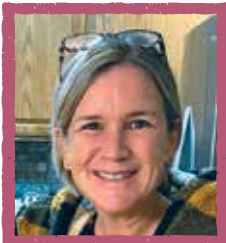


A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A generous, connected community!



Hello, friends! As I reflect on this past year, the word “unity” comes to me again and again. It’s a common theme I’ve encountered on a DAILY basis over the past 12 months. As I have been and out of community meetings and with those we serve, I continue to be amazed at how many resources we

have right here in Saginaw and throughout our region. Yes, we do have challenges, but we are richly blessed with resources not found in many other areas of our state or country.

I’m incredibly thankful for our great nonprofit community of professionals who work together to care for our most vulnerable neighbors. And whether you are a donor, a volunteer, a prayer warrior – or all three – YOU are part of making it possible for **each** of us and **all** of us to do the life-saving and life-changing work we do.

On behalf of all of those we serve, **thank you** for your part in creating a caring community.

Peace, joy and much love to you and yours. **May God bless you in the new year and always.**

Amy

AROUND OUR HOME

Since our last update in April ...

- We’ve welcomed **51 new guests**.
- As of December 10, we have **19 women** and **17 children** at our home.
- **40** guests have moved into **permanent supportive housing**.
- **17** guests found **employment** or enrolled in **education/training**.



Kandice brings the love every time she comes to hang out with our kids.



Leona celebrated her 83rd birthday!



There's nothing better than baby snuggles!



Mama and Papa Medina shared daughter Miranda's birthday celebration with our guests at MustardSeed with a delicious burrito dinner and birthday cake!



JOY! We celebrate Nichole beginning her new job as a recovery coach.



Friendsgiving tradition continues!



Getting close to the big reveal for our new creative outlet space!



Look! It's Linda with all the carrots!



Our littlest guests have such fun when Karen comes out to play!



PURE AM GOLD + MUSTARD SEED SHELTER MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER

Our Mustard Seed family and friends turned out in force at Saginaw's debut of Pure AM Gold in August. Mustard Seed received a portion of the proceeds from the event.

Pure AM Gold is designed to create an interactive experience of a live AM radio broadcast. During the show, the band revisits classic, unusual, and under-performed hits and deep cuts from the 1960s and 1970s that audiences rarely have the chance to hear performed live. We are excited to be a part of these events and to once again work with many of the musicians who performed on a benefit album for Mustard Seed.



Tickets are now available for the next performance and benefit, to be held Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Court Street Theater. Tickets are just \$20 and are available at Mustard Seed, the Scottish Inn, Red Horse Bar and the Court Street Theater. Great stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts for the music lover in your life!

A WARM WELCOME TO THE WELL OF SAGINAW!



New shelter for men set to open in early 2023

We are delighted to be part of helping a brand-new shelter for men get a strong start. Opening in 2023, **The Well of Saginaw Men's Shelter** will provide a home-like environment for men experiencing homelessness. This new shelter is patterned after Mustard Seed and Emmaus House in that it will function as a home where guests, staff and volunteers form a family. The Well offers another option for men experiencing homelessness in our community – another piece of the puzzle in helping to end homelessness once and for all.

As part of our community tithing effort, Mustard Seed is providing some startup funding, as well as advisory support. Emmaus House generously donated a two-story, two-unit duplex that was previously used for their transitional housing program and is also providing advisory support. Renovations of the home are being completed entirely by volunteers with donated materials. Similar to our own expansion, it is a true labor of love!



Founding board of The Well (left to right): Joe Hernandez, Jason Kenney, Donna Clarke, Bert Herrera, Oscar Mendoza, Amy Bartels Roe, Christopher Brown, Waheed Akbar, Toby Long

For more information, follow The Well of Saginaw on Facebook and visit thewellofsaginaw.org.

SO MANY SEEDS OF HOPE!



Our signature **Sowing Seeds of Hope** events are really gaining traction, helping raise vital funds and welcome new supporters for the life-saving work of Mustard Seed. **Watch for business packages with sponsorship opportunities for both events early in 2023.**

Our **second annual Sowing Seeds of Hope golf outing** was a terrific success – **raising over \$18,000** to support daily operations. We began and ended the day with a downpour but in between, we had some great golf, delicious food and MANY laughs. This year's outing was dedicated in loving memory of Jillian Paetz Brooks, a long-time member of our Mustard Seed family. Learn more and see the list of sponsors and donors at themustardseedshelter.org/golfouting and on our Facebook page.

Please plan to join us for the third annual Sowing Seeds of Hope golf outing, Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023.



A giant **thank you** to all of our golfers, generous sponsors and volunteers, and the staff at Beech Hollow Golf Course for another successful event!



First place team (left to right):
Baleigh Nichols, Beau Turner,
Tara Kluck, Tyler Kluck



Second place team (left to right):
R.D. Murphy, Debbie Crosby,
Lonnie Finney, Gary Publitz



Third place team (left to right):
Rodger Fettig, Jenny Dumont Radler,
Mike Radler, Ben Kisse



Bob and Carla Paetz pose near poster featuring their daughter Jillian.

Our **sixth Sowing Seeds of Hope fall fundraiser** was also a great success, **raising over \$21,000** to support our daily operations. This annual event has grown and evolved to be a much-anticipated happening on the first Thursday of October. A new addition to this year's program was a presentation of awards to recognize volunteers who have gone above and beyond to support the work of Mustard Seed. Nominations came from staff, guests and volunteers and our new award committee chaired by Gabriella DeVries made the final selection. *(continued on pages 4 and 5)*



CELEBRATING OUR 2022 VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS



LEONA SULLIVAN CULTIVATING SPIRIT AWARD – THE LEONA SULLIVAN



Radical hospitality is at the core of Mustard Seed Shelter, in large part due to our co-founder, Leona Sullivan. It is only fitting that Leona receive the very first award bearing her name. Future awards will be given to an individual who models Leona's spirit of welcome and grace, carrying out Mustard Seed's mission in an extraordinary way.

If you are not familiar with Leona's story, please visit themustardseedshelter.org/stories and read "Answering the Call to Mercy," cover story of the Fall 2016 issue of FAITH Saginaw.

GROWING SIDE-BY-SIDE AWARD YOUTH PROTECTION COUNCIL



Mary Ellen Johnson,
President/CEO of YPC

This award is given to a Great Lakes Bay Region nonprofit partner organization that works alongside Mustard Seed Shelter to cultivate healthy growth in those we serve through education, mental or physical health care services, spiritual growth or other support.

Youth Protection Council has been working with Mustard Seed since early 2021 to provide weekly parenting classes, expanding in 2022 to include summer educational family field trips focused on prevention and healthy emotions. Our partnership continues to grow and evolve!

BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET AWARD BOB HANLEY, MARVIN KOZARA AND TOM SLIVINSKI



This award is given to a group that has come together to make a difference in the lives of those served through Mustard Seed Shelter in an extraordinary way. Their "beautiful bouquet" of caring hearts and combined efforts has made a significant impact.

The 2022 award was presented to our three housing inspectors who have put in countless hours since 2006 providing initial and annual inspection of properties to make sure we are providing safe, stable housing.

In addition to our shelter program, Mustard Seed administers permanent supportive housing grants through HUD, which provides rental and utility assistance for some of our community's most vulnerable.

GROWTH THROUGH GIVING CORPORATE SPONSOR AWARD – EZ PRO DELIVERY/ LARKIN'S DRY ICE



This award is given to a business or corporation that demonstrates a shared vision to relieve poverty and distress by providing and/or supporting opportunities for education, upskilling and overall advancement of those served by Mustard Seed Shelter.

EZ Pro owner Tara Larkin and her company have been steadfast, always-there supporters since Tara first met with us in 2018. Whenever we post a need on Facebook, Tara will either send out a delivery driver or respond personally. In addition, this small but mighty business hosted a successful luau fundraiser for Mustard Seed in 2019 ... and they are doing it again this coming February! See details in the Upcoming Events on the back page.

(continued from page 4)

SEEDLING OF THE YEAR ADDY TAYLOR



This award is given to a youth (18 years and younger) who has exemplified the nurturing spirit of Mustard Seed Shelter in their selfless service and acts of caring. Seedlings demonstrate that they have embraced volunteering as a way of life.

This past Easter, 12-year-old Addy got a few friends and cousins together to raise

money and collect items to fill Easter baskets for Mustard Seed as well as three other area shelters. She continued to volunteer weekly through the summer, helping with Camp Mustard Seed. We can't wait to see what our first Seedling does next!

See the full list of sponsors and donors in the program at themustardseedshelter.org/ssoh and **please plan to join us for the seventh annual Sowing Seeds of Hope fall fundraiser, Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023.**

Local potter Faith Nesbitt designed the custom awards. Each hand-thrown pot includes a bird, twigggy handle, leaf and protective base.



Last spring, we had a vision to start "Camp Mustard Seed" for our littlest guests during the summer and Kandice and Addy made it happen!

WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?

In November, we asked several of our guests what they were grateful for as part of a gratitude exercise during one of our morning meetings. Here are just some of the responses.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR ...

"... there was a door open for me to come in and have a place to lay my worried head. Everybody is so nice. The staff workers are so helpful. Before I came to Mustard Seed, I was going through so much and since I've been here, I've had a chance to pull myself together for peace of mind."

- Laura

"... being alive and to be with my kids."

- Michelle

"I am so thankful to God for being at this Mustard Seed house."

- anonymous

"... my son, and Jesus giving me another day."

- Arielle

"... the people at Mustard Seed, for their obedience to Christ in answering the call to take care of the lowly and needy, of which I was one."

- anonymous

"... Mustard Seed - it has simply changed my life for the better!"

- Emerald

"... my babies, Honor'Dior, Haven, Saint, Sin Cere and Ryland."

- Makayla

"I am most grateful for experiencing for 3 years the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual traumas that have come my way due to a nearly fatal car accident. These traumas have given my soul the nourishment to grow in my close relationship with God. I have experienced rejection, denial, mocking and abusiveness from humanity as a whole. I can say, 'I get Jesus!' I now have a much greater understanding and, more importantly, far more love and compassion for Jesus Christ. He is my best friend, my Lord and my everything! I just love Him so much!"

- Amy

SHELTER NEEDS

Amazon pro – We are still looking for help setting up a wish list for our home. Could this be the perfect project for you or someone needing service hours? *Time commitment: estimated 2 hours initially/occasional updates*

WordPress guru – We have an ongoing need for someone to help keep our website updated and in tip-top shape. *Time commitment: a few hours a month*

Ongoing needs – Guest welcome sets (new pillows, towel sets – hand, bath towel, washcloth – and collapsible mesh laundry baskets). Guests are provided with these items for their stay at Mustard Seed and take them when they leave.

Basic cleaning supplies (no bleach) for our home and to help guests setting up new homes.

Have gently used household items needing a good home?



Please call the NEST Donation Hotline at 989-898-0077. NEST has ample storage for these items and can help quickly get them to people who need them. NEST also has

many volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups. For details, visit saginawpartnershipcenter.org.



Mustard Seed is 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.

Please join us in welcoming our newest board members, Bobbi Allen and Yolanda Collier!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Bobbi Allen
Yolanda Collier
Ayiteh Sowah
Leona Sullivan
Cheryl Taylor

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most up-to-date information about events, visit themustardseedshelter.org/events and see our Facebook page.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m. – Pure AM Gold

Join us for the 2nd Pure AM Gold interactive concert experience at the Court Street Theater. (See article on page 2 for more details.) Tickets are \$20 and available at Mustard Seed, Court Street Theater Box Office, Scottish Inn and Red Horse Bar.

Friday, Feb. 24 5-10 p.m

EZ Pro Hawaiian Luau Charity Event at Trillium Banquet Center

This is the second charity event hosted by EZ Pro to benefit Mustard Seed and we are so thankful! Tickets are \$40/single, \$75/couple and \$25/person for tables of 6 or more, and include food and two drinks. Enjoy entertainment by Hipakritz. Tickets are available at Mustard Seed and EZ Pro at 300 Ames Street in Saginaw). Call Tara at 989-497-9210 for details.

Saturday, Aug. 19

Sowing Seeds of Hope Golf Outing

Thursday, Oct. 5

Sowing Seeds of Hope Fall Fundraiser

We will have business packets available early in 2023 for both Sowing Seeds of Hope events. Please contact Amy if you need information for corporate sponsorships at amyroe@themustardseedshelter.org.

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.

FRIENDS OF 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. We always have room for more friends – individuals and organizations.

Is it time to renew your membership?

OUR MISSION:

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



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themustardseedshelter.org |