



Servants Center helps the mentally ill homeless and poor get off the streets and provides ongoing support with dignity, reflecting Christ's love.

Fall / Winter 2019

**Servants Center
Staff:**

Peggy Boverhof
Exec. Director

Jessica Brown
Kiel Hamlet
Spencer Husch
Jan Irwin
Cheri Theriault

**Servants Center
Board of Directors:**

Chuck Hahn, Pres.
Deb Borst, Vice Pres.
Dustin Keena, Treas.
Marny Danz, Secy.
Mary Cunningham
Bob Stark
Keith VanderWeele
Sandy Wynn-Stelt

Servants Center
P.O. Box F
Grand Rapids, MI
49501

Tel: (616) 456-8512
Fax: (616) 456-8518
**servantscentergr
@gmail.com**
www.scgr.org

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Proverbs 31:8-9

From Spencer Husch, Staff

*The Well and the Rope—
Partnership in Ministry*

At Servants Center, we love what we do. Servants Center exists to help mentally ill and homeless individuals as we come alongside them in search of stable housing and services. Without a doubt each staff member has been called by the Lord to this difficult and beautiful work. However, we cannot do it alone. As the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians, we are one body with many members. We realize that Servants Center is only one member of the body that is doing amazing Kingdom work all over this city. This realization has led to wonderful partnerships over the years.

This summer we partnered with My Boo Cleaning Service. It came to our attention that five of our clients who are living in a boarding house, were in need of assistance with cleaning their rooms. Due to the inability to clean, these men were in danger of losing their housing. As we scrambled to find someone willing to assist, the Lord graciously brought Bruce, owner and operator of My Boo Cleaning Service,



Joe says, "Thanks for your help cleaning my room. Great job!"

across our path. Bruce is gifted as a hard-working and meticulous cleaner, however, he will tell you that his passion is to bring hope to those he serves. We praise God

for divinely appointed partnerships such as this. These five men are now receiving the assistance they need, but more importantly, they are experiencing the love of Christ through Bruce's compassionate care.

It's overwhelming to think of all of the divinely appointed partnerships that the Lord has established for Servants Center. To do this type of work, it has been said that there are two roles that are absolutely necessary: those down in the well and those holding the rope for the ones down in the well. Some of you have joined us in the well and some of you have supported Servants Center by grabbing the rope. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with Servants Center in one of these two ways? Grab the rope, or jump in the well.

Grab the rope by partnering with us with your *prayers* and in your *gift giving*. We ask for prayers for our organization, volunteers and staff, and most importantly, those that we serve that are suffering from homelessness and mental illness. Please also consider donating financially. Servants Center needs financial support from individuals, churches and businesses to continue this work. Donations can be made online through our website or by check.

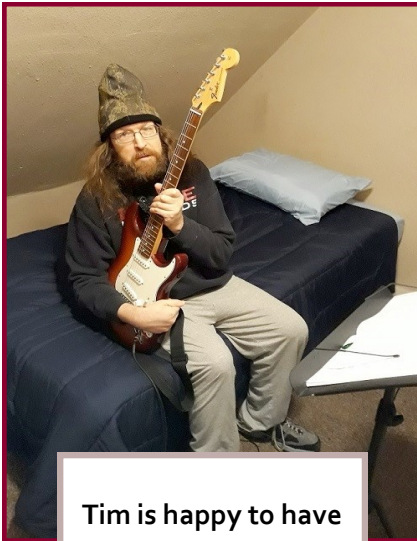
Jump in the well by partnering with us through *volunteering*. Volunteer opportunities range from helping around the office to transporting a client to a doctor's appointment, or meeting one-on-one with those that we serve as a trusted friend. Wherever you have been gifted by the Lord, there is a place for you! Call or email us for more information.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me."
Philippians 1:3-7



Helping the mentally ill homeless get off and stay off the streets

A New Home



Tim is happy to have a place to call home!

In the last newsletter we wrote to you about Tim. At that time he had been hospitalized due to the trauma of losing his Section 8 housing because the new owner of his apartment building was renovating for an upscale clientele. Tim was facing the very real possibility of becoming homeless after 8 years in that apartment. After spending weeks in temporary housing, he's now in permanent housing because of a beautiful partnership with a private landlord. Tim enjoys playing guitar in his new apartment. We rejoice with Tim as God showed his faithfulness once again!

"Stand up for the weak and for children whose fathers have died. Protect the rights of people who are poor or treated badly. Save those who are weak and needy. Save them from the power of sinful people." Psalm 82:3-4



Enhancing Trust

Donate with Assurance

We are accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

On the Streets

Servants Center continues to try and work with "T", an individual who has been staying out on the streets for several years. Last winter we tried everything we could to get her out of a tent during the polar vortex but every attempt was met with failure. Our outreach specialists continue to make contact with her on a regular basis but her paranoia prevents any forward motion as to getting her any assistance. She wears the same clothing that is hanging in shreds, yet she is considered "not a danger to self". Our latest effort is working with the police and with the courts to get her emergency help. Please pray for a breakthrough.



A kitty guards a home under an overpass.

Please help us expand our services to the homeless and mentally ill with your financial gift. Will you consider making your gift a regular monthly or quarterly gift?

Persistent Pursuit

Servants Center continues on an ongoing basis to develop relationships with those on the streets with severe neurological diseases such as paranoid schizophrenia, in hopes to one day gain enough trust to get them off the street. There are several of these individuals that we are still working with today that we have been interacting with since as far back as the late 90's. Though some may have had intermittent housing or a shelter stay, they are still choosing the isolation of the streets. We are out on the streets every day looking for those familiar faces and discovering new ones too. Please pray for these individuals and for our outreach staff as we share the hope and love of Jesus through our words and actions.

We often think of people who are different than us (like the poor or homeless) as "those" people. God doesn't think that way. We need to think inclusive, think "family". That's how we approach those we meet on the streets...with a smile, dignity, a listening ear and with Christ's love.

We were transporting one of our clients back to their AFC home from the hospital late one night because there was no other way home available. We weren't happy about the late hour, but the road time is a good opportunity to have one-on-one life discussions. Nick had brought up the topic of Jesus, because he knows we are people of faith. We shared the story of Christ and he said he would think more about it. Our attitude towards our clients reveal our faith, which may be why we're often asked why we do what we do for them.