



# Haven House

Helping Lansing Area Families Help Themselves

SUMMER 2010

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

# Jim Zacks: Board member, colleague, mentor and friend



Angie Mayeaux

**J**im Zacks became a director on our board in 2003 at the invitation of the previous Executive Director and his personal friend, Beverly Weiner, and has served as Board Secretary for the last three years. A retired professor from MSU's Psychology Department, he has been a very active Board member and a tremendous asset to our organization.

Jim has assisted us in writing grants for the shelter to Granger, NPower and the Power of WE. The two latter grants assisted Haven House in building capacity within the organization such as improved computer technology.

With the increased computer technology, it has become clear that Jim is our IT guy. He is a wizard at dealing with computer meltdowns and can usually get us back in gear. He is our webmaster and email guru. He researched a new database for us to use and is our technical support for the program. He even offered to teach other nonprofits about the database so there could be a local network of users.

Besides his expertise with computers, Jim is an all around handyman and organizational wonder. He has made many minor repairs, moved furniture on hot summer days, and picked up donated items and large purchased items. Throughout our renovation project, he designed and re-designed our Food Bank as it moved locations three times! Jim drew up a design for the new Food Bank that provided the most shelf space possible within the square footage.

Most recently, Jim has given countless hours to our *Tailgating on the Banks of the Red Cedar* Cookbook Committee. Jim's computer and exceptional organizational skills, teamed up with Dave Havrilla's brilliant ideas and Carol Brownell's selling savvy, made this one of our biggest fundraisers ever. Jim collected the hundreds of recipes, stories and pictures from loyal MSU Spartan

fans and formatted them for selection and publication. As our webmaster, he developed an easy way for fans to submit their recipes, stories and pictures and to order the cookbook online. At times we wondered if he ever slept!

Jim's untiring work and his connections to MSU provided an unusual opportunity for Haven House. He introduced Haven House staff to Dr. Becky Campbell and her graduate psychology class. Impressed with our program, the class chose Haven House for its graduate project and developed an evaluation that each of our clients completes at the end of their stay. This was a wonderful learning experience for staff and the graduate students. Everyone worked hard together, and the students created a Logic Model for Haven House as well as the new evaluation. The Logic Model helps staff understand their various interactions with clients, and the evaluation gives us measureable affirmations of our work.

Jim has and does so much for Haven House, but I can only put so much to the page. He has helped Haven House with so many ventures,

problems and little issues that sometimes we wonder what we would do without him.

Jim will be leaving our Board this September, but we are sure to see him as he continues to volunteer his precious time and energy. He has been a trusted board member, colleague, mentor and friend. His efforts implementing recommendations and working with community resources have strengthened the building blocks upon which Haven House has grown.

Thank you Jim, for all the time, effort, muscle, ideas and care you have given to the staff, volunteers and, most importantly, the homeless families we serve each day. We wish you well as you and your wife, Rose, enjoy your retirement!

— Angie Mayeaux, Executive Director



Always on the go, retiring Board Member Jim Zacks is an avid bicyclist.



Caroline Martin packs a food order. In order to provide variety, she suggests donors call to see what food items are needed before purchasing food donations.

## Volunteer Food Bank Manager Caroline Martin

Caroline Martin, an MSU nutrition major, is volunteering as our Food Bank Manager in order to use her skills in the field of nutrition. As this is the first time we have had this position, Caroline is developing the “job description.”

Caroline’s first order of business was to inventory and organize the food and make sure there were no expired items on the shelves. Her next challenge is working with staff and volunteers to coordinate the changes that are being made to improve the ordering process. She is also looking for quick and nutritious recipes that use the items found in a typical food order.

As a nutrition major, Caroline has a special interest in encouraging the use of fresh fruits and vegetables. She hopes to improve Haven House’s disbursement of these nutritious foods throughout the year as well as maintaining the non-perishable inventory to provide the best variety possible for our clients.

## Food Bank sees 30% increase in number of households served

The need for food assistance continues to grow in our community. Haven House Food Bank saw a 30% increase in families served in the first quarter of 2010 and expects to see more families as the economy continues to struggle. Families in East Lansing/Haslett/Okemos make up 10% of the increase. The remaining 20% are recipients of the Weekend Emergency Food program formerly operated by the American Red Cross.

This growing need is straining our pantry. Food costs have increased, and the variety of foods available has decreased. We are partnered with some local food providers to help provide fresh produce, rice and pasta, but the need for non-perishable items continues. Currently, we need crackers, nutritious snacks and canned meat meals such as beef stew, chili with meat, or hash. These items may be dropped off at Haven House between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Weekend hours are 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



## Former resident promotes Haven House Food Bank

Lynn (not her real name) stayed at Haven House in the early 1990s. She moved on with her life, thanks to the support and kindness of the Haven House staff.

Recently, Lynn’s church began to donate food for our Food Bank at her suggestion. Lynn delivers the food to Haven House. She said, “I can’t support the Haven House financially, but I have wanted to give back to you for years. It does my heart good to hear you can use the food!”



## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

# Semi-retirement begins for Haven House Deputy Director Darlene van Ravensway

Whether Haven House staff members are trying to locate report information or need a listening ear, Darlene van Ravensway has been there for them since 1993 when she hired on as Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager. In 1995 she became Deputy Director and handled building maintenance, financial matters, bookkeeping, staff scheduling and a myriad of other duties. She also served as Interim Executive Director during the search for the new Executive Director in 2006.

Darlene has seen many changes during the last 17 years as the needs of the homeless have changed. The two changes she feels impacted Haven House most were the decision to no longer accept single women and the expansion of the current programs.

Darlene recently semi-retired and now works part time at Haven House. She spends her free time traveling with her husband, Jim, enjoying their two grandchildren, and golfing whenever possible. When asked why she remains at Haven House, she said, "I love what I do and love the staff I work with, and I believe in the services we provide. What sticks with me the most and is the most satisfying is when they (Haven House residents) get housing...the excitement, the hopes, and the dreams."



Darlene van Ravensway traveled to Venice, Italy, this Spring.

## Small businesses pack a punch

Small businesses are important partners in the efforts to help the neediest families in the Greater Lansing area. They provide funds, goods, and services that maintain Haven House and the services it provides. Local businesses continue to support Haven House in many ways. We appreciate all they do for Haven House!

- Employees of H and H Mobil
- Foods for Living
- Hayhoe Asphalt
- Prime Time Awards
- Saper Gallery
- Smith Tree and Landscape



While we try to keep our mailing list up to date, there may be a delay in making corrections. Our apologies if you received this newsletter in error. If you wish to make changes to your mailing information, please call Maresa at 517-337-2731 or email her at [mtdrick@HavenHouseEL.org](mailto:mtdrick@HavenHouseEL.org).



# Adopt-a-Child for Back to School

As the school year has come to an end, many of us do not want to think about the next school year. Still, Haven House is asking the community to take a moment to consider providing assistance for needy children through our 2010 **Adopt-a-Child for Back to School** program.

It can be so easy to take the little things like a first day of school outfit, backpack, and school supplies for granted. Unfortunately, low income families struggle to pay for the basic necessities of housing and food. There is little, if any, money left over for school supplies.

Haven House matches a sponsor or group of sponsors with a child or children who have stayed at Haven House during the past year or are currently residing at Haven House. The sponsor receives a list of clothing and school supplies from which to choose gifts for the child(ren).

Since 1994, hundreds of children have been sponsored through our Adopt-a-Child for Back to School Program. Please take this moment and contact Haven House staff and sign up to sponsor a child or children for our 2010 Adopt-a-Child for Back to School program. Call 337-2731 and ask for Trysta or Bridgett. For your convenience, we can also be contacted by email: [tharns@havenhouseel.org](mailto:tharns@havenhouseel.org) or [bflynn@havenhouseel.org](mailto:bflynn@havenhouseel.org).



## RESIDENT STORY: Nancy and Steve

No income, no job, and now no place to stay. Steve, Nancy, and 3-year-old Ellen needed shelter and help to get back on their feet. They called Haven House and began the hard work ahead of them.

Haven House staff and the family worked together to identify needs and secure appropriate services. Former barriers became surmountable with staff guidance and Steve's and Nancy's desire to succeed.

Steve was looking for employment and was referred to Job Club for employment search assistance. Nancy identified the need to reapply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and was referred to S.O.A.R., an outreach program that assists homeless individuals to move through the application and disability determination process. A referral to Legal Aid helped resolve a custody issue.

Steve and Nancy continued their housing search throughout their stay and eventually secured affordable housing. Haven House was able to assist with move-in costs, and the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) helped with two months' rent to allow the family time to become financially stable.

The family now participates in Haven House's **Partners in Progress** transitional program. They meet regularly with Haven House staff to identify goals and discuss how best to reach them as they work towards a brighter future.

### Wish list...

- 4 dehumidifiers
- Window air conditioner
- Simple Green Cleaner
- Box fans
- Mops
- Brooms
- Lotion
- Infant Tylenol (or generic)
- Diaper rash medication
- Hair brushes



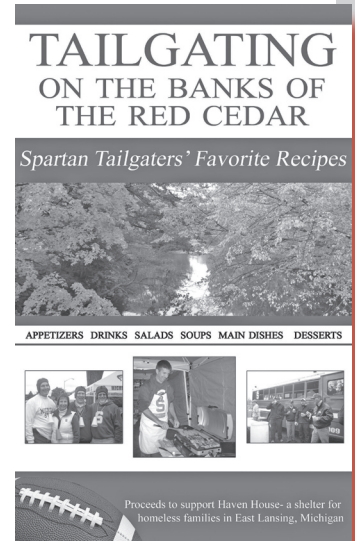
# The story continues...and so does the tailgating food and the fun!!

Loyal MSU tailgaters have an opportunity to contribute to the “sequel” of *Tailgating on the Banks of the Red Cedar* cookbook. We will be visiting your tailgate parties early this fall, looking for more delicious recipes and photos and stories of that Spartan Spirit for this second edition cookbook. The cookbook’s proceeds will directly benefit Haven House and the homeless families of the Greater Lansing area.

**Beat the crowd and submit a recipe/photo/story for our next edition of *Tailgating on the Banks of the Red Cedar* on our website, [www.HavenHouseEL.org](http://www.HavenHouseEL.org)!**

A limited number remain of the first edition of *Tailgating on the Banks of the Red Cedar*. The cookbooks cost \$15 plus tax, and all proceeds directly benefit Haven House. The cookbooks are available at our website ([www.havenhouseEL.org](http://www.havenhouseEL.org)) or may be purchased at Haven House or at the following stores:

- Schuler Books, Meridian Mall
- Schuler Books, Eastwood Towne Center
- Bake N’ Cakes, 3003 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing (located just as you exit/enter the expressway by Frandor)
- Silver & Beyond (located in the lobby of the East Lansing Marriott at University Place)
- Student Book Store, 421 Grand River Avenue, East Lansing
- Kellogg Center, 55 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
- Spartan Book Store, MSU International Center (on the lower level)



## HAVEN HOUSE HIGHLIGHT

### Haven House welcomes Meghan Rhoades

**M**eghan Rhoades, a recent Michigan State University graduate and former Haven House intern, joined Haven House July 5, 2010, as a full-time Shelter Coordinator. As Shelter Coordinator, Meghan meets daily with residents to review their goals and progress towards locating permanent housing. She refers residents for needed services and offers support to the families during this difficult time in their lives. We are delighted to welcome Meghan to Haven House.

Want to know more about Haven House? We would be delighted to come and speak to your group! Call 517-337-2731 and ask for Angie.



## *We are grateful to Haven House's Circle of Friends...*

who provide the funds so we can offer housing and services to homeless families. Below are the names of supporters whose donations were received between April 1, 2010, and June 30, 2010. Donations received after this date will be listed in the next newsletter. We make every effort to include all donors. If we have omitted your name, please accept our apologies and give us a call so we can list your name in the next newsletter.

Thanks also to all of you who have donated children's clothing, household supplies, food and other needs. We wish we had the space to list every one of you. We appreciate your help.

### **ORGANIZATIONS**

All Saints Episcopal Church  
Bakes N' Cakes  
Bath High School  
The Catholic Community  
of St. Jude  
Christian Science Church  
East Lansing Food Co-op  
East Lansing Library  
Eastminster Presbyterian  
Church  
Girl Scout Troop 30219  
Haslett Public Schools  
Huntington National Bank  
Ingham County Medical  
Leadership Council  
Kehillat Israel Synagog  
Kinawa Middle School  
Lunch with a Purpose  
Lyman and Sheets Insurance  
Agency  
Marble School  
Martin Luther Chapel  
Montessori Children's House  
MSU Charity Ball  
MSU Coffee Club  
MSU Kroger Team  
MSU Social Work 200 Class  
People for Jessica Yorke  
The Peoples Church  
of East Lansing  
Phi Beta Sigma  
Richard King and Associates,  
Inc.  
River Terrace Church  
Shaarey-Zedek  
Smith Tree and Landscape  
St. Martha CCW  
St. Stephen's Community  
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish  
Tarpoff Catering  
University Lutheran Church

### **INDIVIDUALS**

John Fields and Susan Anderson  
Catherine Babcock  
Rick and Kathleen Ballard  
Lori Baranek  
David and Paula Batch  
Martha Bibbs  
Kimberly and James Blair  
Philip A. Bolander  
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Mark and Rebecca Dantonio  
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Marjorie A. Dickinson  
Ionne Dobler  
Carey L. Draeger  
Mervin Draper  
Dana Drummond-Rittenberg  
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Luanne Dunsfod  
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James and Maribeth Fletcher  
Claire A. Floyd  
J. Andre and Judith Friedlis  
James and Sally Fuller  
Ruby N. Ghosh  
Frances Hackney  
David M. Hallman, DDS

## **MSU Horticulture Department donates to Haven House**



**W**e would like to thank Dan Bulkowski, Gardens and Greenhouse Manager at MSU, for donating the many perennials and annuals that we are enjoying this season and will again in years to come.

This is the second year that Dan has donated to Haven House after the annual MSU Plant Sale. Last year, we were the recipients of shrubs and perennials.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Michigan State University Horticulture Department!



Clarence and Thelma Hansen  
 Mike and Trysta Harns  
 Mary Karen Henderson  
 Debbie Henrie  
 Douglas and Katherine Hess  
 Molly Hidlay  
 Elaine High  
 Lisa Hildorf  
 William and Vivian Hixson  
 Dianne Holman  
 Shane Howell  
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 Diane and Susie Huerta/Stone  
 Richard and Florence Hummel  
 Daniel and Barbara Ilgen  
 Ronald and Annette Irwin  
 Adam Jacoby  
 Wendell and Marie Johns  
 Dr. Richard Johnson  
 Doug and Alison Kahl

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 Dale and Cheryl Kruger  
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 Tony and Rebecca L. Lamson  
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 Elvira M. Wilbur  
 Mark and Pamela Wilburn  
 Phyllis Willis  
 Miriam Winnig  
 Rebecca Wolfe  
 Jim and Rose Zacks  
 Rebecca and Zachery—Zacks and  
 Kron Family  
 Patty Zaskowski  
 Scott and Traci Zingery  
 Barbara A. Zynda



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*Helping Lansing Area Families Help Themselves*

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Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, including a special thanks to volunteer Rose Homa for the layout of this newsletter.





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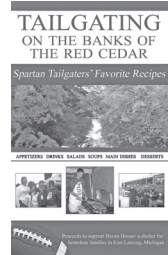
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**Adopt-a-Child for  
 Back to School**  
 see page 4.

**Get your recipes in  
 the next Tailgating  
 Cookbook**  
 see page 5.



*Yes!* *I would like to help Lansing area  
 homeless families help themselves.*

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution:

\$400     \$200     \$100     \$50     \$35     \$10     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a five-year pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_ each year.

Please send me information about Haven House.

Please send me information about volunteering.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to *Haven House*. Mail to: PO Box 961, East Lansing MI 48826-0961

Donations can also be made online at [www.havenhouseel.org](http://www.havenhouseel.org)

***Thank You for Your Support!***

Cash donations are always welcome. Donations are tax deductible on your federal tax return and may qualify for a State of Michigan tax credit of up to 50%.