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• Summer Program • Blue Hippo Tutoring

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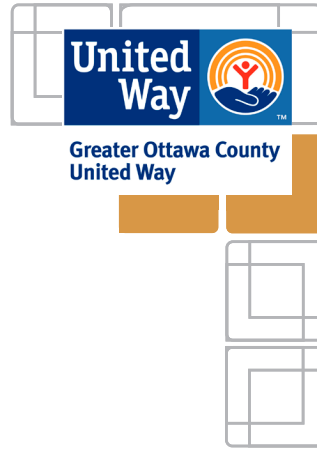
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The Bridge Youth Ministry Center

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Norman Buursma, Scott Baumgartner,
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• Suspending Bridges
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WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

"I feel like there are adults who care about me . . . My attitude toward school is better . . . I get along better with others. . ."

Seeing students' attitudes and decision making abilities improve confirms our community is investing well. Good Samaritan Ministries is committed to stakeholders in our community – to sustain and expand the Faith In Youth Partnership. As we enter year seven of a ten-year grant, Good Sam commits to partner sites and to our community to sustain this cost-effective, grass-roots, relationship-building initiative.

The local match needed to access the AmeriCorps grant continues to increase. As you choose to share a financial gift you are part of the multiplier – each \$1 you donate brings \$2.60 grant dollars into our community and multiples again as it serves 600 youth. This year \$92,000 is needed. Join other supporters who impact our community through their leadership, influence and support.

To direct our young people for the future, become a community stakeholder. Make a pledge today by visiting www.goodsamministries.com or www.networkforgood.org and designate Faith In Youth.

Pledge your support today!



MAP IT OUT

Map It Out is a FREE one-on-one mentoring program to help middle school-aged kids whose families have difficult housing situations meet their full potential by matching them with mentors. Map It Out mentors are caring, young adults who have a passion for helping kids. Studies show that kids with mentors are more likely to do better in school, avoid bad behavior, and graduate from high school than kids without mentors.

Who becomes a mentor? Why do they do it? The answers are as varied as the people involved. Think back to your childhood and your teen years. Who mentored you? Have you thanked them? Have you passed on what they gave to you? Besides a personal expression of your gratitude to them, mentoring a youth today is another way you can thank your mentors – by passing it on!

Please consider becoming involved in this mentoring program. If you would like to begin mentoring today please contact:

Rosie Daly, Map It Out Coordinator
(616) 392-7159

WHO ARE FAITH IN YOUTH AMERICORPS MEMBERS?

AmeriCorps members are paid volunteers who run programs and mentor youth through the Faith In Youth Partnership. They value leadership, challenge themselves, and those around them to grow into responsible citizens.

They are dedicated to serving others and making a difference in the community. They have a passion for the youth in the Holland/Zeeland community and foster responsibility and confidence. They are healthy role models and agents of change who empower those they work with!

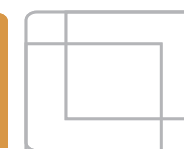
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the last year our community has been challenged with housing foreclosures and unemployment at unprecedented levels. However, the bright spot remains the future – our future is in the hands of our children, our teens, and our young leaders.

Good Samaritan Ministries is committed to investing in the teens in our community – especially those who begin their journey into adulthood with a lack of resources or without positive adult support. The recent Community Assessment authored by the Greater Ottawa County United Way confirms progress has been made in providing positive after-school activities for teens, **"it would appear that community efforts to ensure children have access to quality after-school programs are on the right track."**

This is good news indeed – AmeriCorps members focus on middle school students provide mentoring, recreation and friendship. They commit their energy, enthusiasm, and innovative outlook to helping teens navigate the ups and downs of adolescence.

THANK YOU to each donor, AmeriCorps member, and site supervisor who invests in our community now and for the future.



Linda Jacobs

Executive Director



IN THE SPIRIT OF EARTH DAY

Site: Good Sam Ministries
By: Rosie Daly

Earth Day has always been a personal favorite of mine. It is great to see people come together to help better not only our earth but our neighborhoods. This is why I was particularly pleased when our members came up with the idea of doing a neighborhood cleanup!



On April 17, local Faith In Youth AmeriCorps members and volunteers jump-started Earth Day celebrations. A total of 4 community members, 7 youth and 12 AmeriCorps members with their Program Director took part. They covered the area from 16th – 20th Street, Lincoln to Columbia, including the community park, Rosa Parks Green.

“It’s really great seeing this kind of effort in our neighborhood. My nephew saw that you were picking up garbage he had dropped on the ground and felt bad. He is motivated to make sure no one else has to clean up his own yard,” said an area resident

who stopped to talk to the volunteers. A celebration lunch was provided after the cleanup to thank everyone for their efforts. The project collected over 10 bags of garbage and left a portion of our community looking brighter.

The service project was sponsored by the City of Holland’s Neighborhood Liaison, Janie Briones as well as by all of the sites involved in the Faith In Youth Partnership, with special thanks to Cornerstone Ministries for hosting the event and Maple Avenue Church for aiding in disposal of the garbage.



A DIFFERENT KIND OF SERVICE



This year for National Volunteer week the Faith in Youth Partnership AmeriCorps members had a different kind of service project. We connected with Miranda, owner of a horse farm, who is focused on helping troubled youth.



Miranda first rescues abused and neglected horses and then she introduces at risk youth to these horses. Both horse and child are hurt, and cautious of anything new. Therapy with horses has been around for ages, Miranda has created an environment where both can heal each other and learn to trust again. While she already has youth who come out to see her horses, the farm really needed help with clean up after a long winter.

“It’s great having this much help... I can focus more on the youth and my horses.” Over the course of this project, some of our Faith in Youth sites brought out the at risk students to volunteer as well. We completed projects that ranged from cleaning up pastures and putting up fences to cleaning the horse shelter and even grooming and feeding the horses! This was a huge project that needed lots of hands to make it a success!



BIG BROTHER BRIDGE

Site: The Bridge Youth Ministry Center
By: Scott Baumgartner

At the beginning of the year, Uriah was the most difficult student to motivate in the Bridge to Excellence program. He always said **“I finished my work at school”** or **“I don’t have it with me... I forgot it.”** Eventually, his lying about his work resulted in bad grades.

Hoping to motivate Uriah, I paired him with Keith, a high school student who had come through the program a few years before. Keith also had a reputation for being a tough kid to motivate. This match far exceeded my expectations! Because they are so similar, Keith understands Uriah and has been able to treat him as a little brother.

A few weeks ago, Uriah made the honor roll for the first time in his life. I have also noticed that he seems more motivated and happier.

Students like Uriah, who constantly belittles themselves for not being able to do their work well, can and will succeed when they try hard and have the right people motivating them.



URBAN’S CULINARY WONDER

Site: Urban Youth Ministries
By: Jane Fisher

It is always a blessing to see Terri walk through the doors of Urban Youth Ministries. Everyday she comes we know Terri will head straight for the kitchen. Her passion for cooking is constantly fueled as she participates in Urban’s dinner program, which provides nutritious dinners to our 40 plus attendees. When asked about the cooking program she explains **“I have fun... it’s a good way to pass time.”** Terri comes to help out in the kitchen at least three times a week.



“I especially enjoy cooking for Urban because the kids are hungry coming from school and they benefit from the dinner program.” As she learns about preparing and cooking different foods, she also learns valuable skills such as time management and how to communicate with others. Terri is one of our best helpers and our staff has enjoyed seeing her grow.

MT. PISGAH

Site: Neighbors Plus/Harderwyk
By: Seth Carlson

Fridays at the Anchor Suspension Program are always filled with school work, homework, and discussion. Usually at the program, there is community service, but recently, we have been reserving Friday afternoons for a time of reward or, if needed, more work.



One Friday, the weather was warm, the sun was shining, and the students at the suspension program had behaved very well. We decided to reward them by taking them to Mt. Pisgah. We had been discussing the local environment so it was a perfect way to bring fun into the discussion!

At the top of the stairs overlooking Lake Michigan, I looked over to Jose and said, **“Isn’t this great? I bet you have been here a hundred times, huh?”** He replied, **“No, I’ve never been here before. I’ve never had the time, but this is really nice.”** He smiled. Jose has lived in Holland for most of his life and had never seen the Lake from the top of that dune. That was the first time I had ever seen him smile like that.