



LEELANAU CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS

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September, 2023

Dear church family,

As I write this letter, we are getting our much-needed rain. Thunder rolling across the sky and our plants are singing their happiness! What a lovely day!

However, I can't help but think of our neighbors who are walking or riding their bikes to work and school, in the rain. How many roofs are leaking and causing much needed repair through out the house. How many tents are flooded?

We are seeing pre-pandemic numbers returning to our food pantry and baby pantry. In fact, the food pantry has had to DOUBLE their budget for 2023. Thankfully, with the continued support of our community we were able to do just that. Double the budget. We are able to still distribute great protein, dairy, vegetables and fruit along with nonperishables each week.

Blessing in a Backpack starts up again on September 12. The team is anxious to get bags of food to our school children and to make sure the middle and high school pantries have snacks and hygiene products available. We are also working with the schools to help kids who attend sporting activities to be able to access the concession stand and team dinners.

The Leelanau County Veterans Affairs representative will be available at LCN on the 1st Monday of the month. This will assure that our neighbors visiting LCN who are veterans will be able to access their services. We also continue to have representatives from DHHS onsite each Monday. Our neighbors are very appreciative of having services easily reached.

The much-anticipated Vineyard View townhouses plan to be finished in December! Many families have applied to rent these and we look forward to 8 families moving into them! Imagine the excitement! We are so thankful that these will be ready but we must remember the need is so great for affordable

Food Pantry • Neighborhood Assistance Ministry (Financial Assistance)
Blessings in a Backpack • Baby Pantry • Samaritans' Closet (Resale Store)

housing, both rental and ownership. If you have any land that you would like to donate or sell at a reasonable price, please let us know!

We are starting to make plans for the Holiday Program which will take place on December 12th. Volunteers will be needed to help set the program up on Sunday and Monday, December 10 and 11 and distribute items on December 12th.

Please let me know if you are interested in spending a few hours organizing the thousands of toys and donations we receive! We also are looking for donation of new and unused toys, clothes, make-up, personal care products, tools, gift cards, gas cards, etc. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to help.

Through a very generous donation, we were able to obtain generators for each of our buildings! In case of a long-term outage, we will be able to offer our main building as a community gathering place where people can be warm, access the internet and eat. We are very thankful to be able to have the service available to our community.

If you haven't toured our facilities, please contact me and we will set a plan to make that happen. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thankfully yours,

Mary Stanton
Executive Director.