

Inside:

- From the Executive Director's Desk
- Help Bring Thanksgiving and Christmas to Families in Need

Grand Opening of Farm Stand 454



Front row left to right: Markell Miller and Eileen Spring of Food Gatherers, Hope Board President Greta Buck, and Hope Food Programs Coordinator Mary Dekker celebrate the Farm Stand grand opening with Hope Executive Director Matt Hudson (back row)



The Food Gatherers truck delivers a load of fresh produce

After more than a year's worth of planning and hard work, the grand opening of Farm Stand 454 took place on September 17, 2015. The Farm Stand is the new dedicated space for Hope's fresh produce program. Many donors, volunteers, and friends of Hope gathered at noon to celebrate the Farm Stand opening, and Rev. Ryan Boes from Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church offered a blessing for the space.

Hope began the produce program in partnership with Food Gatherers in January of 2013. Once a week we would set up tables in our community dining room in Hope Center to display an assortment of fruits and vegetables supplied by Food Gatherers. Clients could choose among the items and left Hope with enough fresh produce to supply their households for a week. The program proved to be very popular, and we added a second weekly produce distribution day in July of 2013.

We soon realized the produce program would operate more smoothly if it had its own space. The sheer volume of produce we handled during each distribution strained the capacity of our dining room, and volunteers and staff spent considerable time setting up and taking down the display tables and chairs. Hope already owned a nearby property lot with an old storefront building that had the potential to become a dedicated produce pantry.

The new pantry is located at 454 Harriet Street in Ypsilanti and hosts produce distribution every Monday afternoon and Thursday evening. Clients are eligible to attend one produce distribution per week. We offer 50 appointments for each distribution on a call-in basis, and we also take walk-ins as space and produce availability permit. Hope volunteers sort the roughly 1,500 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables that Food Gatherers delivers on each distribution day, then arrange the items in baskets and bins. The Farm Stand building also has a waiting area where clients can sample produce items and collect recipes while they wait for their turn to shop.



Opening day

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who made Farm Stand 454 a reality through their financial and/or in-kind donations for the project:

Chelsea Door Co.
Cool Run Heating and Cooling
Doan Co. Concrete
Engineering Technologies Corporation
Food Gatherers
Bryan R. Foley - electrician
Holmes Family
Huron Sign Company
Iron Creek Construction
Lloyd and Mabel Johnson Foundation
Bob Johnston
Johnston Family
Jones and Sons Asphalt Paving
Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation
Chris Lussier Construction
RepairClinic.com
Jon Stella
Stella Family
Straightline Painting and Handyman Services
TWC Contractors
Walmart Foundation

From the Executive Director's Desk

"In your majesty ride forth victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice; let your right hand achieve awesome deeds." – Psalm 45:4

Recently, a study conducted by Feeding America entitled "Map the Meal Gap" calculated that 14.7% of the residents in Washtenaw County experience food insecurity. This percentage represents over 51,000 people who do not have enough to eat on a regular basis, with a majority of this number residing in the Ypsilanti area, where Hope Clinic is located. The mission field is in our backyard.

A little over a year ago, Hope Clinic began the renovation of the abandoned building located at 454 Harriet Street, our neighboring lot. We had decided to repurpose the building to house our fresh produce program. Through

our partnership with Food Gatherers, we distribute 4,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables a week to those facing food insecurity. In September, we held the grand opening of Farm Stand 454, a beautiful and dedicated space to supply healthy food options to people in need.

As we named the building, we came across Psalm 45:4 (the same 'number' as our address), which perfectly sums up not only our intentions of serving people in need, but provides encouragement to the people who come through our doors weekly to receive fresh fruits and vegetables. God does work in mysterious ways.

As Hope moves forward, we will continue to seek opportunities to heal the sick, feed the poor, and share the love and gospel of Jesus for His glory. We



are grateful to you for walking with us on this journey.

God bless,

Matthew Hudson
Executive Director

The Hope Clinic Newsletter is published by Hope Medical Clinic, Inc. Hope is an interdenominational Christian medical, dental, and social service agency whose goal is to provide compassionate and practical help to those in need, ministering to the whole person. Hope is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.



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United Way
of Washtenaw County



Volunteer Opportunities



Lobby Receptionists: Volunteers are needed to help at the front desk in Hope's lobby. Responsibilities include greeting visitors, answering phones, scheduling appointments, and retrieving food or other requests. This is a great position for a "people person" with a heart for Hope's mission, moderate computer skills, and excellent dependability.

Food Pantry Helpers: We are seeking volunteers on Mondays from 1 – 4 p.m. to help sort, organize, and distribute fresh produce. Volunteers are also needed on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon to help clients make their grocery selections from our food pantry.

Dental Specialists: Hope Dental Clinic patients sometimes have needs beyond what we can offer on site. All dental specialists are encouraged to open their doors to Hope patients and provide needed services such as pediatric dentistry, oral surgery, and partial and full dentures at no charge to patients. Must be licensed to practice dentistry in the State of Michigan.

If you are interested in volunteering in one of these capacities or would like to know about other volunteer opportunities at Hope, contact Connie Hallom at 734-484-2989 ext. 203 or challom@thehopeclinic.org

Help Bring Thanksgiving and Christmas to Families in Need

Outside the leaves are turning, the days are growing cooler, and a beautiful Michigan autumn is underway. The holiday season may still seem far off, but Hope social worker Naomi Williams is busy making plans for Thanksgiving Baskets and the Christmas Adoption Program. The success of these efforts depends on many generous individuals, and we need your help:



Thanksgiving Baskets – Donors may provide an entire meal—frozen turkey and canned sides such as cranberry sauce, potatoes, stuffing, green beans, etc.—or one or more frozen turkeys. If you are able to donate, please let Naomi know by **November 12** and plan to deliver your contribution to Hope Center by **November 19**.

Christmas Adoption – Individuals and groups may “adopt” a family for Christmas by shopping for presents on their wish list. You may contact Naomi starting **October 25** to let her know the rough size of the family you’d like to adopt. Hope Clinic prequalifies and signs up families that need help providing Christmas presents. We’ll provide you with a list of items to shop for, so that you may purchase, wrap, and deliver the items to Hope Center by **December 18**. If you don’t have time to shop yourself, you may make a financial donation to Hope that is designated for the Christmas program.

If you, your church group, or your workplace would like to support the Hope Clinic holiday programs in any way, please contact **Naomi Williams** at nwilliams@thehopeclinic.org or 734-484-2989 ext. 207.



Many thanks to the following churches, schools, and other organizations that volunteered at Hope and/or made financial or in-kind donations:

- Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church
- Ann Arbor Church of Christ
- Ann Arbor Hope Church
- Christ the King Catholic Church
- Collaborative Outreach Board
- Community Church of God, Ypsilanti
- Covenant Community Church
- Eastern Michigan University Kings
- First Assembly of God, Saline
- First Congregational Church of Wayne
- First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor
- Grace Church Canton
- Holy Faith Church
- Immanuel Baptist Church
- Knox Presbyterian Church
- Lincoln Community United Methodist Church
- Living Water Church
- RepairClinic.com
- Scio Community Church
- St. Andrew Catholic Church, Saline
- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
- St. Kenneth Church, Plymouth
- St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor
- St. Michael Lutheran Church, Canton
- St. Paul Missionary Baptist
- St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church – Blanket Ladies
- St. Vincent DePaul Society
- TOPS 1560
- Unity Church of Ann Arbor
- Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Ypsilanti Assembly of God
- Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Women
- Zion Lutheran Church

Thank you to the following organizations for their financial support:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan for two grants supporting the Dental Clinic and the Hope WayneClinic 
- Bank of American Charitable Foundation for a grant to support the weekend meals program 
- Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice for proceeds from the 2014 Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk
- Masco Corporation Foundation for a donation to support the Hope Wayne Clinic 

Special Thanks To:

Terry Spencer and **Dave Harrison**, both of whom work for RepairClinic.com and are members of Hope’s building committee. Terry maintains and repairs Hope’s washers, dryers, and HVAC equipment, and Dave handles plumbing work in the building and recently installed new signs in one of our parking lots.

Greg Urda for all his hard work maintaining and repairing the Hope Center building, including painting, tree trimming, replacing ceiling tiles, fence repair, and plumbing work.

Kristine Ryan and her co-workers at St. Joseph Mercy Health System for their donation of backpacks and

Thelma Young and friends for their donation of school supplies.

Wish List

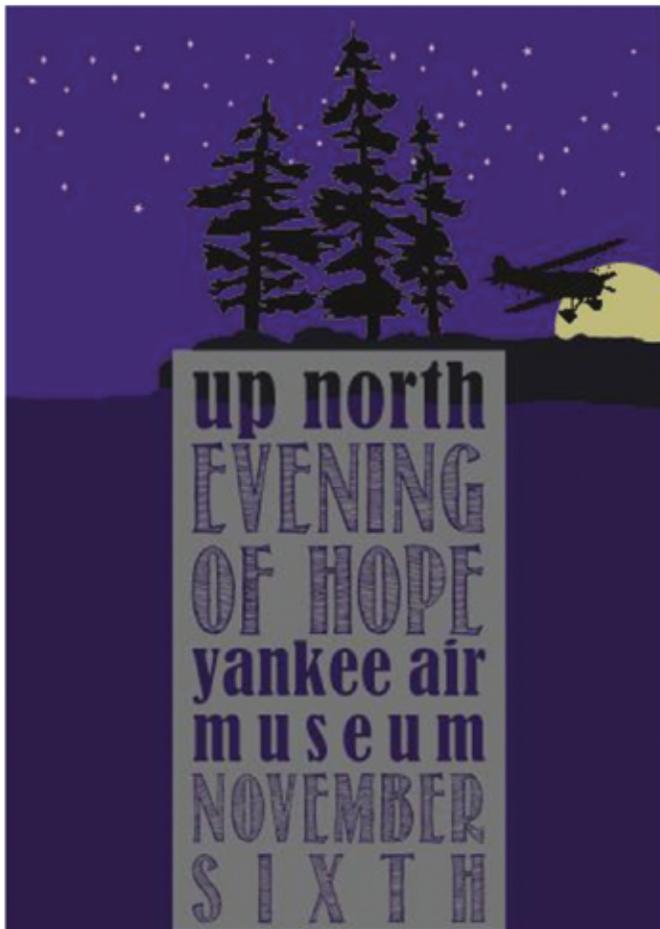
- Right-handed wrist braces
- Right-handed forearm braces
- EpiPen auto-injectors
- Exam room gloves
- True Result glucose testing meters (available on Amazon). *Financial donations designated for these and any of the above items always welcome.*
- Professional medical-chart storage cabinets are needed for Hope Dental Clinic. *Gently used is fine, no taller than 6 feet please.*



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Don't Miss Out!

The **2015 Evening of Hope** will be held on **Friday, November 6th** at the historic Yankee Air Museum. This annual gala fundraising event features live music, a strolling dinner, and silent and live auctions.



Register online and preview the exciting auction items at thehopeclinic.org. For more information, please contact Ann Marie Peterson at 734-961-0542 or apeterson@thehopeclinic.org.