



- This year we had three Christmas concerts for our benefit: A Dennis Gwizdala concert at Messiah Lutheran Church, Midland, on 12/2, The Jazz Trail Christmas Show at the Temple Theatre put on by Molly McFadden on 12/4, and the Saginaw Area Concert Band sponsored by the State Street United Methodist Church on 12/12. Were you able to be at any of the concerts? We enjoyed all three concerts, saw friends at all three, and appreciate the time and effort of each sponsoring group. Emmaus was greatly blest with song this Christmas season.
- Our Christmas experience was extended when on 12/30 the Top Ladies of Distinction came with a program and a laundry basket full of paper products, laundry and cleaning supplies, and personal products, for each of our homes and each apartment in those homes. Beautiful blessing!

SHIRLEY'S ANGELS AWARD

Thank God for the angels in our life! Each year at our December Christmas Board/Volunteer party we present an award to one (or this year two) of our outstanding volunteers, angels to us. For 2011 the honored volunteers are Bill Schaefer and Charlie Wargel. Bill helps every week, several days a week, repairing/replacing whatever breaks, figuring out solutions, climbing in attics, etc... We think he can fix anything. Charlie spends hours every week planning, drawing up diagrams, lining up contractors and help, and helping our "Homes of Hope" Project to keep moving forward. Both Bill and Charlie are amazingly generous with their time and talent. We applaud our angels, Bill and Charlie,

and appreciate their goodness-in-action. Congratulations, and thanks, Bill and Charlie.



Charlie also received the Saginawian of the Year award, as announced in the Saginaw News on Jan. 1, 2011. Seems Charlie helps a lot of people around town. Angels can do that.

FROM OUR GUESTS

My name is Angela M. and I have been at the Emmaus House since June 15, 2010. During my stay here I have so many things to be grateful for, so many people in the Emmaus House and recovery have been such huge inspirations to me. Today I can say that I have goals, things I'd like to achieve. I know today that the lonely, empty, cold person that I was before I came here is no longer who I want to be. Through this program, the women at Emmaus, Sister, and staff, I am able to be true to myself and others. I can be a mother to my children, and a friend to someone else. I care about how I live today. The sky's the limit and I'm shooting for the stars. Just as I can have this new life, so can all of us. Through God and change and an open mind, anything is possible. Thank you.

Angela M.
House #10

Hi, my name is Katrina B. I'm a current guest at the Emmaus House. My number one reason for being here is to get my life back on track and to seek self-sufficiency, and also, to learn how to live drug free. I thank God for the Emmaus House and all of the guests. God bless anyone who's reading this newsletter and struggling with addiction and homelessness.

Katrina
House #4

How was my Christmas? My Christmas was one of the best in my 59 years. This Christmas I learned the real meaning of giving. My presents had meaning, - like "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song (recalling Christ's birth). In the song each day had its own significant meaning, - in short, God gave His only begotten Son for our sins.

Yvonne R.
House #1

Another wrote upon moving into her own place: "I can never thank you enough for the things you have done for me. You gave me a second chance at life. I am so grateful that God put you in my life. Thank you so much for everything you do, not just for me, but for the other girls and the community, too."

Tiffany
Ex-guest

CHANGES

Hi, my name is Phyllis T. As of Oct. 20, 2011, I celebrated 10 yrs. sobriety, and am thankful to God for his goodness! Nov., 2001, I came to the Emmaus House as a guest, then a house manager, and am now employed as the residential assistant. I can't in fifty words or less relate the ways I've grown and matured since coming here. I'm so grateful for the relationships that have developed over the years with Sr. Marietta, all of our staff, Sr. Mary Elizabeth, Tyana, our guests, and volunteers. I'm writing now to say an official farewell to everyone. Jan. 27th, my birthday, marks my last day at the Emmaus House. I will miss everyone immensely. I encourage all who can to volunteer your time and talent to the Emmaus House. Your support is greatly appreciated and needed.



With love,
Phyllis T

Note: Phyllis will never be able to be replaced, and we are most grateful for her years of service, but now we will need to find someone to take over some of her duties.

Another change. We are happy to announce that we have found a manager for our free thrift shop, Ms. Michelle McCullough. Stop-in any day and meet Michelle. We're most happy to have her. Welcome, Michelle!

More change. We are looking for an Administrative Assistant, someone who could learn all aspects of the "business" of Emmaus House and help Sister Marietta. Qualifications needed:

1. Must be able to love those who come from jail/prison/rehab.
2. Must be prayerful.
3. Have some experience in finances, grant writing, and public speaking, or be willing to learn.
4. Be a team player.

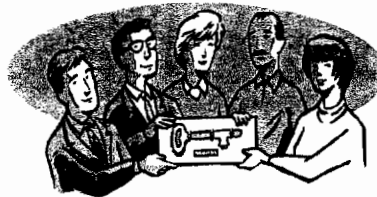
OTHER CHRISTMAS HELPERS

- Zauel Library gave us bags of books.
- Kimberly Jones brought gifts of Mary Kay products.
- Wescourt Retirement Center has been clipping and saving coupons for us.
- Jean & Doug Moore invited us to the Men of Music Christmas concert on 12/4.
- John Stemple dropped off many live trees for us to share.
- New Life Christian Church came on Dec. 3 to help wrap gifts. The men who came stabilized our tree which had fallen over. Thanks, New Life! Others who came to wrap (over 1000 gifts) include: Marge Knoll, Jean McNamara, Diane Kilborn, Vonnie O'Connor and her daughter Therese, Vickie Whitaker, Connie Downing, and the women from Emmaus House.

- We're also grateful to all of our faithful regular volunteers who help in the office, do repairs, take care of our computers, maintain our web site, wrap birthday gifts, replace watch batteries, help in our free thrift store, pick up large donations, etc., etc., Thank you one and all!
- We thank our many donors of things (all 85 – 90 per month of them) who keep our thrift store stocked.
- Our food supply during this season has been wonderful, too! Food has been given to us by: Assumption BVM Parish's Feed the Fire Program (Bridgeport), St. Helen Church (regularly brings us canned goods), St. Thomas Church (turkeys and a ham), Holy Spirit Church (chicken dinner), First Ward (all manner of things), Butter Crust Bakery (every baked item), Hidden Harvest (various, even prime rib), Cass City United Methodist Church (complete turkey dinner – in abundance – enough for everyone), Barb B.'s gleanings and the Patisserie (beautiful cakes). Many individuals also brought food items, turkeys, ham, special treats, candy, nuts, fruit, juice, cookies, etc... We are blest – and well nourished.

HOH

Our "Homes of Hope" Project to renew/renovate/update our homes continues as you read this. Since our last newsletter we've put replacement windows in house #1, and blew insulation into houses 8,9,11, and 12. Community Christian Reform Church painted the entire interior of house #9 (two duplexes of 3 bedrooms each). In January we plan to put new carpeting in one of the duplexes (#9), work on the heating system and replacement windows at #2, remodel entirely (walls and all) the bathroom at #1, and do some painting. All of this is possible because of the work of Bill Schaefer, Charlie Wargel, Ray Bartels, and Carolyn Maksimowicz. Awesome team!



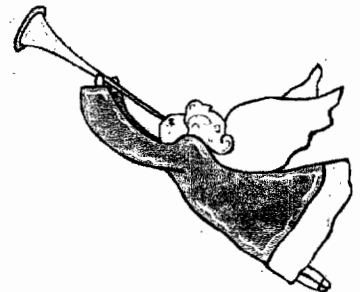
CHRISTMAS TIME DONORS

We are grateful to those below who have helped us financially during this Christmas Season. This list also included those who have donated to our "Homes of Hope" Project during this time. Obviously, Emmaus House could not continue without our generous donors.

Society for Life Time Planning, Troy
Garber Management Group, Saginaw
Countryside Trinity Church, Saginaw
St. Thomas Aquinas School, Saginaw
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Saginaw
Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation, Saginaw
Street United Methodist Church, Saginaw
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, OH
Mission Sisters of the H.S., Shields
St. Mary's of MI Hospital, Saginaw
Catholic Federal Credit Union, Saginaw
First Congregational Church, Union City
St. Michael Church of Maple Grove
St. Anthony/St. Joseph Parish, Auburn
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Saginaw
Saginaw League of Catholic Women
Saginaw County Law Enforcement Assoc.
Taste of Life Ministries, Bay City
Arnold & Gertrude Boutell Trust, Saginaw
Bethlehem Lutheran Ladies Society, Saginaw
Jack P. Sanders & Marguerite E. Sanders
Memorial Fund, Saginaw
John W. and Rose E. Watson Foundation, Saginaw
197 Individuals

Saginaw Travel Club
Century 21 People, Saginaw
MI Laureate Alpha Delta
Sisters of St. Clare, Saginaw
Shields Lion's Club
NARFE #376, Saginaw
Independent Bank
Morley Foundation, Saginaw
Bernardine Franciscans, PA
Hozer's Hearing Clinic, Inc.
Listvan, Inc., Gaylord
The Clothesline, Frankenmuth
COPOCO Credit Union, Bay City
St. Agnes Church, Freeland
St. Mary's Rosary Society, Ruth
Joe Schafer Properties, Mt. Pleasant
Knights of Columbus, #8808, Shields
Assumption BVM Church, Midland
St. Christopher Altar Society, Bridgeport
Warren Ave. Presbyterian Church, Saginaw
St. Luke Christian Methodist
Episcopal Church, Saginaw
Women's Philanthropy Donor, Bay Area
Community Foundation

Thank You Donors!



MEMORIALS

At Christmas time we remember especially those we love. We are grateful for the Christmas memorials sent for the persons listed below.

Sister Agnes Immaculata, SND de N (d.03)
Leroy J. Bender
Don Slodowski
Isabella Nicewicz (d. 11/18/07)
Barbara Tatar
Yolanda Caceres (d. 12/2/10)
Kathy (d. 7/25/88) and Kyle (d. 6/22/03) Duve
Julie Mausolf

Margarita Marquez (d. 12/11/11)
Marcelle Rupprecht
John Oberschmidt (d. 5/21/10)
Carrie Fritz (d. 1/22/86)
Emil Pnacek
Kevin McIntyre (d. 8/19/05)
Bishop Ken Untener



On Dec. 11, 2011, Emmaus House lost a longtime friend, helper, and board member, Margarita (Maggie) Marquez. Maggie was known for her willingness to pray with anyone and for her giving spirit. Maggie and Freddie, her husband, were at our September 11, 2011, board meeting. Maggie was a good friend of Sister Shirley Orand, co-founder of Emmaus House, and was the first house manager of house #2. We are missing Maggie, and keep her family in our prayers.

Then on 12/29 another of our former guests, Wendy Edwards, 47, went home to God. Wendy struggled with many health problems, including diabetes. Now she is at peace. Wendy joins 35 other former guests in our heavenly annex.

IN HONOR OF...

Some gifts were sent to honor friends and family, those below. It is a beautiful compliment to the goodness of a person when one helps those in need in their name.

Anne Guerriero
Fr. Craig Carolan
Sister Mary Ann Goch

Helen Reynolds
Sister Lupe Silva



HAPPY NEW YEAR