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RBI Newsletter

www.RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org

Fall 2018

Welcome Our New Interns

Our vision of expanding services on our Brightmoor campus is unfolding! This fall, we introduce two social work interns: Alicia, from Wayne State University, and Karen, from the University of Detroit Mercy.

On our Brightmoor campus, the free store is open every Saturday morning. Between 80-100 come to shop for clothes and personal items, and then they get to enjoy a hot meal. While meeting individuals' basic needs has always been a priority of RBI, we always hoped to be able to offer additional services.

Social work interns help fill the gap and connect individuals with additional help. Sometimes community members come in trying to find somewhere that will help with utility assistance. Other times they need assistance related to employment. Still others might just need help with advocating for some of their rights.

Whatever the case, our interns provide assistance. If they don't know the answer, they spend time searching for the answers on the internet which helps our community members know they are not alone in this complicated process.

Most importantly, though, our interns focus on building relationships. Sometimes all our community members need are listening ears to talk about what they are going through. The one-on-one case management gives individuals a space to tell their stories and talk about their experiences.

It's exciting to know that every person that walks through our doors can be connected to the local food pantries, energy assistance programs, employment services, and youth programs all while talking to someone that they can trust.



Alicia meets with a community member about what is going on with him and how we can work together.

Mission Statement

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



Students at our Back to School Supplies Store

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

Finding Our Fit



On October 12, RBI hosted its second Bra Fitting Event at our Brightmoor Campus. Thanks to donations from some incredible donors, RBI was able to bring *Busted Bra Shop* in Midtown Detroit out to our Brightmoor campus to provide a professional fitting and new bra to 20 women from the Brightmoor and Redford communities.

We are looking forward to offering this program again.



One Stop Shop

One Stop Shop is the holiday store where our Brightmoor neighbors can shop for free clothing, personal care items, toys, appliances, gifts for family and friends, and groceries as well as enjoy a hot meal after shopping.

Here's how you can help!

- ⇒ **Volunteer your time:**
 - Set-up on Friday November 30th, or work the store on Saturday, December 2nd.
- ⇒ **Donate some of the items we offer in the store:**
 - New small appliances (e.g., toaster ovens, George Foreman grills, crock pots)
 - New or gently used toys and stuffed animals for children from newborns through age 18
 - Toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap
 - Cans and boxes of non-perishable food (no glass)
- ⇒ **Make a financial donation to purchase items for the store.**

Contact Pam Griffin (313-326-4947 or pgriffin@RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org) to volunteer or arrange a time to drop off your donations.

Back to School Success

This August we hosted our annual School Supply Giveaway at our Brightmoor Free Store. Thanks to the generosity of several donors, we were able to provide a backpack or drawstring bag and supplies to over 75 school children. In addition to school supplies, several schools were able to get much needed water bottles to help students stay hydrated during these hot autumn days.

To continue to help support Detroit School Children, we are currently working to purchase water bottles that can be provided to parents and their children at the free store this fall. If you would like to help support this project, please contact Hilary Kristal at admin@RedfordBrightmoorInitiative.org



Program Update

RBI was busy this summer! We collaborated with Motown Mission and the Brightmoor Alliance to host several mission teams. The groups varied in sizes from as small as 6 people to as large as 40. They worked to help transform the neighborhood. From working on our campus or in community buildings, to cleaning up overgrown lots to make the neighborhoods safer and more attractive, our mission volunteers put their time and talents to work beautifying Brightmoor. In addition to general work in the neighborhood, we were able to help rehab 4 homes, clean up a house after a fire, and repair the stairs to someone's home. We are always grateful for the support of these dedicated volunteers that give up their time to serve others.



45 Christians Summer Mission Team from Birmingham First UMC