

UUCGT Community Needs April 2016

Your Community Needs Committee recently allocated \$3150 to several local charities thanks to your generosity at Sunday Services offerings.

In an effort to learn more about local agencies we fund, we invited Emma Moyer, Director of Northwest Michigan Supportive Housing, to present about her agency. They are part of a continuum of care with other agencies that collaborate to address homelessness in our area. NMSH serves those who are both homeless and have a diagnosed mental illness. Currently 61 clients are housed in scattered housing sites – NMSH owns a home, a 4-plex, a condo, and an 11-unit apartment building, and they also work with landlords to lease housing for clients. They have a 92% success rate, using retention as the measure of success. NMSH also provides supportive services including counseling, life skills, budgeting, etc. and works closely with CMH. We gave NMSH \$1000.

Blessings in a Backpack was given \$500. This program is administered by Father Fred and provides backpacks with food to food-insecure families identified by TCAPS. Backpacks are sent home on Fridays ensuring that these families have food over the weekend.

STEP, Students in Transition Empowerment Program, a TCAPS program for homeless youth, was given \$500.

Safe Harbor was given \$250 to fund UU provided meals during March.

We gave \$500 to the Grace Episcopal Food Pantry in memory of Tom Kelly, a Grace Episcopal member and Inland Seas founder.

The Traverse Health Clinic received \$200.

The Youth Health and Wellness Clinic, a GT County Health Department program, received \$200 in honor of Anne Hughes, beloved UU member and employee of the clinic.

As always, we welcome your donation requests and feedback.

Respectfully,
Liz Bruning
Chair