LEAFLET



News and Updates from Our Home on Cherry Street

December 2021

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOYS AND PEACE



Hello, friends! As we begin another season of Advent, I find myself reflecting on how joys and peace are integral to life at our home on Cherry Street.

2021 has been the busiest year in the history of Mustard Seed. More women and children have come

through our doors in the past 12 months than any similar period in the past 26 years. Since this time last year, we have provided 10,950 nights of shelter for 123 individuals.

That means ... more joyful sounds of children and peace-filled sighs from mothers tucking their babies into safe, warm beds. More joys of shared meals around our tables ... and peace felt by guests nestling in for the night in their cozy rooms. More joys of celebrations, outings and community partnerships ...

the peace of reflecting on treasured memories, new experiences and new friends. More joys of women and children finding welcome and love in our home – and the peace of watching seeds we have watered sprout and flourish as families carry traditions of joy and peace to their own new homes.

We are sobered by daily encounters with incoming guests whose lives have been filled with instability, crisis, poverty and lack of love. But thanks to you, we are able to welcome, love and support these women and children as they take steps toward better lives.

On behalf of our board, staff and guests, I wish **many joys** and **much peace** to you this Christmas and in the new year.

Love,



AROUND OUR HOME

Since our last update, we've celebrated countless birthdays, new babies, sobriety milestones and life-changing moments. Here are some other special highlights:



- As of December 1, we have
 18 women and 15 children at our home.
- 52 individuals successfully moved from homeless to housed, with help from our Move Team and the Partnership Center NEST program.
- •11 of our guests have

benefited from **Partner Shift Network**, which helps with affordable transportation to employment.

- •7 guests received their driver's licenses.
- •17 guests completed **Getting Ahead**, **Moving Ahead** and **Staying Ahead** courses through the YWCA Women's Economic Empowerment Program.
- •15 guests found employment.



Through their stay at Mustard Seed, all of our guests are connected to a

variety of community resources for their physical, mental and emotional health. We celebrate the many ways they are finding their places in the community and taking steps toward independent and productive lives.



OUT AND ABOUT



We collaborated with SVSU's Wolohan Fellowship and Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity to rehab a 2,300-square-foot home in our neighborhood in May. One of our guests (Trina) was raised in the house, which has been in her family for generations. Learn more: themustardseedshelter.org/initiatives.



Mustard Seed was selected as one of 36 nonprofits for the #TeamUp for the Great Lakes Bay Region charitable giving effort as part of the Dow GLBI July 12-17. View more pics in the 2021 Dow GLBI photo album on our Facebook page.



Our first annual Sowing **Seeds of Hope Golf Outing** was a great success! See the list of sponsors and more photos at themustardseedshelter.org/ golfouting and on our Facebook page.



Please join us in thanking Jim Jaime for many years of servant leadership and dedication to Mustard Seed. Now our immediate Past President. Jim handed the gavel to Bill Hartl earlier this year. The Jaime family left a wonderful legacy to Mustard Seed - the Sowing Seeds of Hope Golf Outing, a gift that will help sustain our organization for years to come. Enjoy your retirement, Jim!

PREFER TO RECEIVE UPDATES BY EMAIL?

Please help us reduce printing and postage costs and build our email database. Email info@themustardseedshelter.org or sign up online at themustardseedshelter.org.

... AND SO VERY BLESSED

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 9-31 — SBSO Virtual Holiday Housewalk Our beautiful home is featured on the housewalk! Virtual tickets are just \$15 at saginawbayorchestra.org. We are delighted to be part of this benefit for the SBSO.

July 10-16, 2022 Great Lakes Bay Invitational Aug. 20, 2022 Sowing Seeds of Hope Golf Outing Oct. 6, 2022 Sowing Seeds of Hope Fall Fundraiser

NEW RESOURCE



Updated prayer card available at themustardseedshelter.org/media contact us if interested in a supply of printed cards (Thank you to our print sponsor, Reimold Printing!)

The back side of our prayer card includes simple things to do when you meet someone experiencing homelessness, along with a list of Saginaw's 24/7 shelters.

FRIENDS MUSTARD SEED SHELTER

Friends make a monthly or annual commitment to sustain the work of Mustard Seed. We are grateful to all who support our work by

sharing their time, talent and treasure. Contact us about becoming a Friend, planned giving options and volunteer opportunities. Visit the Give Now section on our website to see more ways to help.

Mustard Seed is now a Thrivent Choice®enrolled organization. Through the Thrivent programs, we are eligible to receive grant

dollars, fee-free donations, and support from Thrivent Action Team service projects.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Amy Bartels Roe, Executive Director William Hartl. President Kathy Bonn, Vice President Sigrid Ewers, Secretary Michael Haremski, Treasurer

Aviteh Sowah Michelle Stolsmark Leona Sullivan Cheryl Taylor

MISSION:

We water the seed of inner strength in women experiencing homelessness so they can make a better life for themselves and their children.

We have updated our mission statement to reflect "people-first' language, approved by the board at its November meeting.



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