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Happy New Year from our Family to Yours

"The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money." J.H. Jowett

The staff and clients of Shelter of Flint thank you for your incredible support in 2009. Your assistance was needed more than ever this past year, and we couldn't have helped over 1,300 women, children and families without it. Thank you for helping the homeless in our community find warmth, housing and economic stability in these hard times.

Gary Haggart: Lifetime of Giving



Resource Genesee honored Shelter of Flint Executive Director Gary Haggart in early December with the 2009 Sybyl Award for his contribution to the Flint community. The award was given at Resource Genesee's Annual Holiday Luncheon at First Presbyterian Church in Flint.

In its second year, the Sybyl Award was created in remembrance of Resource Genesee's creator and longtime community activist, Sybyl M. Atwood. The award is designed to highlight Atwood's many remarkable attributes and to annually acknowledge a community member who exemplifies Atwood's energy, outlook and dedication to helping others. This year, 15 community activists were nominated to receive the award.

Haggart's resume boasts years of service in the Flint community. He spent his career in the non profit sector, beginning with Flint's Probate Court and

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Notes & Reminders

- **Shelter of Flint's Kitchen & Cook** would like to extend a big thank you to all who donated food items throughout the year. Your donation helped feed over 1,300 women and children in Genesee & Lapeer counties in 2009.
- **Seeking Guest Writers:** Have something on your mind that you want to share with the rest of the Shelter of Flint

youth offenders, moving onto the Flint Downtown Development Authority and later directing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint. During his time as Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Haggart extended its services to include high school mentors and developed the organization's now largest fund raiser: Bowl for Kids' Sake. Haggart keeps himself busy these days directing Shelter of Flint, a comprehensive program for homeless women, children and families, and serving on the Board of Directors for the Genesee County Habitat for Humanity.

Haggart uses his entrepreneurial talent to serve the greater good, founding the grassroots beautification program Keep Genesee County Beautiful and initiating the founding of 100 Men 100 Boys, a mentoring program matching African American men and boys. A mentor to six boys and a foster parent to another, Haggart demonstrates extreme compassion for those less fortunate.

People Helping People: Dort Federal Credit Union Gives Back

by Gary Haggart, contributing writer



At a ceremony held at the Dort Federal Credit Union branch on Holly Road, a check for over \$8,500 was presented to Shelter of Flint. The money was raised by the employees and members of Dort Federal through their Snowman Ornament campaign over the holidays.

The paper snowmen were sold at each of the seven Dort Federal Credit Unions in the greater Flint area.

Dort Federal's dedicated staff and members raised more than expected and were able to present the same gift to the Old Newsboys, who will use the donation to purchase more holiday gifts for those in need. Shelter of Flint will use the dollars to keep up with demand for food and shelter for homeless families.

The contribution comes at no better time for the Shelter as requests for

community? Consider writing a guest column for our newsletter. Call Anne at (810) 238-4711 ext. 304.

- **Donations** accepted [online](#) or by contacting Anne Grantner at (810) 238-4711 ext. 304.

services during the winter months increase. “Just meeting the basic needs for our homeless families has become a struggle,” says Gary Haggart, executive director of Shelter of Flint. “We are lucky to have such great friends as the employees and members of Dort Federal Credit Union.”

Dort Federal Credit Union is based on the principles of “people helping people,” and as Shelter of Flint and the Old Newsboys can testify, they live up to this philosophy.

The Shelter's New Beauty Shop



Lorraine Morrisette was sitting in her salon one day, listening to customers discuss the dismal economic state of Michigan. Thinking how fortunate she was to have a job, Morrisette wanted to make a difference in the lives of those who weren't so lucky. Upon sharing her idea, a customer recommended that Morrisette share her talents with a homeless shelter. And that's when Shelter of Flint popped into her mind, the women's homeless shelter next door to her former school at St. Mary's Church on Delaware Avenue.

“Making someone feel better makes *my* day,” says Morrisette. Which is why she donates five hours of her day every other Monday doing hair for the women at Shelter of Flint's emergency shelter. Morrisette started working at the Shelter in August, doing everything from cut to style to waxing. She serves up to 10 clients a day at the Shelter, thanks in part to help from her colleague Margie Love.

“Sometimes we'll get women coming in to get their hair done for an interview,” says Morrisette. “It makes me feel better to know that I'm helping someone else.”

Program Director Sara Harris says the program 'is a blessing.'

“There's a noticeable difference in the women who see Lorraine,” says Harris. “They're upbeat, they're feeling good about themselves and they bring a cheerful mood to the Shelter.”

Lorraine Morrisette works for Wild Side Spa at 9126 Lapeer Road in Davison.

If you have a talent you'd like to share with Shelter of Flint, please contact Sara Harris, Program Director at (810) 239-5433 ext. 302.

Adopt-a-Family Thank You & Recognition



Many thanks to those who brightened the holiday season for Shelter of Flint clients by providing presents through the Adopt-a-Family program. Nothing spreads holiday cheer like giving to others. Your gifts meant so much to those who have so little, and we hope you take joy in knowing that you made the holiday season better for a family without a home.

The Adopt-a-Family program allows groups and individual community members to “adopt” a family for the holidays, providing wrapped or unwrapped presents to those in need. To receive information for the Adopt-a-Family 2010 season, please contact Megan Bensette at mbensette@gmail.com or (810) 238-4711 ext. 305.

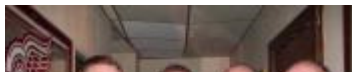
Thank you to the 2009 Adopt-a-Family donors:

Colleen Adams
American Business Women
Baker College
Bob & Sally Bessert
Twila Brown
Dawn Caldwell
City of Flint
Community & Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM)
Daniel & Debbie Compeau
Donna Dipzinski
Katie Dolan
Family Worship Center Church
Flint Neighborhood Improvement & Preservation Project, Inc. (FNIPP)
Gary & Kathy Haggart
H-care Pharmacy
Genesys Healthy System
Leigh Godbey
Jodi, Christina & Katelyn Green
Cyndi Hahn
HealthPlus of Michigan
Susan Houston
Rosemary Ingraham
Lawana Jarett
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University of Phoenix
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A.P. & Reba Walling
Cindy Weber
West Bendle Elementary School
Fred Wilkes

Volunteer Spotlight: The Vance Family

by Gary Haggart, contributing writer





Recently, Vance brothers Paul, Tony and Michael sponsored a year end party to raise money for Shelter of Flint. Held at Tavern on the Green, the event drew over 500 people and raised over \$1,300.

This is the second year for the party. The party will take place again next year and the Vance brothers are predicting an even bigger crowd.

The parents, Mike and Nancy Vance, held their own party to raise money for the Shelter. That holiday event was held at Luigi's Restaurant in December and drew a somewhat older crowd.

Shelter of Flint appreciates all that the Vance family does throughout the year.

There are many ways to volunteer for the Shelter of Flint: yard clean up, teach a skills course or host a third-party fund raiser. For more information on how to share your time and skills with Shelter of Flint, please contact Anne Grantner at (810) 238-4711 ext. 304.

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