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Parent Finds Safe and Nurturing Childcare

"As a parent, I wanted to find a child care program that would provide the



Sam Rowell

very best care for my son...a place that was safe, nurturing and caring, where my son, Bentley felt secure, loved and accepted,a warm and friendly place. In the perfect world that would have been in my own home and my son would have been in my own arms, but when my home and my arms were not an option, I went looking for the best child care program that I could find," explained **Sam Rowell, a WMFC Childcare Parent**, "That's where WMFC came in."

"WMFC was not only the best quality childcare program, but it was the most affordable childcare in the area," explained Rowell. "That is because WMFC accepts payments from DHS which allows lower income families to get quality care for their children at a four star center."

"In considering a childcare, I wanted a teacher I could trust with Bentley, and one with whom I could communicate well. I was looking for a clean classroom and lots of age appropriate activities to keep his active mind excelling," stated Rowell. "Knowing that Bentley gets one on one attention is important to

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Is Smith Smitten?

Senior Services of Midland County operates the **Greendale Senior Center** which **Barb Smith** has been coming to for the last ten years.

"I just love the people and the setting. Everyone is so welcoming at the Center," Barb stated, "The food is great too! I especially enjoy the salad bar that was added this past year. It makes the dining experience here much more like that of a restaurant. It allows for additional choices which is especially nice for those who have food sensitivities."

Senior Services strives to help older adults "Eat Healthy and Move MORE!" Over the years, Senior Services has made many changes to the meals that

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Our Favorite Soules!

Earl and Marilyn Soules may have grown up in the **Detroit** area, but it took until they both moved to **Midland** before they found each other. Not too surprising since their interests go off in opposite directions. Marilyn's towards photography, visual arts, volunteering as a docent at a historical home and yoga. Earl's towards mountain biking,

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Earl and Marilyn Soules



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New Volunteer Coordinator is Eager to Get Her Hands Dirty

Helen Roth, a familiar face to WMFC visitors behind our Welcome Center desk has also assumed the **Connect and Serve Volunteer Coordinator** role.

"I knew that I wanted this job," explained Roth. "I love working



*Helen Roth,
Connect and Serve
Coordinator*

with people and I love volunteering. It seemed a natural fit for me." Her experience, passion for volunteering and her connections within

the community, did indeed make her a perfect fit for the role.

"WMFC is expanding. New and exciting things are coming!" Roth exclaimed. "Much of our success can be attributed to the support of all our amazing volunteers and I am honored to have this opportunity to work side by side with them in the months and years ahead."

Helen's first opportunity in collaborating a volunteer activity came as part of **Chemical Cares Day**. Helen and **Chemical Bank** representative, **Rachel Tinson** worked together to organize a group of six volunteers who arrived at WMFC ready to get their hands dirty. The group started their day by spreading 50 cubic yards of mulch (a full semi-truck load) over two playgrounds. Later in the day they helped take down and put away the protective screens covering the outdoor swimming pool fences. They rounded out their day by adding to, and leveling out, the wood chips on the WMFC nature trails.

"**Chemical Bank Employees**, have volunteered at WMFC on **Columbus Day** for the past eight years," explained Roth. "They are a wonderful



Northwood Football Players work with Helen Roth in raking leaves and picking up debris from the WMFC playgrounds.

group of hard working volunteers who we have come to depend on. They enjoy getting out of the office and working outside on our outdoor projects. They love volunteering at WMFC and we love having them here," concluded Roth.

In fact, WMFC loves working with volunteers from all walks of life. Recently, about 50 Northwood University students provided what is normally a week's worth of fall cleanup and got it done in less than a day. Over the past few months, WMFC also had a group of 23 volunteers give 1,305 hours of service in building the new WMFC Bus Maintenance Facility.

We are always in need of groups or individuals who want to dig in and offer much needed "sweat-equity" on projects such as organizing our

community clothing closet or cerebral tasks such as cleaning out and organizing files.

If you know of a group or individual, who has a bit of time to help out, we would love to hear from them. Please contact Helen Roth at 989-832-3256 or email Helen at rothh@wmfc.org. She will welcome you with open arms and work with you to coordinate the perfect volunteer experience.



Brandon Bell and Rachel Tinson help maintenance member Jack Wiggins (seated on lawn tractor) improve the woodchip trail system.



Chemical Bank employees (left to right) Kim Langenderfer, Stephanie Keefer, Diane Schweigert, (WMFC employees Jack Wiggins & Helen Roth) Rachel Tinson, Brandon Bell and Dawn Marquiss selected WMFC as their organization of choice, for their annual Chemical Cares Day.

Is Smith Smitten? ...continued from page 1

are offered at the dining centers and the **Meals on Wheels Program**. This has resulted in healthier menus that are lower in sodium and fat with an increase in fiber and nutrient quality, all without compromising taste.

Besides dining, Barb also likes to participate in the various activities offered at Greendale Center. "I like to play cards and Bingo and do the different arts and crafts projects. I really enjoy the special events that take place here like the car show, the different musicians that play for us so that we can dance and all the wonderful holiday events."

Senior Services, along with the West Midland Family Center, provides Greendale Center participants with opportunities to take advantage of many offerings that serve to enrich the lives of older adults. Seniors can catch up on email and



Barb Smith is 77 years young and still lives in the very same Greendale Township home where she was born.

connect with family and friends on **Facebook** in the **onsite computer lab**. Exercise opportunities include walking on the outside trails and in the gym, attending exercise class and use of the WMFC Fitness Room with its vast array of equipment.

"My favorite thing about the Greendale Center is its location at the West Midland Family Center. I love the cross generational activities that we participate in with the children in the building. All of us seniors just love it when the kids come in for a visit!"

Greendale Center is one of five activity and dining centers in **Midland County**. Every week the Center is filled with older adults participating in a variety of fun activities with good friends. The Greendale Center is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch reservations are needed by 9:00 a.m. by calling 989-832-8683.

The friendly Greendale Center Staff of **Director Kim Moldovan**, **Head Cook Erica Brief** and **Assistant Cook Melissa Grubaugh** plan activities and meals to positively impact the lives of older adults nutritionally, physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually. Come and visit the Greendale Center and experience it for yourself!



*Kimberly Moldovan,
Director, Greendale
Senior Center*

Our Favorite Soules!

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playing hockey, snowboarding and flying a single engine small plane. Their interests combine though when they want to help the community grow stronger. "We believe our time is more valuable to us than our money, so while we do make financial contributions to various groups; we get our most enjoyment out of volunteering" said Earl.

"As a former high school counselor and volunteer in the **College Access Network** based at **Midland Area Community Foundation**, I've been so pleased to get to know **Mike Sobolewski** of WMFC's **Dow College Opportunity Program**", said Marilyn. "He is able to really connect with these first-generation college students through the unique program design. He has the time to truly become their mentor and friend. It is no wonder this program has an 83% post-secondary graduation rate" concluded Marilyn.

"And I'm just as enthusiastic at the preschool level from what I've seen with my own eyes" said Earl. "As part of my volunteer commitment through the **Kiwanis Club of Midland**, I've been in the classroom many times over the last four years and the staff does a fantastic job of helping each of these children develop to their full potential. I think WMFC has its priorities exactly where they should be, and in the end, that's why we have been repeat donors over the last 10 years" concluded Earl.



Save the Date

Thursday February 8, 2018

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Building Expansion and Renovation Open House

"Tours, hors d'oeuvres & oh my words!"





The wonderful tiny world of insects comes alive under a magnifying glass held in the hand of a child.

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me. The childcare staff is very open and honest about the care that my son receives and about his daily schedule and needs.”

WMFC believes that close communication between parent and staff is vital. Parents at WMFC are encouraged to observe, discuss policies, make suggestions and volunteer in the classroom.

WMFC teachers foster learning and creativity in each child by offering age appropriate activities, materials and toys focused on the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of each child. Children are provided a healthy balance between indoor and outdoor play, active and quiet time, group and individual play. WMFC staff members understand that children learn as they play. Classrooms are set up so that children can initiate play on their own terms. Children are free to explore, learn, and grow.

“Knowing that the staff have the proper education and training to care for Bentley makes me more comfortable having him here,” stated Rowell.

WMFC is a licensed childcare program that uses a discipline model called **Conscious Discipline**. “The Conscious Discipline Model teaches our staff how to integrate social-emotional learning, discipline and self-regulation into their

classroom environments so that they spend less time policing children’s behavior and more time teaching the children vital life skills”, explained **WMFC Childcare Director Jillian Westphal**.

“WMFC Childcare isn’t just a childcare,” continued Rowell, “the staff members truly have each child’s best interest at heart and take pride in their roles as childcare providers. I love that the WMFC Childcare is part of a family center and that all the staff is friendly and welcoming to both children and parents,” concluded Rowell.



Dee helps Bentley imprint his footprint on a clay pumpkin as he makes a gift to send home to Rowell.