

Macatawa Resource Center.

Hello everyone,

This is Leroy Hernandez, Executive Director of the Macatawa Resource Center. We are in the midst of Summer and it sure is a hot one. And as usual, we are buzzing with activity. We are getting ready for our Annual Celebration on July 14th from 3-7pm. It is meant to provide fun activities for families and opportunity to learn about services available to them.

We also just started a food delivery program to families in need. We do this through our newly licensed kitchen. It is used to cook meals for families, have cooking classes and also serves as an incubator kitchen for food entrepreneur start-ups. We are excited about this as it helps with basic food needs and also contributes toward community economic wellness.

The Macatawa Resource Center (MRC), is a 501 C-3 Non-Profit Center that houses other non-profits so that we can share resources and serves as a place where residents can access multiple services. We create unique programs that address current needs. Through these collaborations we have a huge positive impact in our community.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to develop and maintain a collaborative environment where non-profits are empowered to serve the community. And to be a place where residents are empowered to improve their lives.

The following are some updates and information on programs.

Building and Capacity updates:

Through a community grant we were able to replace the southern shingled roof of our building. Initially, We were thinking we would need an additional \$180,000 to fix the rest of the roof. However, with the help of volunteers from one of our member organizations we were able to pinpoint the cause of some leaks and are fixing them without having to replace the roof.

Through a community grant we were able to put the finishing touches on our incubator kitchen and get it fully licensed. The kitchen will be available to rent for Food Entrepreneurs and also used for some of our food programs.

Programming:

Through the Macatawa Community Alliance we are having weekly activities on Wednesdays. Currently, we are having Self-Empowerment classes. This includes lunch and it is also becoming a time for people to socialize with others. It gives them a break from their homes, many of whom live alone, and provides opportunities to participate in activities. We also augment these activities with cooking classes and Harbor Humane pet food distribution and other information pet services.

The MRC is a host agency for the AARP Senior Employment Program. It is an employment and training program for seniors. We currently have 4 program participants in training. This program is a win-win!!

With the completion of the Kitchen, we are ready to deliver food to families in need. We are targeting migrant camps in the area, neighborhood families and other vulnerable populations.

Community Partners:

Here is a list of our current agencies. We have 2 new agencies this year. Sweet Good Earth and A Small Space. Sweet Good Earth focus on environmental issues through education in gardening, landscaping and using environmentally friendly products. A Small Space focuses on workshops designed to help people through crisis. They offer a ray of hope so that they may overcome their circumstances.

List of Agencies at the MRC:

1. Advocacy Resource Center of the Lakeshore: Supportive Services / Developmentally Disabled
2. Apostolic Church: Community Worship Services
3. Believers Gathering: Discipleship Training
4. Community Action House: Food storage and distribution.
5. Continuum Home Health Care: Health care through home visits
6. Good Sweet Earth
7. Life Piece: Recovery coaching support with transportation service.
8. Holland Community Garden: Growing food for the community.
9. His Love Endureth Forever Ministry: Women's and Men's Support groups. Food distribution.
10. Iglesia La Roca: Community Food Support, Church worship, Women's, Men's, and Youth support groups and activities.
11. Lord of Life Lutheran Church: Community Worship Services
12. Macatawa Resource Center: Food//Pet Food/Cooking Classes/Self Development/Events.
13. Preferred Employment and Living Supports: Social and Employment Skills for developmentally disabled.
14. Mendoza Studios Community Podcast: Promoting Community Services and Events.
- 15, Spurgeon Church: Community Worship Services
16. The Small Space: Personal Growth through Mentoring, Coaching. Providing guidance through healing and emotional wellness.
17. Third Coast Recovery: 12-step for alcohol and drug addiction recovery.

2025 Services statistics provided at the Macatawa Resource Center

Advocacy And Resource Center of the Lakeshore:

Special Education Families Served: 148

Guardianship Families served: 37

Info & Referral Calls: 62 Speaking events, 350 people reached.

Believers' Gathering:

8 students discipleship 101 program

3 students in the School of Ministry

Community Action House:

Collaborate and share food with agencies at the MRC for food assistance to families.

Continuum Home Health Care:

62 caregivers

150 Household served

Good Sweet Earth:

New agency, conducts environmental classes on organic gardening, food, landscaping and other green activities.

His Love Endures Forever Ministry:

10 families participating in a community weekly prayer group.

28 women participated in the support group.

156 families were given food with the help of the blessings food pantry

6 families received assistance with clothing

Holland Community Garden:

Over 5500 lbs of food grown annually and given to the community.

Maintained 3 bee hives.

Over 3000 hours of volunteer services.

La Roca:

Food :10 Families

Immigration/citizenship :20 Families

Advocacy :10 Families

Counseling :15 Families

Life Piece:

50 participants participated in the recovery and support program.

Mendoza Studios:

Provided podcasts to promote MRC events and other agency events

Macatawa Resource Center:

29 people attended cooking classes. (MCA)

105 families assisted with advocacy, housing, and information and referral.

131 families assisted with the food pantry (MCA)

929 pets were assisted at the pet food pantry (MCA)

15 people attended our weekly community prayer meetings.

22 people attended our Self-Development classes. (MCA)

19 families assisted with diapers

*Program collaborations with over 9 agencies in the MRC.

*Technical Assistance and support to 2 organizations in the MRC.

*Food depot. Facilitate monthly community food distribution with 10 food agencies.

4 people assisted with transportation

13 participants attended a Leadership Program.

5 Business Owners attended our Business Support meetings.

PELS:

53 individuals received Group Community Living Supports/Empowerment

30 people participated in Skill Building

24 participated in group supported employment

10 people received individual employment support and follow up.

2 people participated in Bureau of Blind services (employment)

11 people received Job coaching

23 people received placement assistance.

4 received vocational testing

20 people participated in job readiness.

The Small Space:

One-on-one coaching: 2 people

Group Support Classes: 20 classes, 15 people

Third Coast Recovery (12 step):

15,325 visits in 2025

Over 30 meetings per week

2026-27 Goals:

- Pay more down on the mortgage
- Start a new fundraiser
- Strengthen Collaborations
- Monitor community unmet needs and adjust programs accordingly

Thank you for taking the time to read our community annual report. Our programs depend on your support and of your time. We operate on lean budget. Your contributions are vital to us and needed so that we can continue to deliver our services. I hope you would consider a financial donation. If you would like more information or would like a tour of our facility, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, I hope you have a great Summer with your families and friends! Thanks again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leroy Hernandez
Macatawa Resource Center
665 136th #70
Holland, MI 49424
mrcempowers@gmail.com
616.312.7953