



# Redford Brightmoor Initiative

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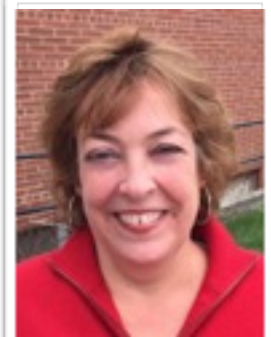
Please like our Facebook page- Redford Brightmoor Initiative

## Volunteers Needed

If you would like to volunteer at the Free Store on Saturdays, please sign up on our website [www.RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org](http://www.RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org)

## Wish List

Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes  
Shampoo  
Laundry detergent  
Dishwashing soap  
Cleaning supplies  
Deodorant  
Feminine products  
Diapers (adult and baby)



## WELCOME LEADERSHIP TEAM

On March 1, 2015, Brightmoor Aldersgate United Methodist Church and the Redford Brightmoor Initiative (RBI) sadly said goodbye to Pastor Courtney Williams, who had served as both pastor and executive director for RBI. Pastor Courtney took a position with Grace Church in Cape Coral, Florida. While Pastor Courtney begins his new adventure, his family remains in Detroit for his son to finish up his senior year of high school. We wish him the best of luck in his new endeavor.

In February, both the church and RBI embarked on a new era of leadership. We are blessed to have 2 new interim pastors who are leading the church until Pastor Jonathan Combs becomes the pastor on July 1. We are also very fortunate to have an experienced leader joining us to direct RBI.

Our two interim pastors are Jack Bailey and Ernestine Thompson. Ms. Ernestine has been a member of Brightmoor Aldersgate since 2001 and is the church matriarch at 87. Ms. Ernestine is very close to her family. They pray together daily and eat dinner together almost every day. Her nephew, granddaughter, and great



## Bright Spot in Brightmoor

RBI is pleased to announce that our 1800 sq. ft. barn is now painted RED. We want to thank the volunteers from Frankenmuth, our neighbors, and the youth from the Brightmoor Aldersgate UMC who painted the barn bright red this spring.

The barn is primarily for storage of inventory for the Free Store. When Berkley UMC closed its doors, the doors to its coat closet were shuttered also. RBI was the recipient of hundreds of new winter coats and boots which are now safely stored until next year. The barn is also used for storage for our Furniture Ministry. When people donate their gently used furniture and appliances, sometimes those items are briefly stored in the barn until the item can be placed with a person who needs it.

The barn is a bright red beacon that new and good things are happening.

grandson Corte live with her. Corte is a big hit with the volunteers who come to Brightmoor.

Ms. Ernestine worked for many years as a barber and beautician, owning her own business in Benton Harbor. A lifelong Methodist, she felt called to this church when she drove past it and started attending. She first became involved in its prayer ministry. "I'm glad the Lord is keeping me here to help the young people grow," said Pastor Ernestine.

Co-pastoring is Jack Bailey. Jack considers being a dad his most important role in life and his 11 year old daughter Wen represents the best part of him. He is soon to be married to fiancée Tracy. When he was 18, he enlisted in the US Navy and served for 13 years as an enlisted sailor and naval officer with an F-14 fighter squadron, with the US Navy Blue Angels, and aboard guided-missile destroyers. Today, he is a regional manager of three manufactured home communities. Jack was first called to ministry in 2003. He is currently a ministry candidate in the United Methodist Church and working toward his ordination.

Finally, taking over the reins as Interim Executive Director of the Redford Brightmoor Initiative is Karen Plants. Karen has spent the last 15 years working and volunteering at Cass Community Social Services in a variety of capacities. Karen is a member of the Birmingham First UMC where she sings in the choir and is a trustee. This year, she is a leader of the mission team to Costa Rica where she has been volunteering since 2010. Karen has been using her popcorn maker and her sense of humor to build community at RBI. Her experience with Cass, the Children's ToothFairy Foundation, and her work at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office will serve her well in her new position.

Welcome to our new team- Ernestine, Jack and Karen!!!



**Help us save money! We want to email this newsletter in the future but we don't have your email address. Please send it to us at [director@redfordbrightmoorinitiative.org](mailto:director@redfordbrightmoorinitiative.org)**

## GET BUFF, GET TOUGH



On Wednesday evenings, kids from ages 8-80 get buff and tough learning karate from Sensei Jon Janowski. Karate fosters self-discipline, encourages physical activity, and actually encourages non-violent conflict resolution. On bad weather days, they meet in the basement of the church. In good weather, they practice in the parking lot.

### Household Items Needed

We're looking for gently used furniture, mattresses, appliances, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, toaster ovens, and lamps. Please contact us at [director@redfordbrightmoorinitiative.org](mailto:director@redfordbrightmoorinitiative.org) if you have items to donate.

### Amazon Shoppers Needed

Did you know that Amazon will donate .5% of all your purchases to us if you use the following link to shop: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-4751009>. It doesn't cost you a thing and it makes us SMILE!

## SHOPPING ANYONE????

"How can we connect with residents of Brightmoor?" "How do we build community and develop relationships with people in the neighborhood?" "What needs do people have?" After many brainstorming sessions, the Brightmoor Free Store opened in January 2014 as a means of answering these questions and helping to meet the needs of the Brightmoor community.

Today, the store is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Shoppers come for gently-used clothing, household items, furniture and appliances along with personal care items not covered by Bridge cards. All items are free. In addition, a lunch is served every week. The store is staffed by a manager and volunteers, most of whom live in the community. Because of the friendly atmosphere in the store, we are beginning to develop relationships with the shoppers. Kelly says, "Being able to get items for my family has relieved a lot of stress for me." Dakota says with a smile, "Hi. Nice seeing you again." Rhonda, a regular volunteer, says, "I want to give back to God." She helps with check-out every Saturday. As a result of these contacts with Brightmoor neighbors, we are learning of other needs – repairing homes (3 houses were repaired last summer), helping residents apply online for jobs, working with landlords, etc.

Not only are we helping our neighbors, but our neighbors are becoming actively involved by bringing extra food items, clothing, and toys to the Free Store. This is a sure sign that we are becoming a community. Since its inception, the Free Store has had over 700 shoppers. A success? Yes, but it's only the beginning!

## OUR NEWEST EMPLOYEE

If you've delivered items, needed items picked up, or been a part of a work team at Brightmoor Aldersgate UMC, chances are you've met Aaron Landfair. Aaron has volunteered at Brightmoor since June 2014 and became employed as a Program Assistant with RBI this March.

Things you should know about Aaron:



- He doesn't mind doing any kind of job.
- He'll ask for something to do if he's not busy.
- He's tall enough to reach high places.
- He's strong enough to move heavy objects.
- He has an infectious laugh.

Since June 2014, Aaron has become a steady fixture around BAUMC. Aaron is everyone's son. He is committed to Christ and is committed to changing his lifestyle. Aaron's hard work, sincerity and commitment are exemplary. He is easygoing and loved by volunteers and co-workers alike.

Aaron is in the process of joining Job Corps, where he plans to pursue job training and complete the requirements for obtaining a high school diploma. His interests are carpentry, brick masonry and painting, as well as automotive technology, collision and bodywork.

We wish Aaron good luck on all his endeavors.

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