

May 7, 2016

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Join Us for Our "Funny for a Change" Fun-Raiser



Join us for a delightful evening of fun ... and support Redford Brightmoor Initiative at the same time. All proceeds will be used to support our free store ministry, our furniture and appliance ministry, and our home rehab ministry ... all to keep people in their homes and in their neighborhoods. So please come and join the laughter.

Location is Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak. Doors open at 5:00pm. There will be a cash bar and you can purchase dinner of burgers, quesadillas, etc., while you chat with your friends and check out interesting items that are part of the silent auction.

You will find additional details and can purchase your tickets online at www.RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org.

Recovering from a Devastating Flood

Remember photos like these from the record flooding in our area in August 2014, flooding that did a billion dollars of damage?



Many people in northwest Detroit are still struggling to recover from the devastating effects of those floods. Families are still living with wet basements and mold. Some have gone two winters without a working furnace.



The United Methodist Church continues to work with people in Detroit to repair their homes. On April 30, Becky Wilson and two members of her team at the UMC Northwest Detroit Flood Recovery Project came to the Brightmoor Free Store to talk with Brightmoor residents who had suffered damage in the flood. Becky said that they talked with 8 residents who can likely receive help from the

Project in rehabilitating their homes. We are so grateful to the UMC for long-term support after disasters like this. For additional information about the Project, see their [Facebook page](#).

Brightmoor Shoppers Cook for a Homeless Shelter

Every year, Redford Aldersgate UMC hosts the Wayne County Interfaith Rotating Shelter for one week. This year, eight shoppers from the Brightmoor Free Store went to the church on Friday evening, April 15, to make and serve dinner.

Laughter filled the kitchen as the meal was prepared, with chicken wings for an appetizer and taco salad with homemade guacamole for the main course. Dessert was chocolate cake with ice cream, chocolate sauce, and strawberries.

The women who made dinner wanted to pass on the blessings they had received



from the Free Store. The 20 men and woman who were staying in Redford were very grateful for the wonderful meal on their last night of the shelter for the season.




Saving the Environment in Brightmoor & in Redford

Environmental degradation affects those living in poverty more than any other group. They are more likely to be exposed to toxins, are more likely to have diseases like asthma which are aggravated or caused by the environment, are likely not to have access to healthy food, and are more vulnerable to natural and human disasters. For example, Brightmoor is notorious for dumping of trash by people who live outside of the area.

At the two Free Stores run by the Redford Brightmoor Initiative, we are taking a small step to combat negative environmental practices. In the past, shoppers would receive a brightly colored trash bag in which to put the items they selected from the store. These bags take hundreds of years to break down in landfills. Now, our neighbors receive a reusable shopping bag and are asked to bring it back week after week. This new policy keeps plastic bags out of our dumps - dumps located in Detroit. The Free Store shoppers are taking a small step towards making their neighborhoods more environmentally friendly.



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Volunteers Wanted

If you or your group are interested in volunteering in Brightmoor or Redford, please contact us via the website or email

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at 313-693-4614.

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