

Store helps organize Lighthouse

Organizing a closet is never an easy task. Organizing a closet that hundreds of people use is an enormous task.

In preparation for the opening of its new building adjacent to its current building, Lighthouse in Pontiac is moving its clothing closet from the gym of All Saints Episcopal Church next door to a 48-by-24 room in the new building. The move to a smaller space posed a problem for the Lighthouse volunteers and staff.

In 1987, 21,331 clients received food and 12,999 clients received clothing and household items from Lighthouse.

"The Lighthouse clothes closet provides Oakland County residents with a source of clothing and household items such as towels, bedding and sheets," said Noreen Keating, Lighthouse executive director.

Recipients of clothing closet items are people who have been turned out of their homes, are unemployed or have other difficult situations.

"Items which make up our clothing closet are donated by generous persons from throughout the community," Keating said. "They are clean, repaired goods which are in usable condition. We do not have the resource to work on the items, Lighthouse staff and volunteers focus on distribution rather than repair."

"We knew we had to do a better job of organizing the clothes closet, but didn't know exactly how to go about it," she said.

THAT'S WHERE Clutter Control came in. Val Mellon, Lighthouse volunteer coordinator, had shopped at Clutter Control, a Farmington Hills store

that sells a range of items to organize storage space. She thought of the store when they were discussing what to do about their new clothes closet and contacted owner Ann Brasch.

Brasch drew up a plan for the space using a variety of storage units.

"Due to the nature of the activity in the clothes closet, we needed to effectively utilize every inch of the room," Brasch said. "The storage system we designed for Lighthouse consists of shelves, freestanding basket islands in the middle of the room and belt and tie racks."

Brasch donated time and much of the materials to the project. "I wanted to make a contribution to the community that would be both significant and long lasting," she said.

LIKE A majority of the activities Lighthouse undertakes, volunteers will pick up, assemble and put the storage units into place.

"Installation of the systems is quite simple," Brasch said. "It requires the use of drills and levels. The new clothes closet will be very space efficient, making maximum possible use of the area. Down the road, Lighthouse would like to organize the separate clothes sorting room, food storage area and laundry room in much the same way."

"Once completed, the Lighthouse clothing closet will be much like a store," Keating said. "The items will be separated into areas for men, women and children. It will be efficiently used space, with a nice atmosphere."

DONATIONS of clothing, household items and volunteer time and talents are always needed at Lighthouse. To contribute, call 335-2462 weekdays or stop by Lighthouse at 109 Williams, Pontiac.

Lighthouse, founded in 1972, provides food, clothing and emergency funds, medicine, rent utilities and transportation.

Counselors and advocates are available to help citizens with housing, employment and social services. There is no age restriction. The agency also provides formula for babies, as well as medicine and medical supplies for homebound senior citizens and handicapped persons.

Lighthouse is a member agency supported by the United Way of Pontiac-North Oakland.

military news

Tapping the military news pipeline

SHE'S PROMOTED

Rachelle Dene, daughter of Michelle and Monte Nagler of Farmington Hills, was promoted in the Air Force to airman first class.

Dene is a staff announcer with the Air Force Pacific Broadcasting Squadron in Japan. She is a 1985 graduate of Walled Lake Western

High School.

NEW GRADUATE

Michael Smith graduated with distinction from the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. He since was stationed in Millington, Tenn. for 5 1/2 months for technical training in aircraft electrical and electronics before going on to a fleet.

Smith is a Farmington High School graduate.

Free food is going to eligible residents

Butter and flour will be distributed free to income-eligible Oakland County residents Tuesday, Aug. 16, at St. Alexander Church, 27935 Shawansee, Farmington Hills.

Hours for the surplus commodity food giveaway, sponsored by the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Income-eligible Oakland County residents who have not already registered may register the day of the distribution. They must bring proof of total household income for the last 90 days, their Social Security card and personal identification.

EACH ELIGIBLE person is given a new USDA Surplus Commodity Food Registration Card with a registration number and the distribution site that the person must attend every other month between Oct. 1, 1988,

and Sept. 30, 1989.

This card must be presented to the clerk for verification every time the person receives the commodities. Registration does not guarantee receipt of commodity food each time. Distribution is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Income eligibility is based on 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for people younger than 60 and 180 percent of the poverty guidelines for people 60 and older.

Senior citizens (60 and over) who attend a senior center to pick up their commodities should contact the center for pickup date and time. Also, homebound seniors should contact their nearest senior center to register for homebound delivery. Homebound people younger than 60 should call West Oakland Field Services, 666-3974.

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