A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Crossroads,

For the last 28 years, more than 17 as executive director, I have been humbled to be able to love and serve those who so desperately seek our help. I have been buoyed by your unwavering support. On July 1st of this year, I will retire from my position as executive director.

I would like to say how deeply grateful I am to each and every one of you for believing in the work of Crossroads.

To the donor who puts a single dollar bill in an envelope and mails it to us every month, thank you. To those of you who generously sustain us with your regular gifts, thank you. To those who give what they can, when they can, thank you. To the 114 volunteers in our social service offices, please know how much your time is valued not only by our board and staff but by every person who walks in our door. To our soup kitchen and summer lunch sponsors, please know that we appreciate every ounce of your energy and love that goes into serving a nutritious meal to those who might otherwise go hungry. And to the corporations and foundations who believe in not only giving a hand up to people with little opportunity, but in relieving their suffering, thank you. For all of you who know that supporting the parents in our parenting program leads to a better life for their children, thank you. And to the churches who so faithfully support our work, in so many ways, thank you. For the wonderful souls who drop off donations of clothes, food, hygiene items and diapers, thank you. To our many partners in this work, including Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest and countless agencies working to improve our clients’ lives, thank you. And, to the staff, thank you for your kind spirit and dedication to the people we serve. Your love is inspiring every single day.

To all of you who are part of believing in, praying for, and supporting the work of Crossroads, please know we couldn’t do it without YOU.

Crossroads’ board of trustees (another amazing group of volunteers) is working to fill my position. I have every faith that they will find just the right person, and that Crossroads will continue to serve our brothers and sisters with the love, respect and dignity that has been our guide since Crossroads began nearly 48 years ago.

Sincerely,

Mary McLaren Honsel

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

~ Albert Schweitzer

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2018 Heart of Crossroads Gala & Silent Auction
Detroit Athletic Club Stadium Pavilion

Honorary Chairs Yolanda & Charles Turner, Scott Russell

Lee Croskey, Delphine Johnson, Elena Russell and Deborah D’Arcy

Cathy Anthony, Lisa Fitzpatrick-Keeler and Executive Director Mary Honsel

Greg Stemas, Tammy Bourque, Nancy Praeger and Nancy Copeland

Joan Wadsworth, Dale Warnke and Bob Anthony

Associate Director Nicole Watters-Harris, Racquel Edwards, Administrative Assistant Aja Gregorowicz and Development Director Ashleigh Mitchell

Helene Olis, Matthew Haase, Andrea Haase, Cristy Vermiglio and Ron Richey

Liz Anthony, Pete Anthony, Alice Bayer and Chris Bayer

Carly and Sean Cassleman

2018 Founder’s Club Breakfast
Keynote speaker: Chuck Gaidica, WDIV-TV

Nancy Renick & John Osler

Rebecca Burns, Thelma Maynard, Hank Maynard, Dorothy Cusmano & Sam Cusmano

The Rev. Chris Yaw blessing the event

Guest Speaker Chuck Gaidica
In addition to individual volunteers, groups of volunteers get together to complete projects around the building and organize food drives to make sure our shelves are never bare. In 2018 Crossroads had 114 volunteers who dedicated nearly 10,000 volunteer hours to provide a listening ear to the people we serve. Our Sunday soup kitchen had 2,089 volunteers dedicate their time to serve a meal to our clients and their families.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, from college students beginning their careers to those who have retired and want to serve those in need. Nonetheless the one thing they have in common is their love for the poor and their commitment to our mission to serve and offer a hand up and a gift of hope to our brothers and sisters.

Crossroads Employment Office
There is never a dull moment in our employment office. It is joyous place of hope and uplifting support. So many of our clients see employment as a way to a better life not only for themselves but for their families. Unfortunately they do not have the resources to find or gain jobs. In our employment office clients are able to utilize access to internet ready computers, fax and copy services, interview clothing, and transportation to job interviews or newly secured employment. In addition, our staff and volunteers offer other support such as resume preparation or help completing online resumes. This year we revamped our job club to allow for a space and opportunity to perform mock interviews, learn how to dress for success, prepare our clients with the right tools to be successful on their first 90 days of employment. Participants even had an awards ceremony at the end celebrating their unique contributions to the program.

In total we had 2,166 visits to our employment office and placed 68 individuals into jobs, along with additional referrals to educational programs or skilled trades programs to enhance their opportunities to become an asset to the workforce.

Summer Lunch Program
2018 marked our 8th year hosting our summer lunch program. It’s amazing to see how much our kids have grown over the years. Many of our kids who started coming when we first began hosting are now graduating from high school and applying to colleges or skilled trades programs. Participants even had an awards ceremony at the end celebrating their unique contributions to the program.

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Identification
Many of our clients have difficulty navigating the system, so with the help of our volunteer counselors they are able to regain their identities and move forward toward a more stable life.

Imagine coming home from prison after many years or being a homeless youth with no idea or resources to gain ID. In 2018 Crossroads spent $43,033 on identification documents and countless numbers of volunteer hours of advocacy to support our clients in obtaining these necessary documents. This has enabled so many of our clients to find employment, apply for benefits, and qualify for low income housing.

A young man came to us seeking help with identification after spending 15 years in prison. He was frustrated and feeling defeated. All of his efforts to gather his documents had come up to dead ends. After working with one of our volunteers we were able to help him work out a plan to gather school records and other supporting documents. In just one day he had gathered everything he needed to obtain his birth certificate and state ID. He was so excited because now he can enter a culinary arts program. He promised when he completed the program he was going to prepare a special meal for the staff. After many thanks for all our help he said that we were the first people to make him feel like a human being since he had been home.

General Aid
Our mission has always been to give a hand up to the people we serve. That hand up may look very different for each one of our clients’ very unique circumstances. Our clients face many barriers and find themselves in crisis that they were often not prepared for. Many of our clients find themselves needing work boots or a uniform in order to secure employment or needing a repair on their houses to provide a safe home for their children. So often a small crisis can lead to a downward spiral. A needed car repair can lead to loss of work hours and the ability to pay rent or utilities. Being able to assist clients with the emergency assistance they need is that exact hand up necessary in order to become self-sufficient.

In 2018, Crossroads spent $13,244 to help our clients with unforeseen expenses that they needed to help them move forward toward a more stable life.

Volunteers
During the month of April we celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Week. During this time we were reminded that our volunteers are truly the heart of Crossroads. Our volunteers wear many hats, from working in our clothing room or stocking shelves in our food pantry, to assisting with needed building repairs. Our volunteers work so hard to make sure our clients feel like they are family.

In addition to individual volunteers, groups of volunteers get together to complete projects around the building and organize food drives to make sure our shelves are never bare.
In 2018, Crossroads distributed 240,111 pounds of food to people in our community. This was made possible through the generosity of local schools, churches and civic groups coming together and organizing food drives to keep food on our pantry shelves. We are also grateful for our partnerships with Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest who provide us with rescued produce, meats and baked goods to share with our families.

In 2018 48% of households in Detroit were considered food insecure, meaning they don’t have reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Even families that receive SNAP benefits struggle to keep food on their tables. Our pantry has not only helped to supplement when families fall short but to educate our clients about food preparation and healthy meal options.

A group of volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of Northville offered cooking demonstrations that focused on healthy “one-pot” meals or crockpot dinners and distributed cooking utensils and brand new crockpots to families.

Parenting Support Program
When a child’s challenges first emerge, whether it’s at birth, as a toddler, or during the school years-parents often find themselves feeling not only confused but alone. Studies have shown that parents who participate in support programs have found the groups very helpful because they have somewhere to vent frustrations and celebrate accomplishments, connect with resources, and have open and informed discussions.

For the third year our parenting program has supported moms, dads, and caregivers with a safe space to share stories about the challenges and barriers of being a parent. We are not only offering educational resources with topics such as potty training and the benefits of reading to your child, but our program has also given parents the chance to learn from one another.

With the support of many generous donors we were able to support parents with material aid as well with necessities such as like baby diapers, formula, car seats and pack and plays.

Staff and volunteers are also working directly with the children of our parents by offering a place to learn through play with educational toys and activities that encourage healthy development.

Many of the participants who graduated from our program have continued to participate and mentor new parents.

Soup Kitchen
There is a new face of hunger today. Many of the people who come to our soup kitchen are people who never thought they would need help. They are unemployed or underemployed struggling to get by day to day.

In 2018, Crossroads served 28,964 meals to those in need. With the support of local churches, businesses, and families, Crossroads offers the space for volunteers to prepare and serve a warm and hearty meal to those who may have otherwise gone without. From a hearty bowl of soup and sandwiches to sloppy joes and baked beans, our groups came together to provide not just a meal but food for the soul. Each and every Sunday our doors are open to welcome our clients into a warm environment for our clients to share a meal with friends and families.

Food
In 2018, Crossroads distributed 240,111 pounds of food to

gracious support of Christ Church Grosse Pointe children were provided with weekly breakfast bags to take home. These breakfast bags were distributed on Monday with enough cereal, juice, milk, and healthy snacks to last an entire week so that no child would have to be hungry first thing in the morning.

Social Service Interviews
With the hard work and dedication of our volunteer counselors we conducted 13,341 interviews in 2018. We like to think that the interview is at the center of how we truly help our clients. Our clients have the opportunity to share their stories without judgment. This kitchen table conversation has helped guide clients out of crisis, often encouraging them to make changes in their lives as they work toward becoming more self-sufficient. Our counselors have helped our clients obtain identification, enter substance abuse programs, reunite with estranged family members and realize untapped potential to become the very best they can be.

Transportation
Just like us, our clients have many places that they need to get. From making it to necessary doctor appointments or getting back and forth from a newly secured job, many of our clients don’t have the resources to afford bus fare. Or imagine getting stranded here in the city and having no way of getting back home to your family. The help of a Greyhound ticket is just what someone would need to assure they travel safely and reunite with their families.

In 2018, we spent $41,675 on local transportation and $1,500 on long distance travel.

Prescriptions
In 2018, we spent $4,481 on prescription medication or co-pays for our clients. With Medicaid expansion many of our clients have now secured medical insurance but some still fall through the holes of the safety net and find themselves unable to pay for life saving medicines like insulin, blood pressure pills or antibiotics.
2018 Soup Kitchen Sponsors

Amerisure
Bittinger Family & Friends
C & C Manufacturing
Charles & Yolanda Turner Family & Friends
Christ Church Cranbrook
Christ Church Grosse Pointe
Church of Holy Cross- Novi
Comerica Bank- Detroit
Concentra
Conway MacKenzie
First Presbyterian Church- Plymouth
First Presbyterian Church- Northville
Friends of Crossroads
Friends of St. Andrew- Clawson
Gamble- Lackey- Crew
Gesu Church
Greenfield Presbyterian Church- Berkley
Grey Ghost Detroit
Grosse Pointe Memorial Church & Felician Sisters- Grosse Pointe Farms
Henry Ford- ENT
Lizzy’s 16th Birthday Volunteers
Motor City Casino- Detroit
MST Steel
Muslim Community Mosque- Farmington Hills
North Congregational Church- Farmington Hills
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs- Beverly Hills
Our Lady of Refuge- Orchard Lake
Pete & Liz Anthony Family & Friends
SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church- Detroit
St. George- Milford
St. Joan of Arc- St. Clair Shores
St. John Plymouth/ St. David Southfield
St. Lucy- St. Clair Shores
St. Mary in the Hills- Lake Orion
St. Mary Student Parish- Ann Arbor
St. Michael Episcopal- Grosse Pointe Woods
St. Owen Catholic Church- Bloomfield Hills
St. Patrick Episcopal- Madison Heights
St. Paul Presbyterian- Livonia
St. Thomas More- Troy
Stapleton Family
Tom Close Family & Friends
Transfiguration Church- Southfield
Trinity Health- Livonia
University of Michigan Nurses
Weaver Media
Ziraldo Family Celebration

2018 Summer Lunch Program Sponsors

Anne Vetter and Friends
Boyne Community Youth Ministry
Carolyn Gamble and Family
Dell-EMC Corporation
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan
FORD
Gentherm
Grosse Pointe Rotary
Hartford Memorial Church Detroit
Huron Capital
Lions Club
Mark Lacombe and Friends
Mark Richter and Family
Mary Beth Boeson
Mary Honsel
Nicole Watters-Harris
Northville Rotary
Patrick, Hailey and Zack Kirkwood
Premier Business Solutions
Ralph and Karen Holman
Rehmann
Seaholm
Shelly Lanesky and Family
Shinola
St. Lucy’s Catholic Church
St. Paul’s Presbyterian
Tom Close and Friends
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
Victory Baptist Church Detroit

2018 Food Contributors

All Saints
Analía Robertson
Anonymous
Cathedral Church of St. Paul - Detroit
Christ Church Grosse Pointe
Christ Episcopal Church - Cranbrook
Christ Episcopal Church - Detroit
David Hall
Davie Hooper
DTE
Farban Group
First Presbyterian Northville
Forgotten Harvest
Friends of Mary Garlough
Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
Grosse Pointe Lutheran
Grosse Pointe Pre Kindergarten
Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church
Mike Ant
Northville Civic Concern
Our Lady of Fatima - Oak Park
Our Lady of Refuge
Panera Bread
Rashad Elementary
Rev. Cooper
Rosemarie Flaherty
S & F Food
Sacred Heart Seminary
St. Ambrose Catholic Church- Grosse Pointe Farms
St. John Episcopal Church- Detroit
St. Lucy Catholic Church- St. Clair Shores
St. Mary- Northville
St. Matthew Church - Grosse Pointe
St. Michael's Episcopal Church - GPW
St. Owen Catholic Church- Bloomfield Hills
St. Paul Cathedral
Talesha Brown
University of Michigan Nurses
University Liggett Middle School
Westwood Church
Save the Date
FOUNDER’S CLUB BREAKFAST

Wednesday, May 15, 2019  |  8:30 - 10:30am
Crossroads of Michigan Soup Kitchen
Complimentary Valet Parking

Guest Speaker
Stephen Polk

Stephen Polk is CEO of Highgate, LLC, a private investment company in Birmingham, Michigan.
Throughout his career, Stephen has been highly successful in helping businesses achieve maximum results. After graduating from Denison University in 1978 with a BS Biology degree, Stephen worked as a research and teaching assistant at Northern Michigan University before taking a job with R.L. Polk & Co. in 1981.
Stephen held various positions throughout the Polk organization until he was elected president in 1990. He added the title of Chief Operating Officer two years later, and, in 1994, was named Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. He served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of R.L. Polk & Co., when the business was sold to IHS in July 2013.
Keeping active in local business and civic concerns, Stephen serves as past-Chairman of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Cranbrook Educational Community, Vice President / Director for the Detroit Zoological Society, and is on the boards of the Automotive Hall of Fame, College for Creative Studies, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and The Nature Conservancy (Michigan). He also serves on the board of directors of Fifth Third Bank of Southeast Michigan, ReviverAuto, and Wiland Inc.

Grey Ghost Detroit
‘Seafood Boil’
Fundraiser

Crossroads staff enjoying the fundraiser

Kara Kushiner, Glenn Kushiner, Ted Hagan, Fr. Bill Danaher and Claire Danaher

David and John Vermiglio
Lauren Cody, Ifeoma Echeazu and Stephanie Cody
Karen Brown and The Rev. Teresa Wakeen

Executive Director Mary Honsel, John Honsel and Parenting Support Supervisor Tammy Shannon
If you have plastic grocery bags that you no longer need, donate them to Crossroads!