

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

6-20



**Christmas Wreath
& Poinsettia Sale**

16



THANKSGIVING
Blessing
BASKETS
Worship Night

6



DAYSTAR
GIFT SHOPPE

Open House

23



THANKSGIVING

*GIVE THANKS SERVICE
& Pie Fellowship*



HEARTBEAT
OF
BETHESDA

NEWSBOYS BORN AGAIN

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- » November Birthdays & Anniversaries



**NEWSBOYS
CONCERT**

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2011 TRUNK N' TREAT



Trunk 'N' Treat was a spectacular success this year! The Lord favored us with exceptionally beautiful weather on Sunday, October 30th for our annual Trunk 'N' Treat event. We had an overwhelming response, both from the congregation (volunteers and candy donations) and the community (families in attendance). The Library parking lot was packed with 36 decorated cars—and surprisingly a decorated boat and RV too! Crafts, games, food, and inflatables flowed onto the adjacent lawn. The nearly 600 kids on site had a fantastic time.

Congratulations to Rob & Peggy Susan and the entire Children's Ministries team for coordinating such an outstanding community outreach event. And a heartfelt thanks goes out to all the Bethesda volunteers who went above & beyond to make TNT a blast!



Holy Wow!

OVER 1200 ATTENDEES

575 KIDS

270 FAMILIES

100+ VOLUNTEERS

250 LBS OF CANDY

Winners for Best Decorations

Biblical Category:
"Baby Moses" by
The Mazzola Family

Non-Biblical Category:
"Pajama Party" by
Keith & Tricia Farris

NOW PERFORMING MONTHLY

Back by popular demand! The Arts department is pleased to announce that Bethesda's brilliant Worship Choir will now perform regularly on the last Sunday of each month. Directed by Paul Tosch, Associate Music Director, the choir will focus on traditional hymns and contemporary Christian favorites.

Currently approximately 65 vocalists are in the choir; but there is plenty of room for more. According to Paul, "The sky is the limit and no one will be turned away. Although some commitment is required, the demands aren't as daunting as one might think." Rehearsals are two hours or so, once a month—typically the Sunday before the scheduled performance. "If you love to sing (solo-worthy or not) or, you just love to worship, this is the place for you," he encourages. "On the other hand, if you're a vocalist looking to stretch yourself musically, we can help! We spend a lot of time developing members' individual talents, helping them achieve their personal best."



CHRISTMAS CHOIR

The Worship Choir is also involved in special occasion performances, such as Christmas and Easter services. Together, with a handful of new volunteers, they combine to become integral facets of the final production. This year's Christmas collage, *A Holy Night*, is a perfect example. "Preparing for *A Holy Night* means a bit more work for members," clarifies Paul. "We add a few extra sessions; but, the payoff is far more satisfying." Because of the magnitude of these events they often perform to a full house. That means the Christmas Choir has the privilege of leading 3,000 souls per event in worship. "Imagine the impact these vocalists could have—both in drawing the Spirit into the sanctuary as we cry out in worship and sharing its power with so many." *A Holy Night* • Friday & Saturday • December 16 - 17 • 7 - 9 PM.

Have you been curious about joining? The Arts department welcomes your questions and invites you to simply stop by a rehearsal to see for yourself. Contact Paul in the Church office (586) 264-2300 or by email PTosch@BethesdaChristian.org.

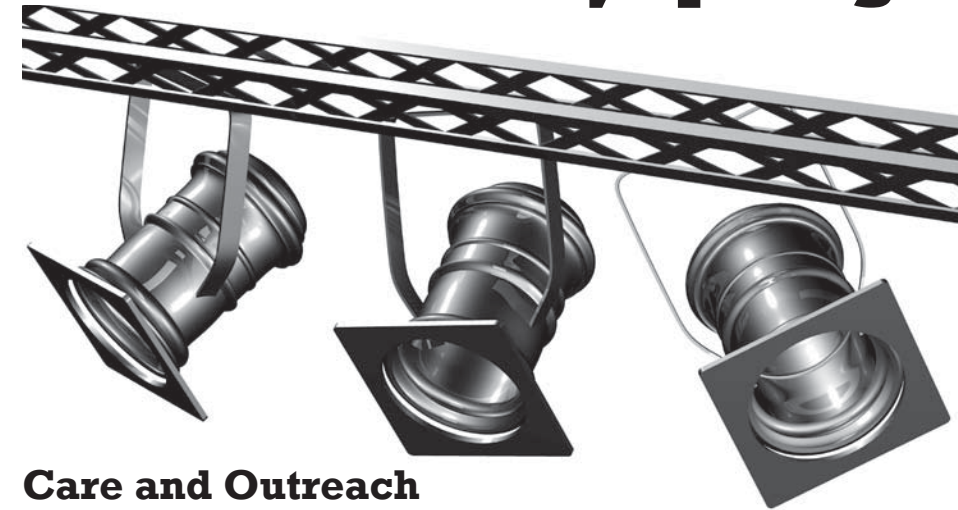
REHEARSALS • Worship Choir • 1 Sunday/month • 2 hours | Christmas Choir • Nov. 15, 29 • Dec. 4, 10, 14 • See the Voice for details



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Ministry Spotlight



Care and Outreach

By Rev. Barry Allen, Care & Outreach Director

Care and Outreach is more than just the title of a department. These words actually refer to the actions and convictions of the people who comprise a vital part of this local church. The people that work in this area are fiercely passionate about letting our world know that Jesus is Lord and Savior. This ministry serves not only our local body, but the surrounding community too. These volunteers serve willingly, with or without thanks, because they understand that helping others is really doing the work of Christ.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.”

1 Corinthians 12:27-28 NIV

The words from the Scriptures point to the fact that all of us can contribute, in some way, to people. Each person who has come to know Christ has his Savior has a circle of influence and a part to play in adding to His Church. But like I said above, it's not about titles or offices.

“If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

Mark 9:35 NIV

Our Care department includes the work of: Greeters, Ushers, Welcome desk personnel, Information Desk staff, a Security team and Valet service. These folks impact every person who comes into Bethesda. Every week our dedicated volunteers helps to create a lasting “first impression” on each visitor and member that passes through our doors. How people treat one another is a great barometer of the Holy Spirit at work. I hope and trust you see the value in this ministry and will thank each one as they serve you.

Our Outreach department performs an incredible ministry to people both inside and outside of the church. Many local programs are operated and/or touched by these tireless individuals including: Overcomers Outreach, Prison/Jail Ministry, Angel Tree, Blood Drives twice a year, Nursing Home & Assisted Living Ministry, Food & Clothing Pantry, Mt. Clemens Regional Chaplain Service, Caring for the Caregiver, and Detroit Rescue Mission Ministry. This group really puts into practice the Great Commission. They serve selflessly, generously and are working hard to lift up the name of Jesus Christ to all with whom they come into contact.

Please consider how you can be similarly involved. You can be a part of making a lasting and beneficial difference in someone's life.



Heartbeat of Bethesda

a monthly newsletter of

Bethesda Christian Church

14000 Metropolitan Parkway
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
(586) 264-2300 • BethesdaChristian.org

Please email all submissions to
Heartbeat:
cjohnson@bethesdachristian.org

-CHURCH MISSION-
ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE
ENCOURAGING RELATIONSHIPS
EMBRACING DESTINY

SENIOR PASTOR
Rev. Analee Dunn

ARTS
Terry Allen

BIBLE INSTITUTE
Dr. Ruth Whittaker

BUILDING & GROUNDS
Brian Swarts

BUSINESS MANAGER
James Dunn

CARE & OUTREACH
Rev. Barry Allen

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Rob Susan

STUDENT MINISTRY
Jesse Allen

COLLEGIATE MINISTRY
Terry Allen

COMMUNICATIONS
Sonja Bultynck

EDUCATION & MEN'S MINISTRIES
Rev. Patrick Visger

FAMILY MINISTRIES
Rev. Timothy Helland

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Maurice Graves

MISSIONS
Joseph Cadariu

PARKWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Lila Place

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
Rev. Julie Visger

Updates on our Home-Bound Friends

Communion is available to Bethesda members who are in the hospital, homebound, or in nursing care. You must contact Rev. Barry Allen at the church office at least two weeks before the first Sunday of the month to be on the schedule. The recipient must be available on the first Sunday afternoon of the month to be served, unless other arrangements are made with the church or Elder/Deacon assigned to this duty. You can reach Rev. Barry Allen at (586) 264-2300, Ext. 114 or email him at ballen@bethesdachristian.org.

Joan Strumbos still complains of dizziness when we ask how she is doing, but there have been some changes made. Joan has always had hair long, and straight. She surprised everyone recently, when she went to the hairdresser on the premises and walked out with short, curly hair! She goes down for breakfast and dinner almost every day now, too. We served her communion, and we sang "I Surrender All". **Revs. Bob & Phyllis Nelson**

Visited and served **Eleanor Stewart**; it was so good to see her. I've known her and her children, Colleen and Neil for years as a teen. Sis. Eleanor explained that she is 88 now. She looks beautiful. She is depressed and her hands hurt her during the night with carpal tunnel. Pray that God will touch her body and break the bands of depression. **John & Karen Jones**

We had a lovely visit with **Betty Grasl**. She misses seeing her old friends and is struggling with the effects of rheumatoid arthritis. The doctor is considering a change in her meds hoping to give her more mobility. She continues to drive and gets around CVS, but the grocery store is too much. She LOVES ice cream and gets 2 gallons at a time. **Don & Gail Toth**

Mable McKee spoke of her grandchildren and what a joy (sometimes a trial) it is to be with them. Though she is concerned about the way things are going in the world, she always has a smile

on her face and heaps words of encouragement on us. Her heart is totally engaged when she takes communion, realizing just what the Lord did for her. It has become a part of our fellowship to have her sing a beautiful song of redemption at the end of communion. What a beautiful saint of the Lord. It's a privilege to serve her! She asks we pray for her strength, for the Katrina, her neighbor, who is on dialysis. **Steve & Robin Malek**

Dorothy Howton had been resting in bed with abdominal discomfort that seems to occur at least weekly. Her maladies prevented her from taking communion. However, we did chat about various things and I prayed for her healing. She brightened with the visit and shared her infectious laughter as she joked about things. Being a huge Elvis fan, she expects to see him in heaven. She asked if I think that's where he is. That enabled us to revisit the purpose of Christ's life, death and resurrection and the need to repent and receive Jesus. She attends a local Bible Study held by a local church. **Bill & Elaine Stoddard**

Delores Wroble greeted us with a warm smile and hug at the door. We commented on her beautiful yard. She said her flowers never looked so good. We shared communion with Delores, singing a few songs and then in our prayer time, the Holy Spirit touched her heart bringing tears to all of us. Her daughters, **Susan and Celeste**, joined us in prayer. They help her so much around the house

and just wouldn't know what she'd do without them. Her hands, feet and body have arthritis throughout and now a touch of gout in her elbow. Despite the pain of arthritis, her spirit is cheerful and pleasant. She invited us to return. **John & Sharron Rutt**

We also visited **Ruth Whittaker** and brought communion to her as well. Being in isolation, we had to wear masks and gloves. She was very happy to see us but also quite weak. She said she did feel a bit better. The pain in her back is gone which makes us think she may have also had a touch of shingles along with that chicken pox diagnosis. As ill as she is, her concern was for her students and the Bible Institute class. We served her communion and prayed for God's continued healing. **John & Sharron Rutt**

Yesterday **Karleen** and I visited with **Sylvia Fitton**. We found Sylvia to be in good spirits and waiting in the hallway outside her room for our visit. After connecting the dots and discovering her long association with people from BCC, we shared in the Word and sang some of her favorite songs. She was moved to tears as she reminisced about God's goodness in her life. Sylvia is suffering from a hairline fracture in her tibia. She is holding on to her faith, and hopes that one day she will return home. **Kit & Karleen Warren**

WHY DID YOU DO IT?

Contributed by **Ron Pasco**

You have all attended Bible studies, meetings, and classes that address "culture." Has anyone explained it to you, or are like most people defining it according to what you think it is? Have you ever caught yourself doing something that you do over and over again and asked yourself, "Why am I doing this?" The answer is that this particular action has become a part of your culture. It has become so much apart of you that you do not notice it enough to stop it. Your culture is not simply the sum total of your behaviors. Your culture is YOU. It is what is written in your heart!

When studying Judaism, you find that it was not just a religion. It was a way of life and a way of seeing the world. How one is to raise their children, to do business, to speak, to bury ones dead: all this and more is a part of Judaism.

Christianity is the logical next step in God's design of a world-view for His people.

Our Pastor Dunn and Reverend Pat Visgar started teaching a series on Law and Grace this month. Being a graduate of Gateway to Glory, and an anthropologist, I have a special way of looking at how the law, grace and culture all line up in my Christian walk. I would like to share it with you.

As the longest participant in the Gateway To Glory® program, men who are new to it come to me to ask questions. A while ago, I was asked by one of them, "How have you managed to follow all these rules for so long?" I asked him to explain what he meant.

"You always sign out and let Mike know where you are," He said. "You do not miss Bible studies or church. Carrying around your Bible you read it daily. Not only mandatory activities, but even suggested ones you do." He went on listing all the Gateway house rules.

After a bit of thought about it for a while as 1 Peter came to mind. "The rules do not apply to me any more." The man looked confused. "Then why do you do them?" He asked. "Because they are who I am. At first, I had to look at them and remember what they were. They were my guide.

One day I realized that I did not have to keep them in the forefront of my mind. They had become a part of my heart."

I sincerely believe that if I were to leave Gateway today, I would find myself calling Mike to tell him my plans for the day. I would not miss church or

Bible studies, and would be at least as active in the Church as I am right now. The accountability, structure and love of Jesus that were rules early on have now become my culture. It is who I am.

The process of writing a new culture on your heart is called sanctification. It involves "picking up" your cross everyday, until it is no longer a burden. It is following the rules until they become a part of you. A long time ago, I asked Mike Miller how to get it "right." He said, "Obedience, obedience and obedience. If that doesn't work, try obedience."

Discover more about Gateway To Glory visit Gateway2Glory.org



"The rules do not apply to me..."

He was right. The key to enjoying the complete freedom that is found only in Jesus Christ is the continual practice of obedience. If you've wondered why you did something without thinking, it could have been instinct, but more likely—it was culture.

Gateway To Glory

Gateway To Glory Ministries is a ministry dedicated to helping the less fortunate and often forgotten members of society: ex-offenders, men in recovery and those who need a new start.

Their mission is to change the lives of men and through them, the lives of their families. By creating an environment that offers education, inspiration, encouragement, vocational training and mentoring.

Founded by BCC members Steve and Robin Malek, Gateway to Glory operates a transitional home where men have a safe environment in which to live and recover.

NARROW IS THE GATE

"Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" Matthew. 7:14

Find out how you can support this proven program for FREE!

GATEWAY2GLORY.ORG

Bethesda Support Groups

- 12 Step Program
- Breast Cancer
- Personal Counseling
- DivorceCare
- DivorceCare4Kids
- Food Pantry/Distribution
- GriefShare
- Prison Ministry
- Senior Outreach
- Single/Teen Moms
- Foreign Missions

BETHESDACHRISTIAN.ORG



COMMUNITY SUNDAY

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED



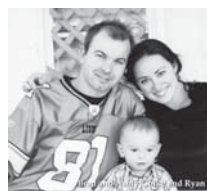
Jessie Bowman



Cecile Bryant



Elana Singleton



Brad & Ashley Goike & Ryan



Tony & Kelly Valenza Thomas & Gabriella



Steven & Heidi Veilleux



Jason & Sarah Kies Brooke & Peyton



Terry & Karen Goulais



Samantha Collins



Landon Vallus



Thomas & Gabriella Valenza

DEDICATION OF CHILDREN

Denise and I visited with Hattie Turner last night and served her communion Hattie is remarkable; at 92 years old the thing she misses the most is her car, which she called her "legs." We talked about how she is related through the Bethesda congregation and about her many nieces and nephews. She is taking medication to help her memory and we prayed for her restoration, memory and strength.

Tom & Denise Korth

Wow, what a lady! I've never sat and talked with Catherine Zabrzenski until now. She told us the story of how she was saved by a pesky neighbor who badgered her to go to a Catholic Charismatic meeting. The next week she had a vision from God showing her the church she was attending was in darkness. Jamie & Lisa Gentile

Josie and I visited Vernon "Uncle Bill" Thompson, and we brought our houseguest, Yosi Otake from Japan, with us on our visit. Uncle Bill received communion. Arnold & Josie Jones

We served communion to Isabel Ferianc on Sunday afternoon. She seems to be doing well following her recent fall. She has completed therapy and is wearing special shoes to help her get around better. She's frustrated because she cannot be as active as she'd like. We suggested that at 90 it's ok to be retired. It is a delight to see her smile and hear her laugh during our visits. Dale & Angela Flowers

Maurice Graves was sitting up in a chair in the dining room looking good. He was glad to be home and glad the operation had relieved much of his pain. He will begin therapy in four or five weeks. We

had a glorious time while serving communion. Praying, praising and thanking God. Prayed for a complete healing and for all pain to be relieved. Murray & Belva Scott

Kurt Kies is still suffering with chronic back pain. He has good and bad days with his Alzheimer's symptoms. We enjoyed listening to his stories of being raised in Germany and his spiritual journey. Cristal and Kurt have a strong family support system. Dave and Sandi Ondra

Mary Jane Smith is progressing nicely at this point. She goes for therapy three times a week. There have been a few ups and downs but she seems to be mending better these last several days and her overall outlook seems improved. I believe she finally believes she's going to get better. She continues to have her "spark," even if she's disagreeing with what the specialists explain that she needs to do. When we served her communion, she was very glad to receive it, especially because it was her children serving her. Dave & Laura Dahlstrom

Elly Idyle loves to tell stories about her daughter, Josie Jones, and reminisce of the early days of her marriage when her husband first purchased the home she still lives in with a family member. Elly was looking forward to eating the chocolate candy we brought her, as she doesn't get out much these days. We prayed for her headache, which seemed quite severe that day. Mel & Twyla Baggett

Anna Dikin is still in therapy and hopes to be on her feet soon because she wants to get back to her house. Anna loves to witness

to her friends at Medilodge and share what the Lord has done for her. She has a great attitude toward life. Brian and Lorie Swarts

We went and visited Virginia and Clarence Tylkowski and served them communion today. They greeted us with smiling faces. Clarence has not been feeling well. He is going to the doctors for tests on Monday for shortness of breath. We had a good time of fellowship, discussed the life of Job and prayed over each of them. Rob & Peggy Susan

Do you know a Bethesda Member who would benefit from a visit? Please contact our Care & Outreach Director Reb. Barry Allen at (586) 264.2300 ext. 114

Memorial Tribute

Harry Leo Edwards, age 81, passed away on October 12, 2011. Beloved husband of Vivian (nee Burnheimer). Loving father of James, Bradley, Terry (Patricia) and the late Cheryl Cichocki. Loving grandfather of 10, predeceased by one granddaughter, Vanessa Edwards and great-grandfather of five. Dearest brother of Louella (the Late Joseph) Slisinski, Eugene (Pat), Donald (Viola), Richard (Bunny). Dear friend of Linda. Predeceased by brothers, Owen, Daniel, James and Gerald Edwards. Harry was a Korean Army veteran and he was a faithful worker with the Bethesda Bible Institute. Harry loved his family, his church and was a very giving person who would do anything for anyone.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Loraine Eix Kramer

November 26, 1927 - September 30, 2011



Loraine Eix was born in 1927 in Detroit, MI. She was just a young person when she gave her heart to the Lord and began attending Bethesda in August, 1952. Here she met Frank Kramer and in November 1953 they were married by Bethesda founder Pastor M.D. Beall. They had two children; a daughter, Cheryl and a son David. Loraine became active in the church. She began teaching Sunday School in the Elementary Dept. in the 70's and worked there for about 10 years. She also spearheaded a group of ladies working on Pastor James Beall's monthly newsletter mailings. She helped in Bethesda's bookstore in Detroit for about 6 years. She was faithful to usher in the Thursday service as well. In 1982 Frank and Loraine became deacons and served until 2002. Coupled with greeting, they served faithfully until 2003 when Loraine's health began to deteriorate.

2003 was the beginning of many years of suffering. She became ill with cancer that went into remission. She still attended church but in 2007 she fell, breaking her left shoulder. She would never fully regain its use and in 2009, following another bad fall, tests revealed a mass in her hip area. The cancer had returned. Unable to walk normally,

Loraine could no longer attend church. Ever faithful, however, she still maintained a card sending routine to shut-ins. Loraine loved people but kept a low profile. She sat with Frank mostly in the back of the church. Her daughter Cheryl would bug her and tell her to move up to the front where the "anointing" was, but Loraine would reply the "glory of the Lord fills the whole temple, not just certain areas and I'm not here to draw attention to myself."

When Loraine's condition worsened, both her husband, Frank and her daughter, Cheryl became her caregivers. Cheryl had lost her job and for 2 years sacrificed looking for a job as she determined to be her mother's caregiver. She simply was not going to allow her mother to be put into a nursing home. When doctor appointments and treatments came around, Loraine's son David would take time off work to come and help move his mother out of the house to get to the doctors. On Sept 20th, due to severe weakness, Cheryl called 911. Doctors discovered she had double pneumonia along with blood infection. She went into ICU but doctors couldn't do much; it was no doubt her time to go. Her deepest wish in the prior weeks was to get back to church just one more time, but it was not to be. On Friday morning, Sept 30, she went home to be with the Lord. Cheryl remarks, "I used to say to myself there will always be a job out there sooner or later, but you only get one mother in life. And I had the best." ~Submitted by the family of Loraine Kramer

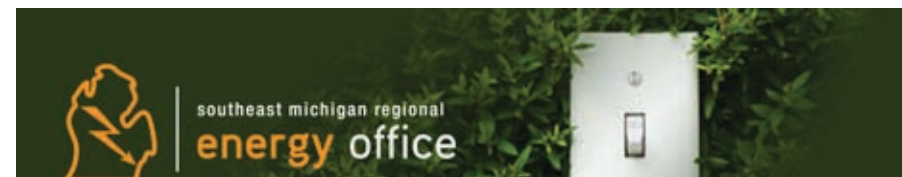
NEWSBOYS BORN AGAIN



If you didn't make it out to last month's concert, boy did you miss out! An incredible explosion of light and sound filled the sanctuary as The Newsboys took over the Bethesda platform and shook the house with their latest hits and classic favorites.

They certainly put on a show like none other, flying a new lead singer, Michael Tait, high above the crowd. Then long-time drummer, Duncan Phillips, was sent spinning upside-down and in circles above the band! Ultimately my favorite part was seeing so many people walk through the doors that might never have stepped into our wonderful church. What a great way to reach out to our community and what an exciting night of worship and celebration!

~ Contributed by Paul Tosch, Associate Director of Music, Bethesda Arts Ministry Department



Bright ideas for reducing your energy bills

Sterling Heights has been selected as one of 27 Michigan communities participating in BetterBuildings for Michigan's innovative education and financing program. Everyone shown on the map is qualified to participate. Imagine never paying another utility bill. Imagine your home being warm and cozy in the winter, cool and breezy in the summer, and saving energy all year long. We are a Department of Energy program that offers incentives and financing to help you take control of your home energy use.

The home energy upgrade includes:

- Install Energy-Savers: Get new light bulbs, thermostat, shower head, and more.
- Appliance testing: Check your furnace, oven and water heater for toxic emissions.
- Personalized home report: Learn how to save energy and money in your home.
- Affordable financing: Get low-interest loans on any improvements you choose.

Sign up for a home energy upgrade and get energy-saving devices designed to save you hundreds of dollars per year on your energy bills and special incentives that can help you save even more. Call 1-866-402-1061 for more details or click on www.RegionalEnergyOffice.org to sign up.

Are you Qualified for the no-cost option?

Income-qualified families can receive up to \$6,500 in free home energy services.

Size of household	Income per year	Income per month
1 person	\$ 21,780	\$ 1,815
2 people	\$ 29,420	\$ 2,452
3 people	\$ 37,060	\$ 3,088
4 people	\$ 44,700	\$ 3,725
For each additional person:	add \$ 7,640	add \$ 637

Please ask an Outreach Specialist if you think you might qualify. Call 866.402.1061.

Sterling Heights was selected as one of only 27 Michigan communities. Everyone shown on the map is qualified to participate. Renters may participate with landlord's permission.

Outside the target area? Check our website for programs in your neighborhood.



The Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office is a unique collaboration of local governments helping communities to become more energy efficient and reduce their impact on global warming, transforming metro Detroit from "Rust Belt" to "Green Belt."



BETTERBUILDINGS FOR MICHIGAN is a Recovery Act program brought to you by the U.S. Department of Energy; the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG); Michigan Saves; the City of Grand Rapids; the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation; and the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office.



1 Start with a professional check-up: A certified advisor will inspect your home and report on saving opportunities. You'll also get:

- 10 energy-saving light bulbs
- A programmable thermostat
- Water heater insulation
- A high-efficiency showerhead

2 Additional funding for your home.

- Double cash-back rebates: Get \$\$ back. Double cash-back rebates.
- Same as cash financing: Qualified applicants can get 0% financing on home energy investments.

