

ACSDR News

THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER



PRAYER FOCUS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Please pray for Escanaba, Cadillac 13th, Houghton Lake, Mio, Kalkaska, Traverse City, Cheboygan, Petoskey, and Irons.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACS DIRECTORS

BOARD MEETING

February 8, at 7pm is the first ACS board meeting of the year. We will meet virtually. Contact Chelli Ringstaff for details.

CAMP MEETING

SEMINARS

This is a reminder that at camp meeting there will be training seminars for ACSDR members. More information will be forthcoming.



WELFARE MINISTRY, 86

If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one.

-Ellen White

Becoming a Center of Influence in Warren

Warren SDA Church has developed a Center of Influence (COI) to share the practical love of Christ as encouraged in Isaiah 58 and outlined in *Ministry of Healing*. “The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good; He showed his sympathy for them, ministered to their needs and won their confidence; then he bade them, ‘Follow me.’”

Read below about areas of ministry implemented by Warren ACS.



COVERED WITH CARE (BLANKET MINISTRY)

Covered with Care crochets and sews blankets, donating them to various organizations and individuals who are in need or sick. The ministry began in 2021, with the group’s goal to make 35 blankets before the end of the year. However, they quickly realized God had greater plans for them, as the number has soared to 290 blankets in just one year.

DIAPER PANTRY

Starting out slowly with about 20 people once a month, this ministry has grown to 70 people. In total, 442 packages of diapers were delivered in six months to the community.

FREE SINGLE MOM’S OIL CHANGE

Twice a month, and sponsored by ACS, the Free Single Mom’s Oil Change was well received. The local ACS developed a partnership with the local Planet Oil Change Centers. The event grew from twenty to forty-one oil changes.

FOOD PICK UP PROGRAM

Assisted by the Michigan Conference and the NAD, Warren was able to provide food boxes for pick-up to the community.

These efforts were so successful because Warren church had a mission mindset. Everything they did, they did with a purpose. They didn’t work in just one field, but rather, they worked in multiple. They didn’t let one success be enough for them. Instead, they took it as God leading them to move forward and to continue working in the community.

The second key to their success is that they are Biblically based. They have a mission straight from God’s word and they follow it.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CHELLI RINGSTAFF

The Importance of Connecting with Your Local Community Service Leaders

How important is it to connect with your local non-profit organization leaders in your area? The answer is simple: it is very important. If you have worked with others who have a passion to serve, even across varying areas of service, you know that ministries can be territorial, or overlapping, but yet somehow, there can be holes in the needed services, which means the community may not get the help that they need.

What can we do? To start, communication is key. Connect with your local service non-profit organizations, meet with them, establish relationships with them, and find out how together you can better serve your area. This creates strength and unity, and we all benefit.

Are you sure this will work? Yes! I know this system will work because it is being practiced in Lansing. On January 13, 2022, in the fellowship hall at the Lansing SDA Church, we invited local leaders to meet to discuss what we are each doing within the community. Keep in mind some non-profit organizations have their ears to the ground and know everything that is going on, while we may be uninformed of some needs. They can help us (or we can help them), and their information is critical. Pull from their knowledge and grow as service leaders.

Those who were part of this meeting were our local church pastors, conference Adventist Community Services leader, local ACS center director, homeless ministry Sidewalk Prophets, Footprints of Michigan, who provides socks and shoes, Homeless Angels, Stepping Stones, who advocates to the homeless community to get them independent step by step, Know Thyself, a pastoral ministry on the streets, Dirty Laundry project, and other denomination leaders.

All of us together, with one purpose: to organize and support each other. We all learned so much.

For example, did you know that certain local laundromats have times when the homeless can come in and wash their clothes? It's called the Dirty Laundry Project. This organization needs and provides laundry packets with laundry pods and dryer sheets. By the way, they don't give quarters in the kits, they give the funds directly to the laundromats to sponsor to the days of washing. This is only one of the many services that was brought to our attention. As the meeting closed, each member was encouraged, excited, and connections were made.

Can you do this in your area? Absolutely! None of those who attended regretted coming, it was quite the opposite, seeing as the next meeting is set, and resources are being sent to those organizations that are in need. Oh, and frustration with other services are gone. Get to know your community and let us know how it goes!

Announcements and General Information



What to do if Someone is Injured at your Center

1. Don't panic. Stop and pray.
2. Assess the injury. Call 911 if necessary or administer first aid.
3. Fill out an incident report, which can be found at <https://www.misda.org/news/support/association-propertyinsurance-management> and send to Mona Hickman at mhickman@misda.org.