



NMCAA staff hand out necessities at the December Neighborhood Meeting

COMMUNITY SUPPORTER:

United Healthcare



At the end of 2021, United Healthcare expressed an interest in providing support to community members through a gift to NMCAA. They generously donated \$1,500 to our Gap Fund that covers emergency expenses that create barriers to clients overcoming poverty, such as car repairs and past-due utility bills at risk of shut-off. They also donated an additional \$1,000 in support of our December Neighborhood Meeting, allowing us to provide each participating client household with a full turkey dinner, crafts for kids, and bags full of necessities. Thank you, United Healthcare, for supporting our community!

COMMUNITY SUPPORTER:

Huntington Bank



Huntington Bank has been a generous supporter of NMCAA and our Financial Management Services programs for over a decade. Their support has helped us host our on-going series of programs that teach skills that empower people to overcome poverty, including Money Management, Bankruptcy, and Home Ownership coaching workshops. Most recently, Huntington Bank sponsored our Super Saturday event, an annual event in February that provides community members facing poverty with important services and resources.

When COVID risks forced us to restructure this year's Super Saturday event as an outdoor drive-thru event, Huntington Bank staff braved single digits to volunteer alongside NMCAA's staff and volunteers to hand out resources to the community. We are so grateful for Huntington Bank's support of our community!



Huntington Bank staff lend a hand at Super Saturday

Thank you ...

The Beers Family Foundation
Blarney Castle Oil
Burdco Inc.
Cone Drive Operations, Inc.
The Dayton Foundation
DTE Energy Foundation
First National Bank of America
Golden Fowler Home Furnishings
Green Brick Foundation
James E. Hoyt Foundation
JenTees

Jimmy John's (Traverse City)
John & Matilda Shumsky Foundation
Meijer
Mercantile Bank of Michigan
Munson Medical Center Gift Shop
Old Mission Windows
Old Mission Women's Club
Petoskey- Harbor Springs Area
Community Foundation
Pine Needlers
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation

... for
your support!



Donations from Munson Medical Center Gift Shop

Dear NMCAA Supporters,

We are excited to share this new newsletter with you; a publication to keep you informed and connect you with the work being done in our communities thanks to your generosity. This newsletter is one of the early steps we are taking to shift our organization culture to better engage our stakeholders in meaningful ways, invest in the relationships we hold, and connect you, our donors, to the positive impact your generosity has in our region.

Since last May, NMCAA has been working to establish a stronger fund development foundation across all of our programs by identifying the resources needed to support fundraising efforts and developing and implementing protocols for fundraising activities. Last fall Meals on Wheels, Financial Management Services, and Homeless Prevention, our three programs most engaged in fundraising, drafted fund development plans so we can be more strategic, coordinated, and organized with our fundraising.

Since then we have been busy! I want to share some fundraising and program highlights from the last few months:

- In November, Black Star Farms hosted a fundraiser benefiting NMCAA and, in honor of Homelessness Awareness Month, staff from our Homeless Prevention team greeted customers at both winery tasting rooms over Thanksgiving weekend.
- Meals on Wheels participated in the annual Subaru Share the Love event, in partnership with Serra Subaru of Traverse City, to raise critical funds for local homebound seniors.
- Your year-end gifts to NMCAA and our programs totaled over \$66,000 in support toward addressing poverty regionally.
- We kicked off our 2022 tax program and have seen a steady inflow of tax returns. In 2021 this program processed 2,255 Federal and 2,490 State tax returns, securing \$5,028,516 in tax refunds or credits for clients.
- On February 12th, we hosted our annual Super Saturday event to connect community members in need with no-cost goods and resources. Roughly 100 households participated and expressed their gratitude as they picked up necessities, such as food, COVID tests, and diapers, which we were able to provide thanks to generous donors and community partners.

We look forward to continuing to share these updates and the positive impact of your generosity on the community.

With Gratitude,

Michelle

Michelle Handke, NMCAA Engagement Manager

PS- Please reach out any time if you'd like to hear more about the work going on behind the scenes or to chat about the impact your support has on our community! (mhandke@nmcaa.net | 231-346-2133)



Client thank you card



NMCAA staff at Black Star Farms

Bottom Right: Serra Subaru staff
Bottom Left: NMCAA staff help at Super Saturday



YOUR IMPACT:

The impact of your support isn't just felt by our clients. Last month our staff received this note from Ross, a landlord, who reached out to NMCAA on behalf of one of his tenants:

“Thank you so much for gifting [Client Name] with this amount of breathing room; it's much deserved as her family has struggled with illnesses often.

Thanks once more and God bless.”

Ross' tenant was behind on rent and became bogged down with late fees and other expenses due to struggles with family illness. NMCAA's Homeless Prevention staff work alongside landlords, like Ross, to alleviate the financial challenges of tenants that would otherwise put them at greater risk of homelessness and long-term poverty.

Landlords can email prevention@nmcaa.net to learn more about the resources and support we can provide them and their tenants.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR:

Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness

NMCAA and our Homeless Prevention team are key partners in two collaborative groups to end homelessness: The Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness (NWCEH) and the Michigan Balance of State Continuum of Care. By working collaboratively with fellow partners in these coalitions, NMCAA can achieve more in our efforts to end homelessness than we would on our own. The NWCEH works collaboratively to end homelessness by making it rare, brief, and one time. They address housing issues through a community-based process that develops a comprehensive, coordinated continuum of care to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Northwest Michigan. In 2021, the collaborative efforts of the NWCEH housed 532 individuals and provided 2,375 individuals with temporary shelter. We are honored to be a part of the Coalition and proud to work alongside our many community partners invested in ending homelessness regionally.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS:

Donor: Sam Getsinger

How Sam Supports NMCAA: Sam generously supports NMCAA through financial gifts and by donating her time. In addition to serving on NMCAA's Board, Sam volunteers on the NMCAA Fund Development Committee that has spearheaded NMCAA's path toward building stronger relationships with donors, community partners, and all stakeholders.

In Her Own Words: Sam encourages people to “talk to an Early Head Start parent, a Meals on Wheels volunteer, or a contractor for the Weatherization program” to understand how much of a difference a gift to NMCAA makes in the community.



YOUR IMPACT:

Last November, we were touched by this heartfelt thank you letter written by our client, Michelle. Michelle reached out to NMCAA's Home Repair department when, in the midst of so many other challenges, she discovered a hole in her 40 year-old roof. Our Home Repair team not only helped her replace her roof, but also fixed leaky plumbing and replaced a section of her sewer line that was causing backups into her basement. Now, our Weatherization team is stepping in to improve the energy efficiency of Michelle's home, which will reduce utility costs, while further insuring her health and safety. In Michelle's words:



Weatherization worker installs insulation

"... this year I have so much more to be thankful for. It's all due to the help I have received from the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency. ... [S]ometimes circumstances happen that are overwhelming and the solution seems out of reach. These are the moments that can really challenge our faith and optimism. Maintaining hope for the future becomes difficult but through the help of others there can be a light at the end of a very long road.

Due to medical issues my life was turned upside down. ...Never did I imagine that I would be 50 years old and unable to maintain my independence through employment. I have always been a hard worker and took pride in providing for my family. After enduring trials with my health, it was discovered that there was a hole in my roof.

“...I was in a situation of despair and thankfully I found NMCAA.”

...It means so much when people have empathy and treat you with respect and dignity. It's always been hard for me to ask for help and I never felt like I was shunned or treated like I was a burden. My heart is full and the gratitude I feel is abundant. How wonderful it is when you can turn to someone in your time of need. Someone who can give you hope. ... I can only hope that someday I will have the ability to make a difference in someone else's life the way this agency has done for me.

...If my circumstances can impact the hearts of those in this world who have the ability to contribute to the lives of the less fortunate then I feel compelled to tell my story. It is my hope that NMCAA will be blessed with more resources to help more people such as myself. It made such a difference in my life and I pray that others will be blessed as I was. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. ...May you receive an abundance of good things as you work to help enhance the lives of others."



Aimee Birgy
Reception Coordinator



Lisa Robitshak
Meals on Wheels Manager



Kerry Baughman
Executive Director