

NKSC ~ Helping our Neighbors in Need

What NKSC is doing

How you can help!

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- Dan Byrnes
- Don Daley
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North Kent Service Center Summer 2009 Reflections of 2008 Out Look for 2009

As North Kent Service Center (NKSC) reflects on its' accomplishments over the past few years, we have witnessed how God has been working through our community. God has blessed the NKSC. We are grateful for the partnerships, faithful groups, the generous community, loyal staff, and volunteers. We have been able to reach our goals, which has allowed us to continue our mission of touching lives of the very young, and the most elderly in our community. Daily we see families that are anxious about the daily deluges of bad economic news, but the staff of NKSC is geared up and ready to serve our clients. Dominated by the manufacturing sector, Michigan continues to be

hit hard economically with the highest unemployment rate of any state. Market speculation can drive up the prices of both food and fuel. For all those reasons, we seriously need a cushion to assist our "Neighbors in Need." How can you help? Tell all your friends about the services and good work NKSC is doing in this community. We are asking you to assist us with making sure that hard times will not stop our fight against hunger. As we look ahead, we want to continue our pursuit of excellence, provide services, and help our families tackle tough situations. None of us can do it alone . . . Excellence requires an honest heart, sincere loyalty and bold conviction to walk

along side one another physically, emotional, financially, creatively and spiritually. As we invest our heart we become an agency for change and a vehicle for hope. With your help, we have the ability to impact many lives daily. Being a life changer starts at home... for many families, North Kent Service Center is that Home.



36 Years providing services to "OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED"

Summer Hours for NKSC ~ 4 Ten Hour Days

Starting June 1, 2009 ~ September 30, 2009, we will be going to new summer hours. We are excited that North Kent Service Center will be open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. We will be closed on Friday ~ Saturday ~ Sunday. We will continue to have 40 hours of client contact time. We will be providing our service in a 4 day format - longer days which will benefit the center, and community. The center will be open later 4 days per week allowing families time to volunteer after work and longer drop off hours at the donation center. Currently the facility closes at 4:00 p.m. These longer hours will allow those families who are working, time to get to the food pantry. Due to the high cost of cooling the building

during the summer months, The North Kent Service Center is looking at ways to cut costs and continue to provide the same quality service to its families. Our electric bills in the summer soar from \$1,000 to over \$ 1,700 per month to cool the building.

We will be able to cut our trash pick up from four days to three days and see some savings there also.

New Summer Hours

Monday ~ Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Donation Drop Off Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday the gates will be open from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. many longer.

Please NO donations on Sunday.

From the Director

Sandy Waite - We continue to change lives.... One family at a time.

North Kent Service Center is a gift from God. That gift is to those whom it serves. Being able to give is a remarkable thing. As a child of God, it is not just our duty but also our joy. Your financial gifts to an organization like North Kent makes us part of the beautiful tapestry comprised of God's People from every race, nationally, and economic status. Think of how rich your life is as a result, compared to how empty it would be if you did not have people in your life whom you can serve. Rejoice in that knowledge. Rejoice in the bounty of God's magnificent grace. Families in Michigan are losing economic

ground daily. As energy and health care costs increase and personal income stagnates and grows slower than the national average, more and more families are slipping into poverty. Overall, the steady increase of the number of families struggling to make ends meet, is having an impact. More individuals and families are turning to community supports such as food banks and private charities. It is predicted to be even higher for 2009. Please keep the North



Valuing individuals building a stronger community.

Kent Service Center in your donation giving plans. You can make a difference right here in your own community. Yes you Can!! Even a small contribution means a great deal to these families. Rest assured, your gift will be used in the most efficient, effective way possible, providing significant nutrition to neighbors young and old. "Helping Your Neighbors in Need" is one of the greatest gifts you can give. God Bless!

North Kent's Partnerships

Rockford Area Ministerial Association (RAMA)
Cedar Springs Area Ministerial Association (CSAMA)
Sparta Ministerial Association (SMA)
ACCESS - (All County Church Emergency Support System)
Kent County Tax Credit Coalition
United Way - partner
National AARP Foundation

Senior Meals on Wheels
Emergency Needs Task Force - Kent County
Spartan Stores
D&W Store - Rockford
Family Fare- Cedar Springs
Meijers - Rockford
Panera Bread
Star Bucks
Second Harvest Gleaners

Natural Choice Foods
Lambs Progressive
Old Orchard
Coke-a-Cola
Sara Lee
Mel Trotter
Holland Rescue Mission
Katie Closet's
Many area schools, churches, stores and the community at large

Do you know who North Kent Service Center partners with in the community during the year?

Senior Pantry, Senior Meals on Wheels and NOW Pantry

We offer a Senior Pantry to area seniors, where we partner with Senior Meals on Wheels Program. Twice per month area seniors shop at NKSC for extra groceries. Last names A-K shop the 2nd Thursday and L-Z shop the 4th Thursday each month.

The NKSC also partners with Senior Meals on Wheels and delivers over 1,500

meals to area seniors each month. NOW (Nutritional Options for Wellness) serves clients whose doctors' have prescribed a special diet. For more information regarding Senior Pantry, please call North Kent Service Center and ask for Karen Sanders at 866-3478, ext 13. For information on Senior Meals Program and NOW Pantry, please call SMP in Grand Rapids at 459-3111. If you are

interested in volunteering for any of these fun loving programs, or have a loved one who could benefit from these programs, please give us a call.



Growing older does not have to be a hardship. North Kent Service Center can help!

PLANNED GIFTS COUNT! PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

The future of North Kent Service Center is very important to all of us, for a variety of reasons. Please consider some wonderful opportunities we all have to assure that North Kent Service Center's future is bright.

Planning ~ It is the key to managing any successful endeavor. At North Kent, we are engaged in a strategic planning process that will guide our growth through the year 2014. Looking ahead to 2014 or beyond in your personal life, might seem a bit daunting but foresight is a characteristic displayed by many planned giving individuals and families. All gifts to North Kent Service, large and small, make a difference in the lives of the families we serve. By establishing planned gifts, often larger than might have been possible during your lifetime, North Kent Service Center Planned Giving Society members have left a dramatic mark on North Kent Service Center.

These planned gifts include bequests in wills, trusts, and life insurance or retirement plans, as well as from gift annuities, lead trusts, and charitable remainder trusts that pay income to you and your loved ones or North Kent Service Center. The impact of planned gifts is dramatic. By establishing a planned gift, large or small, you can become part of the legacy of beneficences that established the North Kent Service Center and helped it continue to grow into a strong community service agency. More than that, however, your membership in the North Kent Service Center Planned Giving Society will help ensure a brighter future for our "Neighbors in Need" & North Kent Service Center. Potential gifts can include:

- Outright gifts of assets such as stock, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate, business assets, and personal property like artwork or equipment.
- Bequest in a will or trust
- Owner and/or beneficiary designations of life insurance.
- Beneficiary designations or IRA's or other retirement plans.
- Immediate payment of deferred payment charitable gift annuities that pay a fixed and guaranteed lifetime income.
- Charitable remainder trusts that pay a fluctuating income as a percent of current market values as a hedge against inflation.
- Charitable lead trusts that pay NKSC income with the trust assets returning to family at highly reduced gift/estate tax liability.
- Gifts of residence or farm with your retained right to live on or use the property during your lifetime.

Upcoming Events and Fundraising Opportunities to benefit NKSC - www.nksc.net for more information

- Market Place Sale - April 18th
9:00 to 2:00 (shoppers needed)
- Grace Hunger Walk—May 2nd
8:30 Grand Rapids (volunteers
needed)
- Start of Summer Celebration—
enjoy one of the BEST PULLED-
PORK Sandwiches in Rockford on
June 12th & 13th (volunteers and
hungry families needed).
- 50/50 Raffle at the West Michi-
gan Whitecaps - June 13th - fire-
works after the game
- "People Helping People" Golf Out-
ing at Silver Lake Country Club
June 24th (golfers needed)
- Christmas in July Sale - July 23rd
& 24th (bargain shoppers needed)
- Place at the Table—Sept. 2009
(watch for more information)
- Eye on the Prize-5K Run Sept.
12th - Christ Our Savior Church
(runners needed)
- John Decker Oil Change—Sept.
19th (cars and trucks needed)



Board Members News

Joining the North Kent Service Board in 2009:

- Dan Byrne - Brynes Electric, Inc
- Jason Ropp - Blakeslee, Fry & Scales
- Laurel Ten-Have-Chapman - First Congratiaional Church - Rockford
- Mike Lamb - Coldwell Banker- Sparta
- Linda Southwick - LSS Holdings

We would like to thank the following board members whose terms expired:

- Carol Tower - Wolverine World Wide
- Joel Vandekliet - Sparta Town and Country Carpet
- Mary Dailey-Brown - SOW Hope
- Doug Bickle - Retired American Seating
- Chuck Smith - Courtland Oakfield - United Methodist



Committed Board Members make things happen at the North Kent Service Center

North Kent's Support Pantries are a blessing for our families

Currently, NKSC has five support pantries that we are able to refer families to for emergency food services. These pantries are:

1. Cedar Springs United Methodist- (Monday - Friday - 9-11 a.m.)
2. Mammrelund Lutheran - Kent City- (Tues - Friday - 6-9 p.m.)
3. Peace Lutheran - Sparta- (Monday-

Friday 4-5 p.m.)

4. Church of the Holy Spirit - Belmont (Tuesday & Thursday 5-7 p.m.

In February 2009, we opened our 5th support pantry in partnership with the Wolverine World Wide YMCA in Belmont.

5. WWW Family YMCA - Saturday 9-

11 a.m.

Volunteers are needed for the Cedar Springs United Methodist Church Pantry. If you are interested call

"Volunteers make the difference in the lives of those they assist." Won't you be one of our STAR Volunteers?

Back to School Backpacks

We are starting to plan for fall of 2009 and will be collecting items for 500 backpacks that are given to area children Grades K-12. August will be here before we know it and we need your help with the number of families experiencing difficult times. Please start collecting backpacks and items that can be placed in the backpacks:

Items needed

- Backpacks
- Pens, pencils
- Calculators
- Index cards



500 backpacks given to area Children at in August

- Markers
- Crayons
- Notebooks, paper, files

If you are able to assist and volunteer with this project please contact the NKSC at 866-3478 and ask for Karen.

How can you help? Donate online through our website www.nksc.net, or organize a food or personal care item drive!

How can you help? Organize a food drive in your neighborhood, at church, at school, with your bible study groups, or with family and friends. You could also organize a penny, nickel, dime or quarter drive collecting money to purchase food. You will be amazed at how pocket change adds up. North Kent is able to purchase produce at 6 cents a lb, dairy at 8 cents a lb, and groceries at 16 cents per lb. A dollar goes a long way and NKSC can



Fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, dairy, cheese, eggs, and cereal are in demand daily.

acquire 15-20 times more food with your donation. We are able to provide a variety and quality of foods with your help. We depend on these food drives and cash assistance drives for donations to our account at Second Harvest Gleaners # 1940. After the hard hit holiday season, we are in need of the following items to restock our pantry shelves:

- Cereal
- Canned Fruit

- Meal Makers—Hamburger, Tuna and Chicken Helper
- Canned meats
- Pasta- spaghetti, macaroni, noodles
- Canned pasta sauces
- Dairy-cheese, yogurt, and milk products

If you are able to assist with a food or cash drive please contact the center. We would like to hear from you.

Donation Center Hours Until May 31st New Hours for June 1, 2009 through September 4, 1009

The Donation Center for clothing, furniture, household goods, children toys, books, and appliances will be open the following hours until June 1st:

Monday - 12:00(noon) ~ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday 8 a.m.~4 p.m.

Tuesday 6 p.m.~8 p.m.

Saturday Winter Hours

October through March—open the last Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday—Summer Hours

April through September—open every Saturday EXCLUDING HOLIDAY WEEKENDS from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Starting June 1, 2009

Monday—Thursday 7:30 a.m.—6:30 p.m.
Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

PLEASE, WHEN DONATING ITEMS, BE SURE THEY ARE CLIENT READY. SOMETIMES WE RECEIVE DIRTY APPLIANCES THAT NEED REPAIR OR DO NOT WORK.



WANTED: Fun Loving People seeking new skills, and life-altering adventures

Where can you find purpose, new life skills, a phenomenal workout, and a spiritual lift all in one place?

Answer: The North Kent Service Center. Just a few hours volunteering, and we guarantee you'll be rewarded with many smiles, laughter, new friendships, and the joy of knowing you are helping your neighbors and building a new life for hardworking families

in our own community. And better yet, NO EXPERIENCES IS REQUIRED and the hours are flexible. You can positively impact families lives in our community. Whether it is behind-the-scene operational or in the market place, we need your help.

TO LEARN MORE:

- CONTACT Karen at 866-3478

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



Children having fun assisting North Kent Service Center stock our pantry shelves

NKSC ~ Helping our Neighbors in Need

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► **Helping our Neighbors in Need,
Changing lives... One family at a time**

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ROCKFORD, MI PERMIT # 125**

**Look for us on the web
www.nksc.net**

Thank you for your generous giving to help thousands of vulnerable people who depend upon NKSC presence.

**Wish List www.nksc.net/wishlist
*Operational Support *Walk in Freezer***

The Popular IRA ROLLOVER Returns

Is the IRA Charitable Rollover Right for YOU? This recently enacted legislation allows people 70 1/2 and older to transfer up to \$ 100,000 from individual retirement accounts (IRA's) directly to qualified nonprofits, from income tax. The IRA charitable provision has the power to help local charities weather the current economic crisis.

It may be if you:

- Have excess retirement savings
- Take the standard deduction on your tax return and make annual gifts to charity
- Accept minimum distributions from an IRA and have alternative sources of income
- Would be unable to deduct the entire contribution because of the 90 percent AGI limitation
- Are planning to leave a charitable legacy through your estate plan
- Have designated a favorite charity as beneficiary of retirement assets
- Do not itemize deductions. Some donors who are itemizing just for charitable may no longer need to do so if they fund their gifts from their IRA.

Changing lives
One family at a time

