

Macatawa Community Alliance Program

June 28, 2024

To: Holland Charter Township
From: Macatawa Community Alliance.

To: The Holland Charter Township Manager and Trustees,

Last year, we started providing services through the Macatawa Community Alliance (MCA) Program and we are now in our second year. We took over the program when MARIA closed its doors after a long tenure of delivering services. We also have a long history of partnering with MARIA throughout the years which is why they asked us to carry on these efforts. Their focus was on Safe kids, Safe Families and Safe neighborhoods. We are carrying on in the same mission and our programs aim to address basic safety and meeting basic needs of Northside Residents. Our facility is located in an area where there is crime activity and where there are high poverty levels.

We are grateful that the Holland Charter Township considers these services vital to our community. And the willingness to be a partner with the MRC in supporting the Macatawa Community Alliance Program. We are asking for \$20,000 that goes toward providing these services in fiscal year 2025.

Furry Friends Pet Food Pantry:

We have just recently partnered with the Ottawa County Humane Society to get more pet food. There is a statewide program where organizations like the Humane Society can buy pet food for pennies per pound. This new development will allow us to buy pet food for .17 cents a pound. For eg:1000 lbs. of food would cost us \$170. This will have a tremendous impact on our capacity to help more clients.

Community Celebration:

Last year we started having a community celebration. Our goal is to have a celebration much like the "National Night Out" in the City of Holland but in the Northside. It is like a neighborhood celebration where residents can come and get information on services available to them. We also have free food, information on services and fun activities for kids. It is an opportunity to celebrate and build pride in our community and help to deter crime. It is much like the National Night Out in Holland but we do it in Holland Charter Township. This year there is an increase in participation from businesses and non-profit agencies;

Monthly Food baskets:

His Harvest Stand and the MRC have just started distributing food once a month to needy families in our area. We did a pilot food distribution in May of 2024 and served 35 families. We are doing our 2nd one in July and are already seeing an increase of request for this. We anticipate to serve over 100 per distribution in a couple of months.

Food Pantry

We have also partnered in creating a food pantry. This helps families with emergency food services.

Back to School supplies:

We are continuing to provide back to school supplies; we do this in partnership with the Leisure Estates mgt team. We also help with other activities during Halloween and Christmas.

County Safety Partnership:

We have a volunteer that serves as a liason with Ottawa County Safety. We are also designating a space to store supplies that aid safety workers. For eg: Gatorade and beef sticks for fire fighters and other workers. First aid etc. (Canteen) We also assi

Community Partners:

Independent Bank
His Harvest Stand
Tiffany Tiffany Motivational and Inspirational services.
Leisure Estates

Service Stats:

Food Pantry: 90 families were assisted with food.
Food distribution: 35 families were assisted with monthly food giveaway. (just started)
Pet Food 114 families were assisted through our furry friends pantry.
Community Celebration 20 families attended our celebration last year.
Back to School supplies 80 families assisted.

Summary of how funding will be used.

\$ 8,600 - Part Time Position
\$ 2,000 Community Celebration
\$ 5,200 – Facilities, Food, Pet food and other operational costs.
\$ 2,000 - Administration Costs. Management Oversight, Accounting, Insurances, etc.
\$ 2,200 - Program materials, back to school supplies.
\$20,000 - Total HTC investment.

Inkind costs:

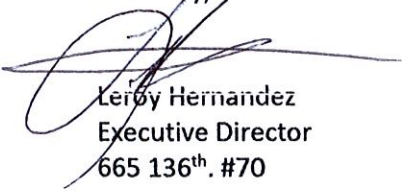
\$72,800 – 1,400 Volunteer Hours. 15 volunteers.
\$ 5,000 - 2 large walk in coolers/Freezer utilities, repairs and maintenance.
\$ 10,000 - Warehousing, food storage, pet food storage and other facilities.
\$ 2,600 - county safety partnership
\$ 90,400 Total MRC In kind value

\$110,400 Total Community Investment

Overall, we are seeing some growth in the Macatawa Community Alliance. As we increase our capacity we anticipate helping more families. Through our partnerships and collaborations we are able to keep our costs down while providing a large amount of services.

Thank you for reviewing our program information. We are very excited to provide these services. We are always striving to improve our services and to be flexible to community needs. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 616.312.7953. Thank for your time and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lerby Hernandez', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lerby Hernandez
Executive Director
665 136th. #70

Macatawa Community Alliance Program
616.
312.7953

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