



*West Midland Family Center...
Always Making The Difference.*

Community Always Gives Generously Continued from page 1

Terri shared that a former COP student, Allyson Wing was going to college and doing what she could to help her parents and siblings but they were struggling, continued Young, "Allyson's family has eight children and one grandchild all living in the same home. The children ranged in age from 16 years to two years old and included a set of five year old quintuplets."

Within an hour Young placed a phone call to the Wing family asking how WMFC could help. "In talking with the mother, Malessa Wing, it became very clear to me that her family is a priority to her and they needed our help," explained Young. "When a mother says that 'I know I shouldn't feel my children need a Christmas... as long as their needs are met I should be happy... but they never get more than their needs and sometimes not even those are met,' well, concluded Young, "you get a sense of how truly important family is to her and ideas start forming as to how you might be able to help."

Earlier that month Young had received a phone call from *The Contemporary Review Club*, a women's organization in Midland. The organization was inter-



*Dow COP Director, Terri Malek-Madoni
and Renee Young,
Thriving Family Services Director*

"My children had the BEST Christmas ever!" exclaimed Wing "We were so overwhelmed with the group's kindness that I cried. My children were treated to toys they only dreamed about. The clothes that they received fit their personalities to a 'T'," explained Wing,

ested in "adopting" a family for Christmas. Young thought the group would be a perfect fit to help the Wing family so she made a phone call to the women's organization. The women's organization was more than happy to "adopt" the Wing family for Christmas and ended up giving them a Christmas that they will never forget.

"They didn't get school clothes this year so that made the new clothes and socks that they were given even more special!" Wing exclaimed.

"I am always amazed at the continued generosity of those in our community who give to WMFC regardless of what the economy is doing," explained Young, "To date, WMFC has never had to say "no" to a deserving family because of a lack of funds. Somehow it always seems to work out that the money donated during the year, coupled with the help that we get from partner organizations, comes close to meeting the need throughout the year," continued Young, "and this past year was no exception."

Consistently strong giving from the many dedicated donors in Midland County is the thread that holds our community together. Year after year our donors show a high level of loyalty and commitment to WMFC, stretching their own resources and giving to the Center so that we may fill the need for one more family in need regardless of the time of year.

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Enhancing the Quality of Life for Area Residents of all ages

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Community Always Gives Generously



Malessa Wing, quintuplets Cassidy, Madison, Jason, Matthew and Lilly, and Charlie Wing

"Whenever the phone rings in Thriving Family Services Director Renee Young's office, it is typically a call for help, or it's a call from someone who wants to help. Regardless of the time of year, whenever the phone rings, WMFC's ability to help is based solely on the kindness of others and the donations that the Center receives throughout the year. Young

has many stories that she could share of people helping people in 2011 but one story in particular really stood out to Young this past year. "The family didn't come to us asking for help, but rather help came to them as the result of a conversation between a Dow College Opportunity Program (COP) student and the COP Director," explained Young. "Terri Malek - Madani, the Dow COP Director, and I were having a conversation at work about families, their needs and how we could help when she relayed to me some of the struggles that one family in particular was having," continued Young.

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Year End Donations Up Significantly



*Greg Dorrien,
Executive Director*

I reflect on 2011 with much gratitude, thanks to a community that provided us with unyielding support. Whether that assistance came to us as a financial contribution in response to our most recent request, through a volunteer contribution or that of goods or services community dedication to the West Midland Family Center mission provides the seed from which our services develop. Your contribution is highly valued and greatly appreciated. This past holiday season, the citizens of Midland County opened their hearts to West Midland Family Center. Their generosity will

help us to continue positively impacting the lives of children, families and the senior citizens of our community. If you received our recent request with the mailbox graphic below, there was a 26.7% chance that you returned it with a check or credit card donation! That's a long way from the magical 3% rate of return most direct mail campaigns can hope to attain. From those requests, 301 individuals or families



See "Year End Donations Up"...Page 2



*Dow Chemical Company volunteers
cleared property for a new pavilion*

Volunteer Donate 11,774 Hours

Volunteers that choose to share their treasures, talents and time volunteering at West Midland Family Center (WMFC) can expect a high quality volunteer experience from the moment that they walk through the front door. Gail Crosby, WMFC Connect and Serve Coordinator, makes it her mission to assure that volunteers at WMFC feel valued and appreciated.

"Volunteers are the backbone of our organization," explained Crosby, "they join with our 'family' to make WMFC the type of organization that we are. Without them it would be difficult to do what we do. It's all of us together... community, staff, board members and volunteers... that's what makes WMFC unique." Volunteer opportunities at WMFC are varied and diverse and volunteers are always needed in all program areas.

Crosby gets phone calls every week from people who want to volunteer at the West Midland Family Center. The talent pool never ceases to amaze her. "The broad variety of skills, talents,

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Donations Help Over 1,000 People

*647 individuals were provided a gift through the United Way of Midland County Sharing Tree Program at WMFC... of those, 607 were filled by the community and 40 were unfilled as of December 23, 2011 so WMFC filled the last 40 individual gifts.



A snapshot of a community's generosity

*79 individuals or 18 families were adopted by area families, service clubs, churches, and businesses.

*74 individuals or 23 families were provided Christmas gifts in 2011 by Dow College Opportunity Program (COP) students shopping for them with donations given to the Center for holiday help.

Volunteers Donate 11,774 Hours ...Continued from page 1

energy, passion and time that is out there is mindboggling," commented Crosby.

In 2011, 834 volunteers contributed 11,774 hours to help further the mission of the West Midland Family Center.

These included volunteers in everything from the WMF Clothing Room to those who helped in the maintenance department to those who volunteered in the parent education and children's programs. Volunteers also combined their talents and energy last year to complete three special building projects; new picnic tables and benches, new playground equipment and a new pavilion.



Gail Crosby, Connect and Serve Coordinator

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*37 individuals or 11 families were provided with gifts for the 2011 holidays by personally picking out gifts at the WMFC Holiday Store. The families that shopped at the store were typically families who missed out on holiday programs or had extenuating circumstances.

*13 families were assisted with other needs instead of gifts (examples: rent, mortgage payments, water bills, electric, and vehicle assistance)

*120 families were provided a holiday food basket – enough food for a family of 5 for a week.

*Requests were up 40% - Requests for basic needs such as food, gas cards, and personal items for Christmas were up roughly 40% over last year.

*Donor Groups - Many different types of donor groups donated to a food drive. In addition, many churches and groups host their own donation drives and then turn around and donate what they have received to West Midland Family Center.

Everyone has something to give and everyone who gives is valuable. "Everyone, from children to senior citizens, has something that they can give," explained Crosby.

"Some volunteers bring a skill that no one else possesses, others bring an energy that tends to recharge other people's batteries, still others bring a sense of warmth and caring that provides comfort and support to all they come in contact with," continued Crosby, "Time, talent and treasure... people are willing to give all three and that's what makes WMFC work. It's kind of like a tapestry," concluded Crosby, "a tapestry that's made up of so many colors and textures yet when weaved together becomes a beautiful piece of art."

Year End Donations Up

...Continued from page 1

found themselves financially situated to provide a year-end donation. To their credit and our heart-felt appreciation these 301 chose WMFC as beneficiary of their generosity. The AVERAGE gift was \$249 (way up from last year's \$191 per gift). The total was an outstanding \$74,867 (up 20.6% from last year's \$62,078). A complete listing of the 2011 donors is provided herein, 53 donors remain anonymous at their request.

Once again, the people of Midland County have proven the importance of a dedicated citizenry. We all need to be persistent in looking out for one another. In this way, our community and our people will continue to reap the benefits.



Blessed Sacrament volunteers framed in the new pavilion.



Habitat For Humanity volunteers put the final touches on the new pavilion.



The beautiful new pavilion that so many worked so hard to finish.

Each year, West Midland receives benefactor contributions given in honor of others or as homage to loved ones who have passed. This past year, we received the following gifts:

..... names of all benefactors are listed in black print

In Honor Of

Given by an anonymous donor in Honor of:
John Reder

Given by Bill and Sally Bowen in Honor of:
Wallace Mayton III

Given by Stuart & Mary Choate in Honor of:
Bob Dostal

Given by Ed & Molly Warren-Haycock in Honor of:
Greg Dorrien

Given by Norma Julian in Honor of:
Hanna's birthday

Given by Rev. Charles and Della Keyworth in Honor of:
Delaney and Gretta Toner

Given by George & Jan Klein in Honor of:
Jessica Mox

Given by Bruce & Tammy Kohnert in Honor of:
Marilyn Kohnert

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Bruce & Tammy Kohnert

Given by Wallace & Lindsay Mayton III in Honor of:
Bill and Sally Bowen

Given by Elizabeth Miller in Honor of:
Jan Hewlett

Given by John Reder in Honor of:
**Jeffrey & Torrey Derocher
Bart & Michelle Dexter
Patricia Fritz
David & Louise Ganus
Michael & Kerry Goodall**

**H. Grant Helms
Brad & Shelly Hobbs
Delbert & Kay Joslin
Terry & Beth Jungel
Lewis & Colleen Landon
James & Kathy McCandless
Jessee & Jennifer Milks
Kyran Miller & Staff
William & Marcia Reder**

**Joanne Stange
David Stephens
Scott Stephenson
Michael & Sherrie Sutherland
Vince & Mary Szilagyi
Rodney & Sandy Wagoner
David & Kathleen Warren
Leonard Wilkuski**

Given by SPACE, Inc in Honor of:
Ron Lowe

Given by Eugene & Millie Yehle in Honor of:
Greg Dorrien

In Memory of Phyllis Breedlove

Brandi Allensworth
Richard & Mair Alsgaard
Larry Blubaugh
Gary & Kathy Breedlove-Francis
Norma Brien
Charles & Pamela Bunting
Stuart & Shirlee Campbell
Larry & Carol Cotter
Nancy Cotter
Ron Cotter
Tom & Linda Cotter
Diane DeMott
Greg & Robyn Dorrien
Bob & MaryAnn Dostal
Keith Francis
Robert & Suzanne Francis
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James & Norma Gandy
Helen Garno
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Earl & Alma Hoon
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Doug & Dana Moore
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Charles & Ellen Peterson
Dean Plummer
James & Patricia Prewozniak
MaryKay & Armie Price
Roger & Sandra Price
Greg & Sally Schmidt
Cynthia Zacharias & Scott Richardson
Katherine Zacharias
Win Zacharias

In Memory of Orrin Barrett

Rick & Carol Bergstein
Wallace & Lindsay Mayton III
David & Donna Richards

In Memory of Delores Buller
Lowell & Catherine Lindy

In Memory of Irma Butenschoen
Carl Coons

In Memory of Margi Butenschoen
Carl Coons

In Memory of Padraic (Pat) Bywater
Mr. & Mrs. Dale A. Bywater

In Memory of Andrew Dorrien
Richard & Mair Alsgaard

In Memory of Tom Dostal
Etcyl & Ruth Blair
Jeffrey & Susan Meath

Memorial of Mom's of David Fry & Claudia Fry
Gerry & Sandra Fry

In Memory Of

In Memory of Paul Gerdes
Karen Glenn

In Memory of Dollie Goodwin
Ray & Norma Stevens

In Memory of Donna Hackett
Bernard & Joann Smith

In Memory of Georgia Ann Handt
Greg & Robyn Dorrien

In Memory of Kent Hinson
Greg & Robyn Dorrien

In Memory of Robert M. Keil
Betty Jane Keil

In Memory of Howard G. Klem
Charles V. Blanchard

In Memory of Vera Ellen LaFore
Lowell & Catherine Lindy

In Memory of John Manor
John & Donna Meyer

In Memory of Bill Post
Earl & Alma Hoon

In Memory of Ray Rios
Ray Rios Spring Memorial Riders

In Memory of Ron Rabbage
Helen Rabbage

In Memory of Jacques Sabrie
John Reder

In Memory of Hershel (Jerry) Schaar
Karen Schaar

In Memory of Joe Seeburger
Greg & Eric Dorrien

In Memory of J.R. (Dick) Sinclair
Thomas & Roberta Sinclair

In Memory of Glen O. Smith
Ann T. Smith

In Memory of Forrest Otto Stark
Greg & Robyn Dorrien

In Memory of Bill Summers
Rose Bush

In Memory of E.T. Theisen
Paul & Kristine Theisen

In Memory of Roland Weaver
James Bradley

In Memory of Elizabeth Wilson
Lowell & Catherine Lindy

In Memory of Jack Wilson
Gerald & Sally Wasserman

In Memory of an Anonymous Benefactor

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Bailey Insurance
Irene Beshgetoor
Judith Dean
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Raymond & Jacqueline Stubbs
Thayre & Katie Talcott
Ronald & Courtney Thompson
Jo Warner
Win Zacharias
Barbara Zimmerman



The following people have included WMFC in their estate plan (will, life insurance or living trust).

Anonymous
Jim Burlingame
Carl Coons
Greg & Robyn Dorrien
Eleanor L. Barrett*
Kenneth E. Livernois*

* Deceased