



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

August 2021

The Need Continues

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"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."

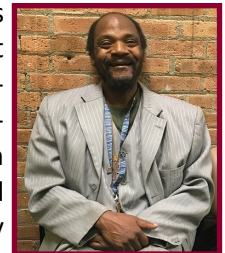
Proverbs 31:8-9

Last week we were contacted by Network 180, the Kent County Community Mental Health Authority. They have been bringing independent case management agencies back in-house. In doing so, one of those agencies that also provides Representative Payee services must close that service. When asked if we're willing to take up to 100 clients, our first thought was, "can we handle it?" Then immediately the Holy Spirit reminded us that He is with us in the midst of the unknowns and the bumpy times, and that He will provide what we need when needed and will sustain us during the adjustment. Back in 2018 we took on 60+ clients when another Payee Service closed. It was bumpy at first, but looking back we see how the Lord cared for these individuals and how He met our needs, and we continue to work with these individuals today. *"Did I not tell you," replied Jesus, "that if you believed, you would see the wonder of what God can do?" John 11:40 (JB Phillips NT)*

So here we are facing another challenge. How many individuals will the Lord bring our way, 25? 100? We look upon this with excitement to see how He will orchestrate the influx, and how He will provide financially so that we may add another heart and pair of hands to our staff to provide hands-on Christ-centered service.

The need for our services continues to grow. Will you help us?

We all have seen how the Covid-19 pandemic has brought about change. And with some of those changes come some difficulty. One of our newest hurdles is finding housing, especially Adult Foster Care homes for individuals that need the extra medical oversight an AFC can provide. The closure of several AFC homes has affected our clients. They closed because they couldn't keep or find staff to work. AFC work can be difficult, especially with residents with behavior issues. One brand new AFC to which we planned to move 6 men closed before it opened. And we were notified with only 30 days warning to find different housing for 8 others, all at one time. With no available openings in our county, we had to scramble fast and look in surrounding counties. We finally found housing for all of them with no days to spare. Here is Charles, all smiles and happy to be way out in the "cornfields."



I have a new home!

Help provide basic needs to our clients.
Visit our WISH LIST at
www.scgr.org/wish-list

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?



A homeless camp along the Grand River



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

Be a Trusted Friend?

Suffering from mental illness can be very isolating. Many of our clients have no known family, or have been cut off from family by their own doing, or family has turned their back on them. They are alone.

Will you consider being a Trusted Friend? Many of our clients prefer the isolation, however we have a number of clients that would benefit immensely in having another ear to share their thoughts with by phone or being taken out for a cup of coffee a few times a month. We would pair you with one client. These are individuals that have housing but need reassurance that they are important and that people care about them. You will bring joy into their life, and you will be equally surprised by the joy they will bring into yours.



Want to know more? Give us a call at (616) 456-8512 or send us an email to scgr@scgr.org.

"But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay." Psalm 40:17



Homeless living in tents by the railroad tracks

Do You Know Sign Language?

We have a 20 year old young woman for whom we recently became guardian. She is deaf and has limited vision. She has moved into subsidized independent housing and is so excited to be an adult. We feel she would benefit from a Trusted Friend who knows sign language. She has had a difficult childhood and has grown up in the foster care system. She is a very sweet and excitable girl. Please contact us if you would like to know more about being her Trusted Friend. Give us a call at (616) 456-8512 or send us an email to scgr@scgr.org.



Sleeping it off on the sidewalk



Home under the expressway

Welcome New Staff



James Ruark joined Servants Center in June after 21 years as a case manager at Cherry Health Services. While there he worked with persons who are diagnosed with severe mental illnesses. He knows our clientele well, and his experience makes him perfectly suited as a Client Specialist.

James replaces Spencer Husch who left Servants Center in June to join another ministry providing services to help formerly trafficked individuals.

Kait Zylstra joined Servants Center in July after 7 years working in a residential treatment facility for youth. We are delighted to welcome Kait back as a Client Specialist. She had helped with our street outreach and client services in 2010-2014. She is very comfortable with our clientele and has reconnected with many of our long-time clients.



Carpooling to the doctor

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