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*"If you want to do something to help change the world, you can do that – one child at a time."*

- CLIFTON DAVIS

## Vassar House: A Groundbreaking New Program



*Members of the WHS Administrative Team, Wolgast Contractors and State Representative Terry Brown join together to break ground.*

As signs of spring emerged in early May, Wolverine Human Services broke ground for its newest expansion project. "It's been ten years since we last built an entire campus, stated Robert Wollack, President and C.E.O. of WHS. The new facility is located adjacent to the present Pioneer Work & Learn Campus. The new facility will be named Vassar House and will be comprised of five separate dormitories, each housing twelve adolescent females. Vassar House is a residential program for drug-dependent teens and is a joint venture with GrowthWorks, a private, non-profit organization serving youth and families in western Wayne County.

This modern structure was designed specifically to serve a female population. The estimated staffing for the program will be fifty, including direct care, clinical and auxiliary personnel. Construction

is underway with a planned completion date by early fall. In fact, the Grand Opening of Vassar House is scheduled for October 10, 2008. The General Contractor is Wolgast Corporation, which also constructed the recently completed addition to the Wolverine Secure Treatment Center located in Buena Vista Township (near Saginaw).

Vassar House will be committed to providing a comprehensive rehabilitative program developed

for adolescent girls and their family members. By using a family systems approach, the treatment team expects to enable the troubled teen and her family confront the seriousness of drug dependency. These troubled girls will be provided with the highest level of compassion and care during their residency at Vassar House. It is the treatment goal of Vassar House and GrowthWorks to break the cycle of drug dependency, to improve intra-family relationships, and to improve school achievement. ✚



*Robert Wollack opens the groundbreaking ceremony on the site of the Vassar House.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Dear Friends,

The spring and summer seasons have proven to be times of renewal and growth for Wolverine Human Services. We recently opened a 20-bed expansion at the Wolverine Secure Treatment Center in Buena Vista Township (just outside of Saginaw). This state-of-the-art secure facility now has a capacity to serve up to 100 male youth. The new addition includes 20 individual secure rooms, additional classrooms, offices, a multi-media room, and a culinary arts kitchen which is to be used for a trade skills program.

A ground-breaking ceremony for Vassar House – a new residential care facility for troubled teen-girls – was held on May 9. This newest program is a joint venture with GrowthWorks, a private, non-profit organization serving youth and families in Western Wayne County since 1971. It is widely known and respected child welfare agency for adolescent drug treatment and juvenile justice services. We are pleased to partner with them for this new venture which we hope to have opened by the autumn season. This facility will ultimately

house sixty teen girls in an intensive substance abuse rehabilitation program. We are excited for this new opportunity to expand our successful treatment programs to include troubled girls. We continue to provide the highest level of care and professionally competent social treatment programs in each of our residential facilities and foster care homes.

On another note, we celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Wolverine Human Services with the Annual "Helping Children to be Victors" Banquet that was held on April 5<sup>th</sup> in Plymouth. This awards dinner was again an exciting and moving event. We established and presented a new honor, *The Child Advocacy Award*, to six hard-working legislators in the State of Michigan. These individuals include: Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City), Senator Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood), Senator Roger Kahn (R-Saginaw Township), State Representative Terry Brown (D-Pigeon), Representative George Cushingberry Jr. (D-Detroit), and most importantly, Representative Dudley Spade (D-Tipton). I cannot thank these individuals enough for their dedication to improving children services in this great state in a non-partisan fashion. Two athletes were also honored for their hard work both on and off the field: Thomas "Red" Keith of CMU, and Bettie Wade of U of M. The WHS Client awards were presented to Nina and Marshall, each of whom showed tremendous strength in the face of adversity. Finally, the "Helping Children to be Victors Award" was presented to the Daly brothers, who have been long-time supporters of our endeavors. As always, I want to thank my wife, Judith Wollack, for her exceptional planning and her attention to detail that made this a very successful event.

As I stated in my remarks at the banquet, we need to be aware of and sensitive to the plight of those families who are living in poverty. Today, in the richest nation in the world, over 36 million Americans live below the poverty level. Countless families in our country lack the resources to meet the basic necessities for healthy living. 17.4% of all children under the age of eight are poor. One-third of Detroit's population lives below the federal poverty level of \$19,157 in household income for a family of four. This includes 15,000 individuals who are homeless and living on the streets. These facts are difficult to accept.

Somehow, we manage to ignore these nagging social problems and insulate ourselves from the severe poverty of too many of our neighbors. We need to pull together and bring poverty back into the spotlight, just as President Lyndon B. Johnson did in his "War on Poverty" speech in 1964. He remarked, "Poverty is a national problem, requiring improved national organization and support. But this attack, to be effective, must also be organized at the State and the local level and must be supported and directed by State and local efforts." Let us not allow poverty to fall from our national, state, and local agendas.

In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to all of our donors, board members, staff members, state officials, and our elected officials who continue to help us to enable children to become victors.

God Bless,

Robert E. Wollack, MSW, ACSW  
President & C.E.O.

## WHS GARDENS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

The Greenhouse and Garden Project at the Vassar Campus of Wolverine Human Services is part of a unique work-study program offered to Wolverine clients. Residents who participate in this program are exposed to a wide variety of horticulture and landscaping techniques. The main focus of this work-study program is to instill a positive work ethic in the youth. At the same time, marketable skills are taught so these young men have an opportunity to find employment upon their re-entry into the community.

Youth at WHS-Vassar take part in every aspect of the life cycle of each plant, giving them a sense of pride and satisfaction in a job well done. These young men truly develop a green thumb as they help facilitate the growth from seed to full-grown plant. At least two former residents of WHS-Vassar are now employed by greenhouses in the Detroit area, thanks to the skills and knowledge they acquired while at the Vassar campus.

Currently, there are five greenhouses on the Wolverine Vassar campus. Four of these greenhouses are open eight months



*Youth diligently tend to the garden on the campus of PWLC in Vassar.*

out of the year and one greenhouse operates year-round. Here the youth receive hands-on training in growing annuals and perennials. The large vegetable garden is filled with tomatoes, cabbage, celery, squash, peppers, swiss chard and lettuce.

On site, their efforts supply the WHS Meat Science and Food Distribution and Life Skills Program with necessary vegetables. Off site, the flowers and vegetables are donated to various programs and small businesses in the area. Wolverine's residents participate in a number of activities around Vassar, using the Greenhouses and Garden project as an

opportunity to reach out to the community.

WHS youth proudly display ownership of their work. They have a vested interest in making sure the plants, flowers, and vegetables grow and are well cared for. Gardening provides our young clients with valuable knowledge and skills from this positive experience during their time with Wolverine Human Services. ✚

## FOSTER CARE CHILD RECEIVES ACCOLADES FOR HER POETRY

Margie is a thirteen year-old girl who lives in a WHS-sponsored foster home. She has endured a pattern of tragedies, and her younger years were filled with repeated abuse and neglect. As one would expect, these experiences have had a traumatic impact on Margie's emotional, cognitive, and social development. Forming social relationships with other students at school has been particularly challenging for her; she also has struggled with coping with stress in appropriate ways.

It would be easy to label Margie, and it would be even easier to give up on her. Fortunately for Margie, the foster parents have not given up on her nor has the team of professionals who work with her. Margie's team includes foster parents, Wolverine Human Services social workers, DHS employees and assistance from her educators and other community partners. With their

help, Margie no longer feels isolated, and she is making positive progress.

Recently Margie explored her ability to express feelings through poetry. Her poetry focuses on the dangers of drug use. Margie's ability to capture the feelings involved with narcotic use resulted in the presentation of one of her poems at the Drug-Free Youth in Detroit forum, delivered by the Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan. The poem was powerful and evoked emotion as well as discussion. This was truly a proud moment for a young woman who has experienced so much adversity in her life. It also signified the beginning of a transition for Margie, as she continues to explore her hidden talents and learn what it feels like to succeed. Most importantly, Margie found her voice through the power of the pen. ✚

## THE CALL OF THE WILDERNESS

The residents of the Wolverine Sexually Reactive Program had the opportunity to attend two-day camping trips at the Pioneer Adventure Programs on the WHS-Vassar Campus on June 23rd -24th. The two days were filled with fun outdoor activities, many of which the residents of the WSRP had never had the opportunity to experience.

The young men enjoyed numerous different activities, including fishing, canoeing, playing kickball, climbing a tower, and a ropes



WHS youth enjoy participating in outdoor activities at PWLC.

*“Nature has the ability to heal and give strength to the soul.”*

*~ John Muir*

course, which towered twenty-three feet up in the air. One of the participants was even able to make it to the top of the climbing tower after a lot of encouragement from his peers.

Teamwork was the focus of the trip, and residents did a great job of encouraging one another throughout various activities, especially on the ropes course and the climbing tower. Many of the participants overcame their fear of heights by attempting to climb the tower and complete the ropes course.

Around the campfire, the young men munched on delicious s’ mores, not to mention all of the other great food prepared at camp. The residents of the WSRP truly benefited from their camping experience and continue to talk about camp and what they learned about themselves and one another. Everyone is looking forward to attending camp again next summer. ✚

## Pioneer Work and Learn Center STUDENTS STUDY ANSWERS IN THE WIND

Over the past few years, Pioneer Work and Learn Center has been immersed in the study of renewable energy. This year, teachers and students wrote and were rewarded an educational grant from DTE Energy for a wind energy project. All of the teachers collaborated to teach a thematic unit on wind energy in March.

In social studies, students researched the history of windmills and their importance in Michigan. In teams of two, they created and presented posters based on the information they gathered.

Using the information obtained in social studies, each student wrote a position paper on either the positive or negative implications of windmills in Michigan.

The youth also wrote a letter to State Representative Terry Brown in which they outlined questions about current public policies and programs related to wind energy.

In math, the students discussed wind speeds and calculated word problems associated with wind power.

A hands-on project was conducted in science. The students built windmills, tested the wind speed, and connected the windmills to a light bulb to determine if they could produce light energy. They had to adjust their wind turbines, so they could generate more speed. The students also had to discover how they were going to build a circuit.

On March 28, 2008, State Representative Terry Brown visited WHS in Vassar as a

guest speaker. He described his role as a State Representative and his service on the Energy and Technology Committee and Tourism Committee.

Our culminating project was a field trip to Elkton, Michigan to visit the John Deere Wind Farm. The students also toured the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker School District’s three wind turbines, which are used to power the school.

Overall, the project was a great educational opportunity for both the students and the staff. It allowed all of us to learn how wind energy technology and state government initiatives are converging in order to create more jobs in Michigan. ✚

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CELEBRATION “HELPING CHILDREN TO BE VICTORS”

Wolverine Human Services hosted another special evening at the 21st Annual Celebration “Helping Children to be Victors”. The event was held on Saturday, April 5th at St. John’s Ballroom in Plymouth, MI. There were over 300 supporters in attendance.

As always, the program was the highlight of the evening. WHS presented six Michigan Legislators with the Child Advocacy Award for their dedicated support of children and youth. Those recipients include Senator Jim Barcia, Senator Roger Kahn, Representative Terry Brown, Representative George Cushingberry Jr., Senator Bill Hardiman, and most importantly, Representative Dudley Spade, who also received the Achievement Award. Each legislator worked diligently and courageously in a non-partisan fashion to accomplish many goals for the betterment of Michigan’s children and youth.

In addition, WHS honored two athletes who embody the qualities of a champion: distinctive service to the community,



*Marshall S. gives his acceptance speech with the support of Von Ceil Dukes.*



*Michigan Legislators proudly receive their Child Advocacy Awards.*

exceptional academic success, first-class character, and leadership on the field. This year’s Tony Sablowski Award was presented to Thomas “Red” Keith of Central Michigan University’s Football team. The John S. Vitale Award was presented to Bettie Wade of the University of Michigan’s Women’s Track and Field team.

Most importantly, we paid tribute to the young people from WHS programs who have triumphed over vast obstacles and barriers in their lives to become inspirations to us all. Nina (Specialized Independent Living Program) and Marshall (St. Judes Home for Boys) both experienced much success at WHS this past year. They are truly victors and are deserving of support and encouragement.

A special thanks to our supporters who joined us at the 21st Annual Celebration. WHS is blessed for all of those who have played a significant role in assisting us to fulfill our mandate – “Helping Children to be Victors.” ✚

## GRADUATION DAY AT WHS By Mark S. (PWLO)

When I first made the decision that I was going to graduate from Vassar Alternative High School, it did not seem like a big deal to me. Little did I know, I was about to embark into a new perspective on life once I got things rolling. In a matter of two months, I reached a personal goal by finishing my high school degree.

I had to obtain a credit in English, Oral Communication, and Computer Science to meet the standard requirements needed to graduate. Thanks to the work I needed to complete, I learned a lot about what it takes to speak in front of a crowd and work on a computer successfully on my own. Thankfully, I wasn’t the only one trying to get my diploma. I made a good friend who was right beside me the whole time and because of the peer support, I was able to build a really strong relationship with him. We helped each other out with assignments, speeches, and being there for each other.

The two months standing in between me and my high school diploma quickly vanished and I found myself getting ready to deliver my graduation speech in the WHS gymnasium in front of staff, administrators, teachers, and peers. I can honestly say that my excitement ran wild being in front of everyone that helped make it possible. I didn’t think I would ever make it to see the day I would graduate, but as I stood gazing at the audience of 100 people, it became reality and I expressed my gratitude towards them.

To this day, it is hard to believe that I really do have my high school diploma and words cannot express how grateful I am for those that assisted in helping me obtain it. Thanks to everyone here at WHS, I’m actually going to go somewhere in life. My main focus is to stick to my plans. The future holds lots of new goals and I have a lifetime to achieve them. ✚

## IN HELPING OTHERS, WE HELP OURSELVES

A wise person once said, "The best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your own arm." Staff and youth at WHS-Vassar proved this age-old adage to be true and actually put the philosophy into practice.

Wolverine played a pivotal role in the Vassar Garden Tour on June 21st. Bill Atkins and several youth from WGRC and PWLC completely landscaped and decorated the new Vassar Museum. One Vassar citizen stated, "Our community has been blessed to have this service available, along with the benefits of teaching these young men life skills."

In other community participation, Wolverine helped for the 14th straight

year in the Vassar City Pride day by painting the Ivan Middleton Hall and sprucing up the Townsend North Pavilion. Earlier in May, several kids throughout the Vassar sites were able to participate in the "Keep Vassar Beautiful" campaign and help plant thousands of petunias which line Vassar's main thorough-fare.

The Greenhouses at WHS-Vassar supplied fresh seasonal vegetables to the Vassar Area Food Pantry on a monthly basis. The food pantry provides nourishment to approximately 25 families in need in the Vassar area and is an important community service.

WHS was able to assist a local community activist in Saginaw begin a renovation

project. The church acquired a party store and has plans to rebuild it as a community center for youth and their families.

August brings many other activities that Wolverine will participate in, such as the Vassar Riverfest and work at a local elementary school. We will add a new coat of stain to the 10 year-old "Playground Prideland" located behind the Townsend North Elementary School. At WHS-Vassar, we pride ourselves on having the ability to lend a helping hand to the community. ✚

## SPECIALIZED INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

When compared to other independent living services offered to children involved in child welfare system, our Specialized Independent Living (SIL) Program is unique. SIL provides supportive interventions to children at risk of aging out of the system, as well as those in which traditional foster care, guardianship and/or reunification with family is not an option. Regardless of the scenario, the children involved in our program thrive with the help of our weekly interventions, counseling services, 24-hour support and our intensive focus on education and employment.

As of May 2008, the program was currently servicing 27 young adults. Of the 27, over 50% are involved in college courses. This fall, eight young adults will graduate high school. Of the eight graduates, seven are enrolled in colleges and will be attending classes this fall. The remaining graduate has recently completed an internship and certification program and will become employed in the field of medical billing.

In addition to the recent graduates, another eight young adults that graduated last year are currently attending colleges in Michigan. By offering our intensive support services, we have been successful

in lessening the amount of children that age out of the system and are unprepared for the world ahead of them. Wolverine Human Service is actively recruiting individual to provide host homes for teenagers. If you are interested in supporting a teen in need please contact our Specialized Independent Living Program at (313) 295-6264 or (888) 625-8669. ✚



*Judith Wollack and Grechen Stephens present an award to SIL client Nina H. at the banquet in April. Nina was selected as one of the year's most successful Wolverine clients.*

## “PARTNERING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE” Families and Youth Foster Parent Recruitment Concert

On the evening of May 2, a wonderful event took place at the Greater Grace Church in Taylor, Michigan. Wolverine Human Services, acting as a member of the Children’s Placement Network, joined forces with the Michigan Department of Human Services in an evening of music, song and prayer. The event was aimed at recruiting foster parents and supporting the children involved in the foster care system.

Wolverine Human Service employee Predithia Olden, along with several WHS foster care children and foster parents, worked tirelessly on evenings and weekends for weeks under the guidance of DHS employee Kim Jones in order to form a choir.



*Foster children and parents sing together at the recruitment concert on May 2.*

The event was hosted by FOX 2. Not only did the event contain a choir, but also dancing, mime presentations, drum bands and parades. Several dignitaries from DHS, the State of Michigan and the Judicial system attended. Most importantly, the event attracted people interested in becoming foster parents.

Wolverine Human Services provides foster care services throughout the State of Michigan. We currently have offices in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Genesee counties. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact our Wolverine Human Services foster care department at (313) 295-6264 or (888) 625-8669. †

## A TOUR OF WHS IN VASSAR

*Reprinted from Vassar Pioneer Times, April 2008*

I recently had the privilege of touring Wolverine Human Services. I was not previously familiar with the scope of the work that took place at the Vassar campus. There are nearly 300 employees working towards the same goal: to give young men a chance at a productive life. I observed the students in the Meat Merchandising class.

At the time, the young men were cutting stew meat and making ground beef. These students work at this for three hours a day in addition to attending regular school classes. The young men are taught interview skills, and many are placed in productive employment upon completion of their treatment. At the end of the Meat Merchandising course, if they pass two tests, the student is given a diploma.

Only prime meat is received by the Wolverine Food Distribution Center, with no fillers or artificial preservatives. The public can purchase meat of any kind and cut by calling in and placing an order. In addition to the Meat Merchandising, WHS has a fantastic full catering service. Full planned menus can be utilized, or the customer can make special requests. The prices for the meat and catering are very reasonable and the quality is top of the line.

While touring around the WHS Vassar campus, I saw two beautiful greenhouses filled with flowers and plants. There is also an active woodshop nearby. The boys were making bunk beds, chairs, bookshelves and more. WHS has an up-to-date medical facility for the young clients, which also provides dentistry and optical services.

The young men are housed in cabins, with two adult employees supervising at all times. The entire layout was extremely clean. The boys appeared neat and polite. They earn privileges for good behavior and all are held accountable for their own actions.

Vassar should be proud to have this facility in our community. At Wolverine Human Services, the young men learn respect and how to be productive citizens. I urge everyone in the community to support the efforts that WHS is offering, whether by purchasing meat, hiring their catering department for a special event, or buying their flowers or wood products. Give them a chance, and you won’t be sorry. †

## BE “ACTIVE AFTER-SCHOOL”

On March 3, 2008, Wolverine Human Services implemented a youth after-school program, “Active After-School”, located at the Wolverine Community Center in Vassar. The program operated for 11 weeks during the spring. Wolverine designed this program for Vassar area students. The Community Center gives local citizens and their families a place to come together through specialized services and programs.

Active After-School targeted youth in grades 3 through 6 and operated every Monday

from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. The purpose of the program was to give youth a safe place to go and to continue to stay active with a variety of activities after the school day ends.

Activities included, but were not limited to: arts and crafts, board games, homework tables, basketball, volleyball, football, soccer, and billiards. Wolverine Human Services provided transportation from the school to the Wolverine Community Center as well as an after-school snack.

Active After-School not only benefited the youth who participated but the volunteers as well. A few students from Vassar High School volunteered to help with the program and in doing so, they earned hours of credit towards a National Honor Society membership. The students were a great asset and contributed tremendously towards the success of the program. Overall, we are very pleased with the outcome and hope to continue with “Active After-School” in the fall. ✚

## THE POWER OF PERSUASION Wolverine Growth and Recovery Center’s Writing Project

Students in the English class at the Wolverine Growth and Recovery Center are learning about the Power of Persuasion. This project focuses on the writing process and encourages the students to take a position on a persuasive topic by sharing a strong feeling. One of the most difficult stages in this type of writing is organizing one’s thoughts to write a clear and concise essay.

Class objectives for this essay include: constructing a 3D-graphic organizer (using index cards and yarn) to complete the prewriting stage, researching for evidence to support their position, drafting strong paragraphs with transitional words, and ultimately convincing their audience to hear their side of a controversial issue. A mini-presentation will be the end result and their peers will give constructive criticism, possibly leading to a debate.

Mrs. Thompson, Ms. Lane and Mrs. Sharp guide the students through proofreading and give one-on-one instruction to those who need encouragement. Wolverine



*Students work diligently to complete the stages of the writing process.*

Growth and Recovery Center’s English classroom reflects a colorful way to present and publish the student’s writing for others to observe.

Some of our reluctant writers were at first hesitant to attempt this essay paper on

their own, but as you can see, the students have been engaged in the project and continue to work toward completion. ✚

## SOUTHERN REGION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IS A SUCCESS

In 2005, Robert Petti, Vice President of Wolverine Human Services' Southern Region, developed a proposal for expanding the internship program for students from various universities and colleges in the greater Detroit area. The concept has acted upon through a highly coordinated effort that has resulted in Wolverine Human Services programs in the Southern Region being able to access a pool of talented "Wolverine-Trained" clinicians to be hired to work in WHS programs. In the three years since the program expanded, WHS has trained 74 MSW students, 26 BSW students, four Psychology majors and five Criminal Justice students. We have drawn students from the following colleges and universities: Wayne State University, Eastern Michigan, Michigan State, U of Detroit Mercy, The University of Phoenix, Marygrove, Cornerstone, and Baker Colleges. Seven of the interns that we have trained were eventually hired as WHS Clinical staff.

The interns that we train go through the same hiring standards as any other staff hired by WHS. These interns are given many hours of



*Group sessions are regularly conducted by WHS Interns.*

supervision by their site supervisor. Many learning opportunities are presented to the interns to prepare them for their selected careers. We owe our success of this program to the support from the Administration, clinical staff, and supervisors. Our future goal is to begin recruiting Associates-level students from the Community Colleges to be trained as clinically astute Treatment Specialists. ✚

## 20-BED EXPANSION OPENS AT WOLVERINE SECURE TREATMENT CENTER



*Clients from the Reintegration program at WSTC enjoy the opportunity to play basketball.*

On June 4, 2008, Wolverine opened an 18,633 square foot addition to the Secure Treatment Center in Buena Vista Township, which increased its capacity to 100 beds. The design build construction, completed by Wolgast Corporation, started in January 2008.

In addition to the two 10-bed units, the Annex Building includes a large Culinary Arts training kitchen and café. The new Culinary Arts training kitchen will provide hands-on instruction for the residents in basic to advanced culinary arts classes. The course is scheduled to start in September. The addition also includes a life

skills classroom, behavior modification "point store", a work-study classroom, learning resource center with a library and six computer stations, and an undesignated area that is currently used for staff training and development.

Each housing unit has a large classroom, activity room, and adequate storage space. A new security system was also installed into the existing system and meets all the standards of a high-security treatment program. The facility is designed to provide top-quality treatment and education to the 100 residents who represent about 25 counties in Michigan.

The focus of this new treatment program is on reintegration. This program allows the client to practice community life skills with the benefit of having a safety net provided by a residential treatment placement. The program dress code mirrors young men in society with the use of khaki pants, polo shirts, watches and less restriction on length and style of hair. Clients have the opportunity to purchase hygiene and hair-care products and other items that are not found in traditional residential programs. Units' décor allows for a more homelike atmosphere.

The goal of the program is to allow a smooth transition from the residential treatment program into society. It is recognized that it will be difficult to completely meet the needs of community reintegration within a secure residential setting. We believe, however, that providing incremental steps of a less structured environment along with a systematically increased process of Life-Skills preparation and facility-to-community transition will promote greater and stronger aftercare success stories with the youth returning to society from the Wolverine Secure Treatment Center. ✚



*The new Culinary Arts training kitchen will provide in-depth instruction in cooking techniques.*

## OVER 1,000 BOOKS DONATED to the John S. Vitale Community Center



*Elementary school youth watch intently as WHS is presented with the book donation.*

The John S. Vitale Community Center (JVCC) received a generous donation of books from Silver Springs Elementary School in Northville on April 18, 2008. Over 1,000 books were donated to the Community Center during a special assembly, at which Wolverine was a guest of honor.

The book drive was part of the school's "March is Reading Month" community service initiative. Students at the school also demonstrated their creativity by designing a wide variety of handmade bookmarks for the JVCC children. The books and bookmarks have already been put to good use as each JVCC client was allowed to select 5 books and a bookmark to take home. The remaining books have been placed in the book closet for community use. Clients were able to show their appreciation by designing Thank-You cards for the students at the school.

WHS would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the students, teachers and families of Silver Springs Elementary School! +

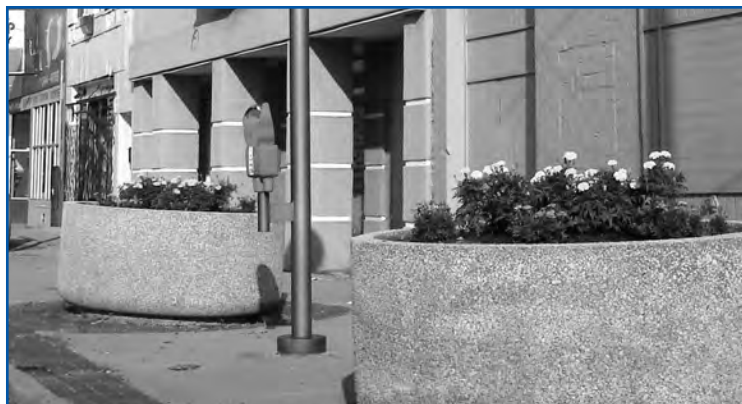
## A POSITIVE PARTNERSHIP IN DETROIT

The East Warren Avenue Business Association (EWABA) began its partnership with Wolverine Human Services in April of 2008. Clients from Victors Center, Day Treatment and the WHS Assessment Center have been volunteering weekly on the East Warren Avenue Business District in Detroit. The volunteers joined other community members during EWABA's annual Motor City Makeover to clean up a vacant

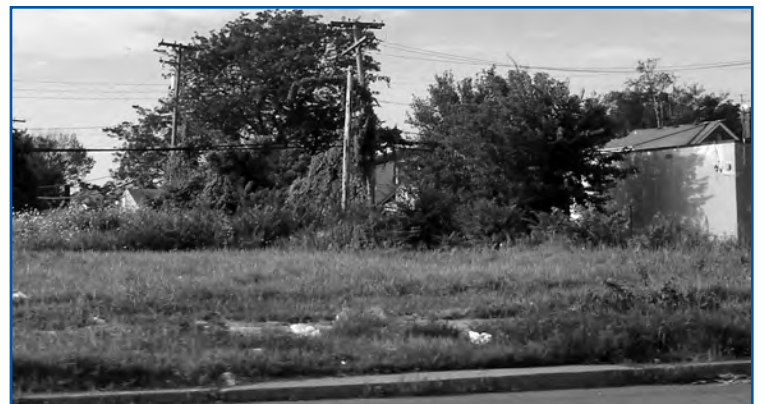
lot that had been used as a dumping area.

The volunteers have also been working on clearing out planters on East Warren Avenue that are overgrown with weeds. As they clear them out, business owners have been replacing the weeds and trash with colorful flowers. The volunteers also helped some business owners plant flowers in front of their stores.

This partnership creates an opportunity for the volunteers to interact with business owners and learn the importance of giving back to a community; while the business owners are able to see the dedication and enthusiasm the volunteers bring towards helping the East Warren Avenue Business District. +



*Flower planters along East Warren Avenue are full of color, thanks to WHS clients.*



*This vacant lot was cleared out by WHS clients during the Motor City Makeover Event.*

## MACK ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE GETS A NEW LOOK

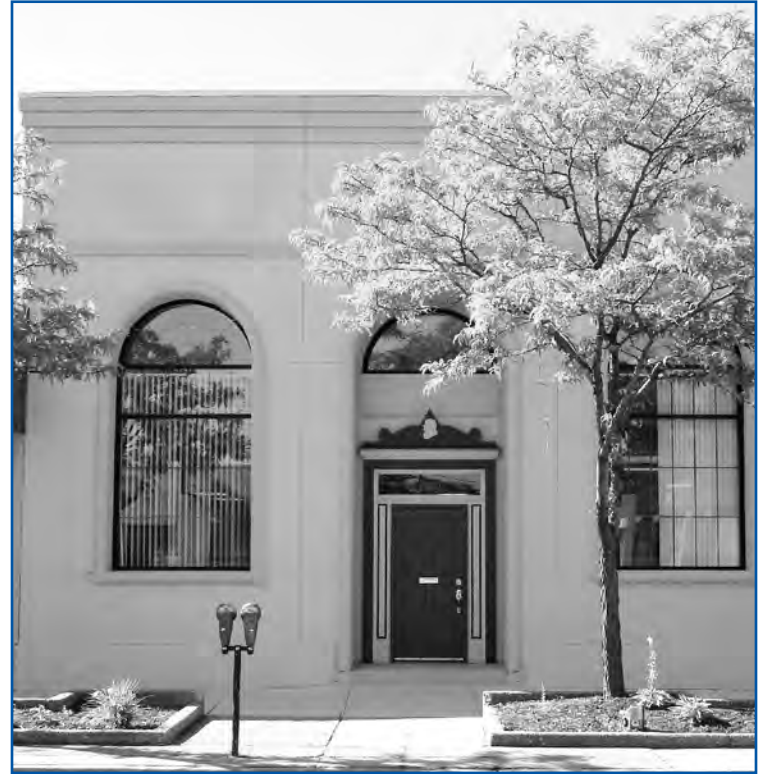
In August 2007, the façade and overhang of the Mack Administrative office in Grosse Pointe Park collapsed. The building, originally built in the 1920s as the Jefferson Savings Bank, had deteriorated drastically over the years as a result of the freeze and thaw process. The incident occurred around 6 AM on a warm August morning. Fortunately, no one was injured, but the rumbling of concrete falling to the ground was heard throughout the neighborhood.

The entire office was evacuated and emptied in a matter of hours, including furniture, computers, and paperwork, in accordance with the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department procedures. These items were placed in storage units and other WHS properties. Employees of the Mack office were transferred to the WHS Human Resources and Accounting offices, located on East Warren Avenue in Detroit.

Upon determination that the building could be salvaged, reconstruction began immediately. When the outside façade of the building was dismantled, it was discovered that there was no insulation. Contractors discovered that the building had been piecemeal constructed over the years, making the renovation of the building extremely difficult.

Six months later, in April 2008, the building was completely restored and thoroughly insulated. The end result was a

beautifully renovated office building. Today, the Mack Administrative office is back to conducting business as usual. ✚



*The Mack Administrative office in Grosse Pointe Park is new and improved.*

## PARENTS AND STAFF ATTEND DAY TREATMENT “MEET & GREET”

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, the Day Treatment Program hosted its first “Meet & Greet” parent event at the John S. Vitale Community Center in Detroit. Modeled after traditional parent-teacher conferences, the affair was a huge success! Parents and clients were invited to “Meet and Greet” by Day Treatment staff members and received a comprehensive overview of the program through creatively designed display tables, building tours, and one-on-one parent/staff interaction.

Jazz music played in the background while everyone enjoyed a diverse selection of

light refreshments. In order to ensure participation, Day Treatment staff members provided parent transportation to and from the event. To show appreciation for their attendance, raffle prizes were awarded to attendees every 30 minutes.

Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to get to know one another and a good time was had by all. As a result of this event, parent participation has increased and the Day Treatment program is now developing a parent volunteer mentoring group. ✚

## SESAME STREET LIVE

In February, Wolverine Human Services sponsored a field trip for foster care children and foster parents to attend “Sesame Street Live” at the Fox Theater in Detroit. Over 32 individuals braved a snowstorm in order to join Big Bird and Elmo as they sang and danced. For many participants, this was the first time they had ever experienced a live performance. The event was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time. ✚

# Who are we?

## **St. Jude's Home for Boys**

A 9-12 month non-secure residential treatment program for abused, neglected and delinquent adolescent males.

## **Victor's Center**

A 6-18 month residential treatment program for especially difficult male adolescents, most with low learning ability.

## **Wolverine Diagnostic, Assessment and Treatment Center**

An emergency shelter program with short stay diagnostic and psychiatric assessments which provides a haven for males, ages 6-18, who have been removed from their home environments out of necessity. The Center also houses the Wolverine Sexually Reactive Program, an intensive residential treatment program for 14 sexually reactive males, ages 12-17 with cognitive impairment.

## **Pioneer Work and Learn Center**

A 9-12 month residential group treatment program for abused and/or neglected males. The PWLC program focuses on self-sufficiency skill development, education, vocational training and re-integration to the community. Located in Vassar, Michigan.

## **WCARE**

A 6-12 month state licensed and accredited residential substance treatment program for adolescent males combined with traditional group treatment, vocational training, outdoor therapeutic programming and education. Located in Vassar, Michigan.

## **Wolverine Adventure, Vocational and Educational Systems**

A low security, 6-9 month camp program combining traditional group treatment with vocational training, outdoor therapeutic programming and education to impact juvenile offenders. Located in Vassar, Michigan.

## **Community Case Management Services**

Supervised Independent Living, Foster Care, Families First, and Day Treatment. Adolescents are referred from our programs as well as others from around the state.

## **WHS John S. Vitale Community Center**

Gymnasium, kitchen and classroom areas for educational offerings, recreational programs and a community kitchen provide outreach services to local neighborhoods in need.

## **Wolverine Growth and Recovery Center**

A combination of diverse residential programs including intensive drug treatment and sexual offender treatment for adolescent males. Located in Vassar, Michigan.

## **Lt. Clarence Fischer Center**

The Lt. Clarence Fischer Leadership Academy is a 34-bed, six month, highly structured program based on a blend of the successful Wolverine treatment model and a military model. The center also houses 32 WCARE substance abuse clients.

## **Pioneer Adventure Programs**

The Pioneer Adventure Programs provide adventure trips for youth placed in Wolverine Human Services' programs and offers programming to outside groups looking to develop new skills. The curriculum can be tailored for each unique group. The activities at PAP have been developed to meet the standards of the Association for Experiential Educators and the Association for Challenge Course Technology.

## **WCARE-I**

A state licensed, fully accredited, self contained, intensive drug treatment facility for male juvenile offenders located on the WHS-Vassar, Michigan campus.

## **WSAFENET**

An evidence based residential juvenile sexual offender treatment program for adolescent males located on the WHS-Vassar, Michigan campus.

**For more information, for a tour, or to learn how you can help support these programs, contact us at (313) 824-4400.**

# WHS

## **Trustee Officers**

Bruce A. Kintz  
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## **Memberships & Accreditation**

National Association of Social Workers

Child Welfare League of America

Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children

American Correctional Association

Juvenile Justice Association of Michigan

Midwest Association of College Employers

FFTA: Foster Family Based Treatment Association

Children's Placement Network:  
Wayne County

Children's Placement Network:  
Oakland County

Kinship Care Resource Center Michigan  
State University

American Management Association

Association of Accredited Child and Family Agencies

Alliance for Children and Families

Field Placement site/instructor for the following:  
U of M, MSU, Wayne State, Eastern Michigan, Marygrove, and U of D