



Redford Brightmoor Initiative

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Redford Brightmoor Initiative
Making Connections • Building Communities • Transforming Lives
A Ministry of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

RBI Newsletter

www.RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org

Fall 2017

Working With, Not Doing For

On July 17, three dozen people gathered on Braile Street to transform several overgrown lots and the yard of an abandoned school. This project was spearheaded by local residents who received assistance from 25 high schoolers from Faith UMC (Genoa IL). The day was the result of a collaboration between RBI, Motown Mission, the Brightmoor Alliance, and the Braile Street Block Club. Together the team picked up debris, trimmed back bushes, and cut the grass. The hard work of volunteers and community members was celebrated by the Braile Street neighbors providing a delicious BBQ lunch.



President of the block club, Lynette White, commented on how important it was to have the Faith UMC team there. “It meant a lot that this team came all the way from Illinois to work with us in Brightmoor. Lots of neighbors came out for the day and it really made a difference. A month later, people here have more pride in their neighborhood and are working to build on what we created that day.” Kris Aves, who led the Faith UMC team, said “One of our teens has had problems on earlier mission trips. A neighborhood boy showed him what needed to be done and they really excelled working together. It was important to have had the opportunity to spend the day working together with the block club.”

“People have more pride in their neighborhood and are working to build on what we created.”

The Braile Street work day is another example of how RBI is doing ministry with the people of Brightmoor rather than just doing ministry for them, which has long been a goal of RBI. We strive to achieve this goal by including Brightmoor residents on our Board, encouraging community members to volunteer at our

Free Store, and inviting residents to become involved in other ways.

Mission Statement

Redford Brightmoor Initiative builds community and supports youth and adults to prepare for meaningful employment and service.



Thanks to our generous donors, we provided school supplies for 78 students in Brightmoor.
August 2017

Redford Brightmoor Initiative is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Welcome Pam!

We are delighted to announce that Pamela Griffin has joined RBI as our new Program Director. Pam brings a wealth of experience to this position. After earning her Master of Science in Social Work from Fordham University, she has spent more than a decade working in non-profits. Most recently, she served as the Program Director at Community Centers, Inc., in Greenwich, CT for several years. Prior to that, she was a social worker at Community Centers, working with low income youth ages 6-18, developmentally disabled adults, and families in crisis. Earlier positions have included case management for people pursuing employment / education and work in teen pregnancy prevention, including crisis intervention and tutoring. Since moving to Detroit last year, she has been providing in-home therapy for children on the Autism Spectrum. Pam is excited to be returning to work in the non-profit world by joining RBI.

Please join us in welcoming Pam to RBI!



One Stop Shop

One Stop Shop helps families living in Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood receive free clothing, food, household items, small appliances, and toys just before Christmas. Shoppers also get to enjoy a hot meal while they are shopping. Last year the store served 784 people.

You can help through volunteering during the event, through your financial donations, or through donation of some of the items we offer in the store:

- ◆ Children's clothing, especially coats, boots, socks, scarves, and hats
- ◆ Small household appliances
- ◆ Children's toys
- ◆ Non-perishable food (boxes and cans)

Donations can be dropped off at our Brightmoor Campus. If you want to learn more about this event and how you or your organization can help, please contact Pam Griffin at (313) 326-4947 or pgriffin@RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org



We Need Your Help

Thanks to generous donations from the Beaumont Health Foundation and the United Methodist Women of Birmingham First UMC, we are now planning for our new computer lab at the Brightmoor campus.

Our plans for this project include teaching computer skill to community members, hosting an open lab during the free store hours, tutoring students, assisting with job skill development, and so much more!

Interested in helping to plan this program? We would love to have input from teachers, from parents, from business, and from computer experts.

If you have a passion for helping people and your skillset includes basic Microsoft Windows, Word, and the like, then we need your help when the lab is open.

Please contact Mary Pickett at 248-229-1459 or Chair@RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org to learn more and to get involved.



SAVE THE DATE for our ANNUAL BRUNCH

Sunday, November 12th
Reception at 12:30 PM
Brunch at 1:00 PM
Program at 1:30 PM
Heathers Club of Bloomfield Hills



*If you would like to make a donation to RBI, please send it to
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or visit www.RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org*