

the MESSENGER

Serving, Reaching, Teaching — *Together*

SEPTEMBER 2018



Whether you
give, pray
or volunteer,

God uses you
to change lives!

See how your generosity
gave Mike a second chance...



A Note from Dr. Dallas Gatlin

CARRIAGE TOWN MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What gifts do you bring?

Dear Friend,

One thing I love about serving at Carriage Town Ministries is the opportunity to see people from all walks of life using their gifts.

Some folks at CTM are excellent cooks. They make sure our meals taste great and are healthy, too. Other people are wonderful listeners, which is helpful for guests who need to lay down some burdens.

I serve alongside gifted teachers who are able to pass along knowledge to children and adults with patience and skill. Whether it is your time or your treasure, many people like you excel in the grace of giving.

Every single gift is used. Every single gift is needed. And that's how God intended it.

You'll see in this edition of The Messenger how volunteers, educators and current guests are using the gifts God has given them to serve others.

As a result, men and women in tough spots are overcoming challenges, strengthening their faith life and developing practical and personal plans for the future.

When we use our gifts, lives change.

Thank you for using yours to serve our neighbors and build community here in Mid-Michigan.

Dr. Dallas Gatlin
Executive Director

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 PETER 4:10

Mike was used to rescuing others... ...but God used you to save him.

As a retired firefighter, Mike knows how to put out blazes. But when the heat was turned up in his own life, he needed help to extinguish the fire.

Growing up in nearby Clio, Mike never imagined he would need the support of a place like Carriage Town Ministries.

After building a family and a stable career, back problems forced Mike to hang up his fire-fighting gear. Then he started having problems in his marriage, which ended in divorce.

"I needed a new place to live and stayed with family for a while," Mike recalls. "I also needed help getting a new job. My daughter found Carriage Town Ministries online."

"It was really a shock to come here, and I was a little nervous," Mike adds. "But they took me in and have treated me great."

Right away, Mike started working around the mission. He was eager to learn new skills and joined

our Blue Line Donuts job training program.

"It gave me helpful skills so that when I go out and apply for a job, I have what I need," Mike expresses. And it didn't take long for Mike to find new work he loves.

Today, you can find Mike decorating donuts at the local and iconic, Dawn Donuts. "It's awesome. I really enjoy it," Mike shares.

But you can also find Mike developing his faith life. Since joining Carriage Town Ministries' program, he joined Flint Community Church and got baptized.

"You can get a lot of hope here," Mike says about Carriage Town Ministries. "It's a safe haven for anyone who is looking

for assistance. They help you with everything."

Mike is currently looking for stable, long-term housing, but that's not going to keep him away from our doors. "I will volunteer here in the kitchen and help with the Blue Line Donuts program," Mike hopes.

When Mike's life was crumbling, your support and God's love were there to rescue him.

Thanks for your generosity that is helping neighbors in need find a new path for their future!



A Summer of Enrichment and Fun

This summer, Carriage Town Ministries continued our innovative program for children staying at our Family Center, the Summer Education and Enrichment Program.

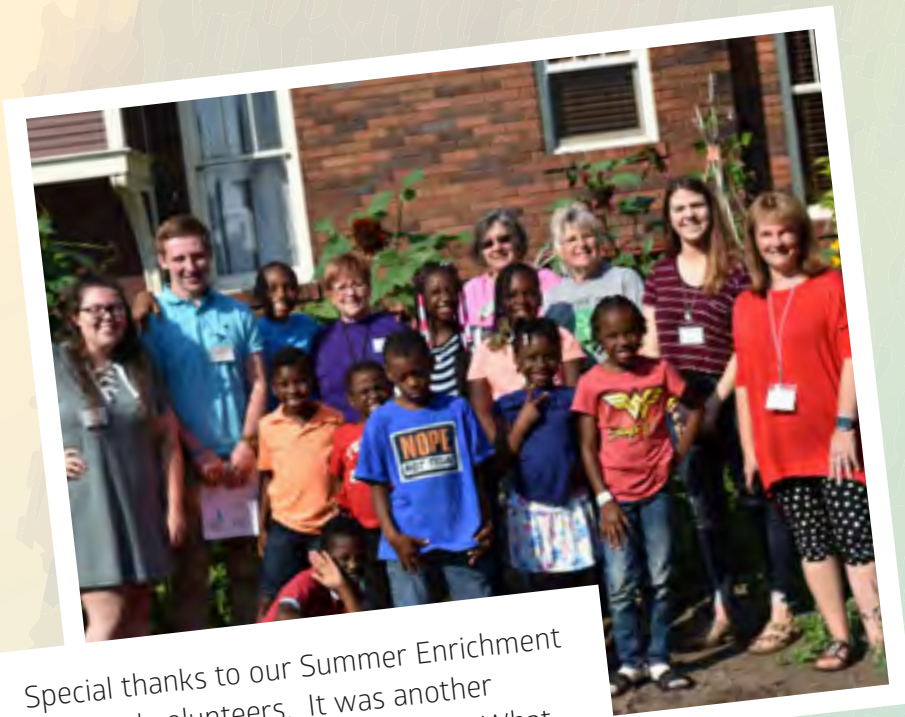
Twenty school-aged children participated in educational activities with a focus on literacy, ensuring children don't fall behind in school over the summer months. In fact, children participating in our program actually advanced their reading skills!

Sprinkle in exciting field trips and new friendships, and it's a fun-filled summer all kids enjoy. The parents do too, as they can search for jobs, apply for housing, advance their education, all while knowing their children are nurtured in a safe, loving environment.

Here are just a few pictures highlighting some fun the kids (and adults) had this summer!

One day a week, students work with Master Gardeners through MSU Extension as well as with nutritionists who teach the kids gardening skills, how to identify different plants in a garden, and how to use vegetables and fruits to make healthy, delicious meals!





Special thanks to our Summer Enrichment staff and volunteers. It was another great year full of learning and fun. What a wonderful group of people and a joy to serve the kids in our Family Center.



Each Friday, kids loaded the bus to visit all that Flint has to offer area youth! From The Flint Institute of Arts to Sloan Museum, Flint Public Library, Children's Museum, Zoo and more, children experienced hands-on learning and had a blast doing it!

You're Invited!

Join us at our annual banquet to celebrate the lives God is changing through the generosity of friends like you.

You'll enjoy a delicious meal, hear testimonies from CTM residents and get inspired to see all that God is doing to restore families and community in the Flint area.

CTM's Annual Fall Benefit Dinner

Thursday, October 18, 2018
6:30 - 8:00 PM
Kettering University

- Table of 10 = \$585
- Individual Tickets = \$68

Call Cindy Johns at (810) 233-8787 ext. 29 to RSVP or to get more information. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Memorial & In Honor Of Gifts

Gifts received March 21, 2018 – July 15, 2018

An honor or memorial gift to Carriage Town Ministries is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member. Our deepest sympathies are with friends who have lost loved ones.

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or in honor of a special occasion, please mail your gift and the name of the person(s) being remembered or honored to:

Carriage Town Ministries
605 Garland Street
P.O. Box 318
Flint, MI 48501

We will let your honoree or the family of the deceased know of your gift with a special card.

Thank you!

MEMORIAL

Homer Bassett

*Pat Bassett
Mr. & Mrs. Merell Cameron
Naomi Thompson*

Susie Bierwirth

Helen (Dark) Bierwirth

Betty Bonathan

*Barbara Hardenburg
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Odell Martin

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Dieter Heinze

Mollie Hembruch

Ralph & Gertrude Kelp

Lorraine Schuler

Carmen Schuler

Albert & Gerlinde Schuler

Norm & Nancy Sippert

Norbert & Nancy Sippert

The Ursula Mueller Trust

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Have-A-Bar, Inc

Honor a Loved One in the CTM Memorial Garden

In 2017, we added a memorial brick path to our garden at Carriage Town Ministries. It's become a lovely addition to an already beautiful area.

For a \$50, \$100, or \$200 donation, a brick can be engraved in honor of a loved one to show support, as a special gift, or to acknowledge a group, business, or church, etc.

Funds raised from this project are being used for The Children's Center Garden and Playground.

The garden itself has provided Carriage Town Ministries residents with food and an opportunity to learn gardening skills for almost ten years. We're grateful for the Master Gardeners who take time to



teach our guests more about gardening and how to use the delicious and healthy foods grown there.

To order a brick or learn more information, contact Marilyn Nichols, our Master Gardener, at ctmgarden@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Dwayne Clemons

Carriage Town Ministries is blessed to have so many kind-hearted people like Dwayne giving their time to serve the residents here.

Dwayne is a published author on the topic of money management and has served a variety of organizations through his outreach experience. At Carriage Town Ministries, he helps in many ways, always with a welcoming smile.

Currently, Dwayne assists guests with their healthcare, medications and insurance. If residents have any medical, dental, vision, podiatry or pharmaceutical needs, Dwayne helps them schedule appointments with our team of volunteer doctors and healthcare professionals. Dwayne also helps guests navigate Medicaid and insurance to make sure they can afford ongoing care while they're at Carriage Town Ministries and when they leave.

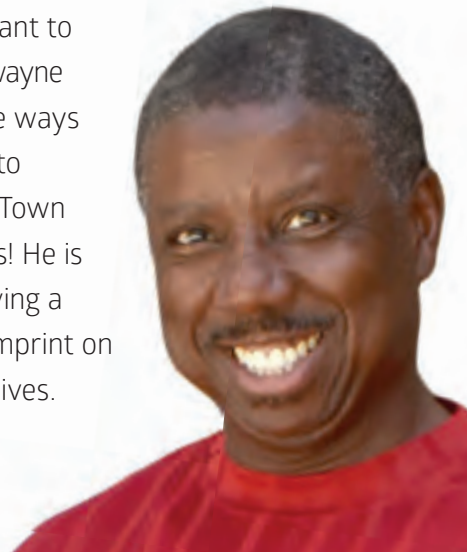
With Dwayne's expertise, he also

teaches finance and goal-setting in CTM's Personal Success Plan program.

"The biggest thing volunteering has done for me is it's helped keep me grounded," Dwayne shares.

"God has blessed us in so many ways. Sometimes, we can become complacent and we can begin to complain, but if you have the opportunity to show people what's possible for them, and they actually make the decision to turn their lives around, it's rewarding."

We want to thank Dwayne for all the ways he gives to Carriage Town Ministries! He is truly leaving a lifelong imprint on people's lives.



**For volunteer information,
please contact Cindy Johns
at (810) 233-8787 ext. 29
or cjohns@carriagetown.org today!**

Wise Stewardship Of Your Generous Donations



Carriage Town Ministries is committed to excellence in financial accountability. We've earned a 4-star rating with Charity Navigator for our transparency, with 85% of your dollars going directly to ministry. Thank you for your continued support!

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Our Mission

is to provide
help, hope, and
the Good News to
our community through
the skills and means
of God's people and
the transforming power
of Christ's love.



**P.O. Box 318
Flint, MI 48501-0318
(810) 233-8787
www.carriagetown.org**

