



1029 44th Street SW
Wyoming MI 49509

Return Service Request

STD MAIL
US Postage Paid
Permit 45
Grandville MI
49418



FAMILY NETWORK OF WYOMING

Family Network News

ISSUE FIVE | Summer 2018

LIVES CHANGED FOREVER BECAUSE YOU CARE.

2018 is almost half over. We are entering one of my favorite times of the year. Summer, a season for fun and adventure as the kids are out of school and families are headed out on their annual summer vacation. It is a time of reflection, as many good memories are made at the beach and cookouts and so much more.

For some this will not be the case. I am thinking about Maria, who many of you met at this year's Gala. She is a single grandmother who was living in Florida while her married daughter was living here in Grand Rapids. The daughter had two very cute boys under the age of 2, a grandparent's delight. Life was good until Maria got the dreaded call from the police here in Michigan that informed her that her daughter had been murdered by her husband. He is in jail awaiting trial. The boys are now without both parents.

Maria chose to drop everything in Florida to come and be with her grandsons here in Michigan. She would take over the role of mom and dad for these two youngsters. When she got the boys they only had the clothes on their backs and not much else. The dad would not give up his parental rights, and she has had to stay here in Michigan to fight for the boys. She now happily takes care of these young boys every day.

Family Network was able to step in to assist, along with local churches like Kentwood Community Church and others to help her with some of the basic needs such as food and so much more. **We were able to be part of the solution because of your love for the pantry and your generous support each month.** Maria has

told us numerous times that she would not know what to do without your help. God has been her strength each day as it is especially hard being a parent everyday when you are the age of a grandparent.

Maria is just one of many families that we have worked hard to help this year. Please be a part of the team that

cares about our less fortunate

friends and families. You can do this by being part of our golf fundraiser. **For those of you who do not play golf, you can become a Star supporter by donating consistently each month by mail or online.** We accept cash, checks and credit or debit cards. During the second half of 2018 we are looking to have our pantry friends use the auto donation program using their checking accounts. Please call Sandy at our office for more details (616-885-9919). For every \$1.00 we take in we can buy \$10 dollars' worth of food.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 13: FNTW'S 12TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING!

Join us at The Pines Golf Course, 5050 Byron Center Avenue. It's not too late to sign up—call us today.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, AUGUST 10-11: COW PIE BINGO!

This year will be in conjunction with the City of Grandville's Blueberry Festival in downtown Grandville. Drawing will be on Saturday at 8:00pm. You do not need to be present to win the Grand Prize; a \$500 gift certificate to Bob's Butcher Block.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY; AUGUST 23-24, ANNUAL GARAGE SALE!

Join us in the Family Network parking lot for fun and find a treasure and a bargain! All for a good cause.



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday:
10:00am-5:00pm

Pantry Hours

Monday: 2:30-5:00pm
Wednesday: 1:30-4:30pm
Friday: CLOSED



CONTACT US

1029 44th Street SW
Wyoming MI 49509
616.885.9919
fntw.org
info@fntw.org

facebook.com/familynow



WE PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED OF FOOD, DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPORT IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.



Thanks again for your friendship and support. Let's help local families make great summer memories too.

May you be safe and be blessed.
Dale Echavarria, Executive Director

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT BERT AND KATHLEEN

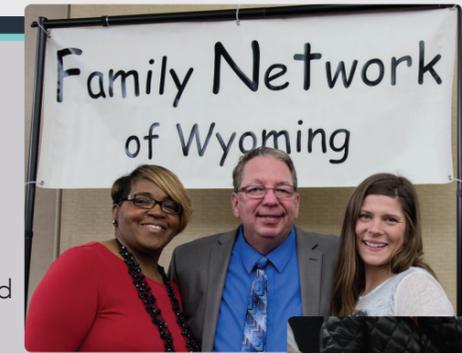


Bert and Kathleen are one of our many husband and wife volunteer teams giving their time to Family Network. They started to volunteer here about 11 years ago, when one of their sons suggested a can ministry as a way to raise money for the food pantry. They presented the idea and have cheerfully managed that part of our ministry since that time. Bert and Kathleen have a love for the work that is done at the Pantry and their ministry results in cash donations that have had a huge impact on our ability to accomplish Family Network's mission to help others in our community who are in need. And it's a family affair; two of their sons have also been involved in volunteer efforts at the pantry as well. A busy couple with many interests, perhaps you have heard Bert sing with **The Singing Hims**, a local Christian Male Chorus. One of the original members, he retired last year after 41 years with the group.

Thank you, Bert and Kathleen, for all the time you give each month. You have been a blessing as well as role models for all our volunteers.

THE 12TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

To accommodate the growing number of attendees and the expanded Silent Auction, this year's annual fundraiser was held at Crossroads Conference Center on Clay Avenue just north of 68th Street. If you attended our gala on Tuesday, April 24, we're sure you enjoyed the festivities, the food, and the fellowship. You also had an opportunity to listen to the stories of some of our clients who have experienced assistance from Family Network. All this, while supporting us with your donations and auction purchases. We are grateful that you came, once again or for the first time, and hope that you will continue to help us help those who need it most. Together we continue to make a positive difference in our community. Here are some photos from the evening.



THANK YOU!



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS NEEDED

It has long been our practice to provide one or two personal-care items with each client's order when they come to the pantry. Because these items have a long shelf life, they are not usually donated by our retail donors. So, if you're wondering what we need most, these items would be greatly appreciated. Regular or medium size containers work best for most families. Thank you, and may you be blessed.

Deodorant	Bar soap
Toothpaste	Hand Lotion
Toothbrushes	Toilet paper

PLEASE HELP

Your donations are needed to help us meet the cost of day to day operations. The children are out of school for the summer, and they are eating more meals at home. Please help us assure that our clients are well nourished. Have you considered on-line giving? We have a "donate" button on our web page that provides several options. We need your help... please consider joining our donors who give monthly. You can choose an amount that best suits your situation. **Check it out at www.fntw.org.** Thank you so much.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We want to extend our appreciation to **EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS** for partnering with us for our Jobs program. We have referred several clients to them for assistance with resume coaching, interviewing skills, job search, and placement. We're happy to report that they were able to place some of our referrals and they now have full time employment and a brighter future. Thanks for helping us help those who need our support. We look forward to more successes in the days, months and years ahead.

LOOKING FOR WORK?

Ask us about our **JOBS PROGRAM.**

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Q: HOW CAN YOU HELP?

A: JOIN OUR FAMILY OF CARING, DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS.

Do you have some free time? Want to give back? Or maybe you're just looking for something to get you out of the house? We have an opportunity made for you. **While we could use several volunteers to help in the pantry area, our greatest need right now is for one or two volunteers to manage or co-manage our Durable Medical Equipment (DME) area.** If you're handy, and well organized, we could sure use your help. As you may know, we loan equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, knee scooters, commodes, shower chairs, raised toilet seats, bed rails and much more... all at no charge...to our friends and neighbors in the community. Many have little or no insurance. The need may be for a short time, or an extended period. But there is need; a great deal of it. If this is something you may be interested in doing, please call us at 616-885-9919 or stop by to pick up a volunteer application, and talk with Dale, our Executive Director, about this volunteer opportunity.



6027 VOLUNTEER HOURS allowed us to serve **3846** CLIENTS [Jan - May 2018]