

the MESSENGER

Serving, Reaching, Teaching — *Together*

MAY 2024



After 28 years of drug addiction and despair, Ursula found a better way of living at Carriage Town Ministries.

See her story inside 



Serving the Needy Since 1950

A Summertime of Renewal



A Note from
Dr. Chris Townsend

CARRIAGE TOWN MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Those who give
to the poor
will lack nothing...

—PROVERBS 28:27

Dear Friend,

Summer is on the horizon in Flint and Genesee County. For many of us, it will be a time of rest and relaxation with family and friends, enjoying long weekends, and vacations. This summer, guests at Carriage Town Ministries will enjoy relationship, recovery, and reward. The men and women here will admit it's hard work. There's no summer vacation on the road to self-sufficiency. But every minute is worth it.

Most of our guests were just like you or me at one point. Like Ursula in this issue of *The Messenger*, they are parents or even grandparents. They had homes and responsibilities. Then something went wrong.

Some suffered from domestic abuse or mental illness. For others, an unexpected health crisis or a job loss wiped out their finances. Unfortunately, some turned to drugs or alcohol to deal with their pain. **Thankfully, your gifts to Carriage Town Ministries can help hurting people who need a second chance.**

Here, with your help, our residents take their first steps toward rehabilitation. Our guests begin to renew their relationships with family, society, and God. Before long, they reap the reward of a stable, satisfying life. Many will tell you the hardships they faced only made their reward sweeter!

As you enjoy these beautiful days ahead, remember the men and women at Carriage Town Ministries. Keep them in your prayers and please continue to support our ministry this summer. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Townsend
Executive Director

You Helped Ursula Reconnect with God and Family

For more than half her life, Ursula struggled with drug addiction. During that time, she had two children and became a grandmother of six. But her lifestyle prevented her from being the mother and grandmother she should have been.

Today, Ursula admits that her addiction was “shameful.” She endured bad relationships and watched the best years of her life fade away.

Still, Ursula knew there was a way back to a better life. She came to Carriage Town Ministries in 2009. Later, Ursula fell back into her addiction, but she never forgot the care and compassion she had found here.

In 2023, God led Ursula back to Carriage Town Ministries. More than 10 years after her first attempt, she was ready to give up drugs for good.

“I chose to stay clean because it’s a better way of living,” Ursula says.

“Carriage Town Ministries encouraged me and got me closer to God,” she tells us. “I had slipped away from God, but He never slipped away from me.”

This time around, Ursula made a commitment to herself, her family and to God that she would make the program work. “It’s structured. You have to abide by the rules. But it’s an encouraging place for people like me to go.”

As she made her way through the program, Ursula got a job with Carriage Town Bakery.

“We serve donuts, coffee, frappes, hot cocoa, tea. I love it! I get to meet different people with different characters, attitudes, personalities. I know some of my customers now. I know what they want.”

But now that Ursula has had a good taste of sobriety, she wants more out of life. Currently living with her son, she wants to be on her own and is looking for a full-time job.

“I see myself living a better life, having more money to do things for my grandchildren.”

Thanks to your support, Ursula can also now help her grandchildren learn about Jesus Christ. Since coming to Carriage Town Ministries, she has drawn closer to the Lord and enjoys spending time with Him. “Church is wonderful. If you can’t give God an hour out of the whole week, something is wrong with you,” Ursula says.

“I give God glory every day!”



There Are Many Ways to Love Your Neighbor ... and Food is Just One of Them!



▲ Members of classes from **Central Church of the Nazarene** in Flint shared love through food by preparing a hot breakfast for our residents on February 16. What a great way for everybody to start their day!

A big shout-out to employees of **Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Michigan Real Estate**, who provided and served lunch to Carriage Town Ministries residents on March 20. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and the friendly service of these caring volunteers.



The **Dillon Elementary School's Cereal Drive** was a friendly competition to see which class could collect the most boxes of cereal for Carriage Town Ministries. By the end of February, a total of **1,123 boxes of cereal** were donated! The top three classes enjoyed donuts from Carriage Town Bakery.



There are even more ways to put your love into action at Carriage Town Ministries. You can:

- Work in the garden
- Lead a chapel service
- Teach a skills class at the Family Center
- Find other ways to help on your own or in a school, church or work group at www.carriagetown.org/volunteer2. Or contact Kayla Murphy at kmurphy@carriagetown.org or 810-233-8787 ext. 6206.



Scan now for quick access to volunteering ideas!

Memorial & In Honor Of Gifts

Gifts received January 1 to March 31, 2024

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
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 note.

Thank You!

MEMORIAL

Andrew Mackie

Mr. David Petro

Autumn M. Rivest

Mrs. Velma Price

Barbara Ann Gillespie

Ryann Goulet

Barbara Butler My Auntie

Mr. Cedric Taylor

Charles H. Gunter Sr

Charlie Gunter Jr

David Wilkinson

Sandra Baiel

Dr. David Crandall

Sandra Bograkov

Edith Mays

Mr. Vern Cooper

Greg Helmreich

Mr. William F. Erlenbeck

Ilene Brown

Mr. Samuel C. Brown

J. Dean Sharp

Legacy Builders SS Class

Mr. David Shane

Mr. Andrew Tabbert

Mr. Brian Lobdell

Mr. Larry McMurphy

Mr. William Bedell

Jacob Morse

Mr. Eric Morse

Kathleen Dowdall-Smith

Ms. Jumana Barden

Kathy Gaus

Michael Gaus

Kevin Bull Jones

Mr. Cedric Taylor

Leo & Carm Strauss

Mr. Michael Strauss

Margaret Anne Berry

Mr. Mickey E Berry

Margaret Rogers

John Erme

My Mother

Ms. Jumana Barden

Paul Gundlach

Fidelity Brokerage Services

Roy Pruitt

Mr. Dean E. Weir

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Rebecca Faulconbridge

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Sarah Baker

Mr. Mike & Peggy Zylstra

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Ms Deborah Safley

Sherry Campbell

Ms. Tiffany Johnson

Snickers

Ms. Carol Johnson

Stephanie Devore

Katherine Sienkowski

Steve Devore

Nikki Bredwell

Thomas Rowden

Mr. John Erickson

Mr. Robert Decker

Mr. Michael Laux

Mr. James Peaphon

William Kitsonas

Ms. Marlene Dewitt

Ms. Catherine Yeotis

Woodbury Family

Ms. Margaret Anderson

HONOR

Anne Magalski

Jenny Mooney

Big Heart

Ms. Annette Corcoran

Frank Maxwell

Mr. Robert Mills

Paul Schneider

Ms. Linda Schneider

Penny Ettinger

Mrs. Karen Whitacre

3 Ways To Leave A Legacy



GIVE THROUGH YOUR WILL

Include a bequest in your will to Carriage Town Ministries to help us serve our community not just today or tomorrow but for years to come. Setting up a will is easy through FreeWill.



GIVE THROUGH YOUR STOCK

When you donate your appreciated stock directly to Carriage Town Ministries, there's no capital gains tax to pay. Your generosity goes even further to serve each person who walks through our doors.



GIVE THROUGH YOUR IRA

If you are 70.5 or older, IRA gifts are a powerful way to reduce your future tax burden. If you are subject to Required Minimum Distributions, making a QCD allows you to do so without increasing your taxable income!

LEARN MORE: www.carriagetown.org/donate

BOX LUNCH FUNDRAISER

Now available for two days!

JUNE 2

Sunday, June 2

Get some friends together after church or get lunch for the whole church!

— and —

JUNE 13

Thursday, June 13

Get together with coworkers for a quick and delicious lunch.



Why not order lunch for both days?

Preorder online at www.carriagetown.org/events

JUNE 2 LUNCH BOXES

Preorder by **May 27** (Memorial Day)

JUNE 13 LUNCH BOXES

Preorder by **June 3**



Your support provides men and women at Carriage Town Ministries:

- A Place to **Stay**
- A Place to **Eat**
- A Place to **Heal**
- A Place to **Worship**

Your lunch includes:

- Chicken salad on fresh buns
- Broccoli slaw
- Fresh fruit
- Chips
- **Blueline Donut Holes** (freshly made in our kitchen)



Pick up

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

at 605 Garland St., Flint

810-233-8787

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Our Mission

is to provide help, hope and the Good News to the unhoused and 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

