

Streams of Hope Food Center

February 2012



In This Update

- 1 Construction Continues
- 1 Volunteer Coordinator Steps Forward
- 2 Volunteer Applications and Training
- 2 Grand Opening and Hours of Operation
- 2 Target Area

Construction Continues

The progress on our new building continues at a surprisingly fast rate, and we are glad to share a little more about our progress along with a couple pictures.

At this point, the building is fully-enclosed, and most of the construction work is occurring inside. Since concrete flooring, all exterior walls, and roofing have been completed, furnaces have also been installed. Although it has been a mild winter, the work crew is glad to have working conditions in the 60s. Interior work at this time includes walls, electrical wiring, and plumbing. Seeing all of the different workers share their time and skills is a vivid and frequent reminder of how many people are committed to making this project a success. Thank you. THANK YOU!

To date, more than \$180,000 has been raised in support of the new food center. What a blessing! The great majority of this funding has gone directly to building construction. While some of the costs are not yet completely known, the team is confident that funding is keeping pace with expenses. We are thrilled to report that the nearly 5,000 square-foot facility will be completed debt-free.

The leadership team will continue to work with businesses, individuals, and partner churches to gain funding for operational expenses. With a pantry that could be open in just a couple short months, it will be time to hire staff and stock the shelves very soon. If you, your church, or your business would like to know more, we would be happy to visit and answer any questions. Your partnership and prayer support is coveted.

Volunteer Coordinator Steps Forward

The Streams of Hope (SoH) Food Center board is thrilled to have Karen Stange at the helm of this important ministry as volunteer coordinator. Karen has been the volunteer coordinator of the food pantry at one of our partner churches, Kentwood Community Church, for the past 5 years. When the SoH Food Center opens in the coming months, the Kentwood Community pantry will close (as will Covenant CRC's existing pantry) and many of their faithful volunteers will begin to work in the new facility.

Karen is a member at Cornerstone United Methodist Church, another partner church, and works full-time at Zondervan. She has endless energy and a profound sense of calling to serve the community and the church through this ministry. As volunteer coordinator, Karen will process all volunteer applications and background checks and schedule training and volunteer work shifts.



Volunteer Applications and Training

The first volunteer training will be held Tuesday, March 13, from 6:30 - 8:30pm at the SoH Youth Center at 280 60th Street SE. Marsha DeHollander, the former director of ACCESS West Michigan, will participate in the training. All volunteers will be required to attend this orientation training. There will be other trainings scheduled prior to the grand opening. Volunteer job descriptions of the various volunteer tasks will be posted on the website. Applications are available and can be submitted online at www.streamsofhope.org. Please RSVP to kstangeathome@gmail.com.

Grand Opening and Hours of Operation

The grand opening of the Food Center is anticipated by early May.

Initially the Food Center will be open to qualified and referred families on the following days and hours:

Tuesdays, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm for people with prescription referrals to serve their special dietary needs.

Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm/Thursdays 11:00 am - 1:00 pm/Third Saturday of the month

Target Area

The Food Center will serve people living in the area between 52nd and 68th Streets and between US-131 and Kalamazoo Ave. Buist Community Center will handle the area between 68th and 76th Streets.

SoH partner and supporting churches may refer and send any attendee to the SoH Food Center.

Board Members and Partner Churches

Dave Owen, President, Caledonia CRC

Sandy Turner, Cornerstone UMC

Debra Nave, Kentwood Community

Terri Visser, Hillside Community

Paul Holtrop, SoH Executive Director

Gib Logan, Heritage Baptist Church

Ron Douma, Covenant CRC

Dale Jeltema, First Cutlerville CRC

Andrew Tazelaar, Covenant CRC

Lori Wiersma, At-large

Bob Storteboom, SoH Food Center Staff

Fred Bergsma, Covenant CRC



For financial donations, please send to 280 60th Street SE Grand Rapids MI 49508 or online at www.streamsofhope.org. For more information, contact Paul Holtrop at paul@streamsofhope.org or 616-915-9393