In 1970, as an outgrowth of the five years of struggle and frustration in securing the passage of the East Lansing Open Occupancy Ordinance, and informed by the vision of social justice shaped by the local leadership of the protest against the Vietnam War, Edgewood Village was conceived and built. This was accomplished mainly through the efforts of Karl Gotting, a young attorney with the law firm of Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, & Davis, and the Reverend Truman Morrison, activist pastor of the Edgewood United Church of Christ.

In 1994 the Village was purchased by the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition with assistance from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The 10th anniversary of the ownership of the Village by the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition through its subsidiary, the Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation, was celebrated on September 21, 2004. This celebration was marked by:

- The honoring of Karl Gotting and Truman Morrison,
- The celebration of the services provided by the Village over the last ten years,
- The launching of a new Community Outreach Program.

The services celebrated consisted of:
- Service to the residents
- Service to Head Start children and their parents
- Service to the Villages neighbors living in the Towar Garden area.

Since 1994 one hundred and fifty-four families have been provided quality, affordable housing in an excellent school district, and in a crime and drug free environment.

The value of this service was highlighted at the Ceremony by Charles Mann, Vice President of the Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation and current resident of the Village. Charles is a junior in the College of Education at Michigan State University. At the age of 10 he and his single mother moved into the Village. He attributes his growth, development and education and his decision to become a teacher to his life in the Village.

The 189 children living in the Village today provide a snapshot of the many children served by the Village over the last ten years, especially through the After-School Program run through the Computer Learning Center.

The management staff, under the leadership of Arlene Ulrich, was selected in 2004 by the Keystone Management Co. as its No. 1 Team among the four hundred
DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Edgewood Village Computer Lab

From October 1 through November 12 one hundred and two people were served:
• 64 children in the After-School Program
• 38 adults
• 23 Village residents received individualized instruction.
• 15 Head Start parents earned computers completing the Port of Entry Workshops of the Closing the Digital Gap Program.
• 1 Village resident earned a computer completing the Port of Entry Workshops of the Closing the Digital Gap Program.

TEEN TRAINING: During the summer we provided an intensive six-week training program for 9 teenagers. The purpose of this program was to prepare young people for leadership in the Closing the Digital Gap Program and for future educational and employment opportunities. The program had four dimensions:

Web Page Development
• Basic web language
• Creating your own web pages

• Reviewed and gave ideas for the Edgewood Village web site.

Computer Application Training
• Creating documents
• Creating spreadsheets
• Access and use of the Internet
• Basic computer troubleshooting.

Hardware/ Troubleshooting
• These teenagers assisted technicians in rebuilding computers for the Closing the Digital Gap Program and for themselves.

Field Trips:
• Participation in Michigan State University Community and Economic Development Conference at the Kellogg Center.
• ACD.Net Corporation.
• The New Horizons Computer Learning Center.

This program was made possible by a gift from a member of the Presbyterian Church of Okemos.

Village Celebrates Ten Years (Continued from page 1)

properties it manages. In addition to their excellent management of the Village’s physical property, the staff is treasured for its responsive and caring relationships with the residents.

In addition to the excellent services the Village provides its residents, it has a strong influence in the community. The Village leases the Community Center, valued for rental purposes at $60,000 a year, to the Capital Area Community Service’s Head Start Program for $1 a year. This redesigned facility provides office space for teachers, play area and two specially equipped classrooms for 60 children. Approximately half of the children’s parents are international students studying at Michigan State University. These classrooms are the gems among the 42 classrooms leased by Head Start in the four county area it serves.

The Village Computer Lab, as a satellite of the Closing the Digital Gap Program, has provided computer training, ownership to over 100 Head Start parents and the opportunity for a year’s free access to the Internet through ACD.Net.

The members of the staff are also active in service to the community. They have volunteered in the Towar Garden Recreation/Education Center and have participated in the Towar Garden Community Neighborhood Association. They have served as teachers, mentors and coaches and have given leadership each year in the Towar Garden Community Day. Many of the children from the Towar Garden area have also participated in the After-School Program.

To expand and continue these services the Community Outreach Committee, with the establishment of the Karl Gotting/Truman Morrison Community Outreach Fund, has assumed the full responsibility for Closing the Digital Gap’s Computer Literacy and Access Program for Head Start Parents and Residents of the Village, and the After-School Program.
INNOVATIONS AT CLOSING THE DIGITAL GAP

On September 2 an informal meeting was held in the Suits Investment Co. Conference Room to discuss creative ways to more sharply focus the work we do in our two major programs: Work Force Development for unemployed or under-employed workers and Educational Enrichment for Head Start parents and their children. John Melcher suggested, and Board members agreed, that it was an opportune time to take a serious look at our experience over the last four years. The purpose of the serious examination was to see what innovative changes we want to make as we look forward to receiving the $104,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for Work Force Development. The four years of experience give us a good basis for making changes in order to improve the quality of our service to Head Start parents and Work First participants.

In light of the experience with the Edgewood Village and St. Paul Episcopal Church Satellite Centers it was felt that we should separate out the resources and responsibilities for the Head Start program and give them to Edgewood Village, and give the resources and responsibility for the Work Force Development Initiative along with work with the HOPE Scholars to the Black Child and Family Institute. This will provide greater specificity in our work with each of these populations and clearer lines of responsibility for carrying them out. Two proposals were developed, one to the Board of Directors at Edgewood Village and one to the Board of Directors at the Black Child and Family Institute, requesting that they consider accepting the resources related to the two programs and the full responsibility for carrying them out. The proposals were reviewed and approved at a special meeting of the CTDG Board on September 10th and submitted to the Edgewood Village Board and the Board of BCFI. The Edgewood Village Board accepted the proposal in September and was entrusted with the resources and full responsibility for the Head Start part of the program at the regular CTDG Board meeting on September 28th.

The Executive Committee of the Board of the Black Child and Family Institute met with the CTDG Board to discuss this proposal on September 28th and upon receiving clarification took the proposal to the full BCFI Board on November 16. At that meeting the Board accepted the resources and full responsibility for the Work Force Development Initiative and the work with Hope Scholars.

These actions will assure a more effective Closing the Digital Gap Program. The Board of Directors of CTDG will continuing to exist but will not have any staff or programmatic responsibility. All funding for the programs will go directly to the two non-profit agencies carrying out the work.

I would like to support the Community Outreach Program

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of ____$250 ____$200 ____$100 ____$50 ____$25 $ __________

Name ________________________________________________________
E-MAIL ______________________________________________________
Street Address _________________________________________________
City __________________________________ State __________ Zip Code ________

Please make checks payable to Edgewood Village, Community Outreach Program,
6213 Towar Garden Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823

Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation is a 501©3 charitable organization.

Thank you for your support
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE ADOPTS MISSION, PLANS ACTION

Under the leadership of Karen Gotting, an LCC-General Motors process facilitator, the Community Outreach Committee adopted the following mission:

- To provide training, computers, and access to the Internet for 120 Head Start parents each year and Village residents who do not have a computer
- To provide an after-school program for Edgewood Village and neighborhood Children

The Committee also adopted the following action ideas to explore in detail during the next couple of months:

- Figure out ways to retain good volunteers
- Identify Village residents who do not own computers and/or do not have access to and use the Internet
- List what needs to be done to provide training for all participants in the Computer Literacy and Access Program to help them become self-sufficient on computers
- Explore the possibility of providing new computers rather than used ones
- Develop a list of books on parenting skills, promote these books with parents and make them available for borrowing.
- Find ways to encourage Head Start parents, Village residents, and neighborhood folks to read to their children.
- Set up website for Edgewood Village
- Make all participants more aware of LCC’s Women’s Resource Center services, LCC programs and On-line courses.
- Provide second level training for Edgewood Village teens n the summer of ’05.
Edgewood Village Develops Competency-based Computer Training Modules

On the basis of four years work with over 1,000 families we are making changes.

The Computer Access/Literacy Training Program, known as the “Port of Entry Program,” will now consist of four competency-based modules:

1. Keyboarding and basic Windows
2. Microsoft Word
3. Internet
4. Basic PC Hardware and Connecting to the Internet

Competency-based is the important phrase in this statement. It means two things:

1. When you have completed a Module you will have to pass the post-test before moving on to the next Module. You will be given as many opportunities as you need to re-take the Module and/or re-take the post-test, but demonstrating your competence by passing the post-test you must.
2. If you successfully pass the Module 1 pre-test, you can skip Module 1 and move on to Module 2. The same is true of the other Modules as well.

Upon successfully demonstrating your competence in these four Modules, you will receive a renovated computer and free access to the Internet through ACD.Net for one year.

Second Major Change: We will be using factory-renovated computers rather than expecting the participants to up-grade donated ones. Preparing donated computers for up-grading by participants has proved to be the most expensive, labor intensive work we do. It has cost us more in staff salaries and computer parts than it will cost us to purchase factory-renovated computers. Also, including up-grading computers and downloading Operating Systems means consuming valuable time, teaching little used skills; time that can better be spent in learning keyboarding and computer utilization skills.
Governor Jennifer Granholm Establishes Michigan’s “Closing The Digital Gap Day”

On Friday, January 14: Senator Virg Bernero’s Aide, Renee Freeman, presented Marcus Jefferson with a proclamation announcing the designation of the Friday before the Monday celebrating Dr. King’s birthday as the “Closing The Digital Gap Day.”

The Proclamation says in part, “LET IT BE KNOWN, That it is a privilege to proclaim the Friday before Martin Luther King Day as Closing the Digital Gap Day. As they celebrate their fourth anniversary of service, we honor their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck in the future.

Closing the Digital Gap began as a pilot program in 2000, its goal was to provide vital computer training to low-income residents of the Lansing area. Since the program’s inception, the lives of many area residents have been changed and there are many more that they are helping.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, Therefore, we proclaim this day as Closing the Digital Gap Day. May this exceptional program continue to be an outstanding example of community service. The Lansing community would like to thank and recognize the leaders and volunteers of Closing the Digital Gap, and commend them on their dedication and service to helping the community.”

The presentation was made in LCC’s Dart Auditorium at the Closing the Digital Gap annual commemoration of Dr. King’s birthday and graduation exercises.

Erin Burton Completes Three Years of Service as a VISTA

Erin Burton

Erin began her service as a Volunteer In Service to America at the Northside Neighborhood Network Center. Not finding enough challenge in that site she transferred to the Closing the Digital Gap Program in February 2002. During these three Years she has developed her training skills and has become highly effective at troubleshooting computers. Based on these developed skills, Erin passed the CompTIA A+ Certification exam, achieving the highest score within the staff. Her contribution to our program over these three years has been outstanding! As the staff Trainer-Technician, she has done a lot more than the title suggests. During Edgewood Village’s early days as a satellite center she taught the physically challenged people in our lab as it was the only handicap accessible lab available to CTDG. She also has prepared hundreds of computers for use by participants in the program, trained the last 40 graduates in the Computer Application Training Program, and wrote the original course outline for that 8 session program. Her services will be greatly missed but she tells us she is going to continue to volunteer. That is great good news and we thank her for her years of great service and her commitment to the program.
THANKS !!!!

The members of the Community Outreach Program are deeply grateful and much encouraged by the generous support of the following individuals and institutions.

INDIVIDUALS
Patrons ($500 - $1,000)
- Karl and Karen Gotting
- Al and Barbara Jones
- John & Betty Duley
Sustaining Contributors ($100 - $500)
- Marguerite Barratt
- Anne Porter Day
- Tom & Nancy Edmiston
- Paul & Donna Freddolino
- Mike Head & Mary James
- David Hollister
- David & Iris Horner
- Robert & Gerry Torp-Smith
- David & Helen Krathwohl
- Chris Root & David Wiley
- Howard and Judy Wolpe
Supporters ($25 - $100)
- Paul & May Costelloe
- Jacquelynne K. Border-Conyers
- Ellen & Doug Hoekstra
- Dan & Linda Wertz
- Dave & Bev Wiener
- Bill & Eldonna Ruddock
- Almus Thorp Jr.
- Bob & Polly House

INSTITUTIONS
- Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation $10,000
- Loomis Law Firm $2,500
- Presbytery of Lake Lansing $2,000
- Edgewood United Church $500
- Presbyterian Church of Okemos $500

In-Kind Contributions
- Edgewood Village: computer lab, support services
- ACD.Net: Free Internet Access for participants
- Capital Area District Library: Bookmobile services
- Greater Lansing Housing Coalition: Adm services
- Head Start: Computers for Head Start parents
- Lansing Community College: Education resources
- Michigan State University: Interns and Volunteers
- New Horizons Computer Learning Center:
  Technical Assistance and free instruction

I would like to support the Community Outreach Program

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of ___$250 ___$200 ___$100 ___$50 ___$25  $ _________

Name

E-MAIL

Street Address

City __________________ State ________ Zip Code __________________

Please make checks payable to Edgewood Village, Community Outreach Program,
6213 Towar Garden Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823

Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation is a 501©3 charitable organization.

Thank you for your support
Closing The Digital Gap Recieves a $104,000 U.S. Department of Labor Grant to Develop a Pilot Program

Closing the Digital Gap @ the Black Child and Family Institute will use the $104,381 Department of Labor Grant to carryout a pilot project using a Case Manager with 60 participants in the Computer Application Training Workshops.

The pilot program will provide participants with basic computer application training in Microsoft Word, basic keyboarding, Internet research, resume posting skills, computer ownership, and free Internet access for one year. Reading, writing, and mathematics test scores will be used to select 50-60 finalists for the 4 week, 8 session workshop series.

This program will also provide free Internet access and job search support through Michigan Works as well as a Case Manager/Job Development Specialist. This person will promote training, education, employment services, and job placement for CTDG program graduates. The Case Manager will conduct assessment of skills and do job coaching for employment and educational placement.
Jennifer Lee Phillips Hired as Director of Computer Learning Center and Affiliated Programs

A submission from: John Duley; Chairperson

On Monday April 18, Jennifer Phillips, better known as "Jenn" was hired to direct the Closing the Digital Gap Program for Head Start Parents, residents of the Village and of Towar Garden, assist with the Village After-School Program, and to operate the Computer Learning Center located at Edgewood Village Apartments.

On April 19th, she met with the Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program Planning Committee and was off to a flying start.

With her, she brings a wealth of experience and value to the job.

1. Leadership skills acquired through participation in 4H, FFA, and other organizations
2. Graphic Computer skills gained through working for a local graphic design and marketing firm
3. Excellent organizational skills
4. Self-taught extensive computer skills learned in the MSU College of Agriculture Communication Arts degree program.
5. An eagerness and willingness to learn on the job
6. Commitment to the program and enthusiasm that won't stop.

We welcome you Jenn and are excited about the work she has already done!

New Computer Lab Director Brings Change

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips; Director

Since my hiring here at Edgewood Village, I have been very busy. When I accepted the position with Edgewood, there were 11 computers in the center and many were weighted down with programs and data. Within the first week, I eliminated two of the computers in the center and did some cleaning of the ones left in the center. All nine computers are now up and running. New center rules were posted and a new sign-in procedure for the center began as well.

Computer classes were the next big thing on my list of to-dos. There are many Head Start parents that had previously signed up to take our educational computer courses and now each of them has been contacted to enroll for classes. I revamped the material for the courses, introducing new concepts and key ideas to learn. The first class is scheduled for June 4.

See Lab page 2

The Computer Center now has 9 computers and two printers for residents’ use.

Visit our web page!  Http://www.edgewoodvillage.org
Community Outreach Program Committee

Accomplishments: January through March

A submission from: John Duley; Chairperson

- The Capital Area District Library BookNook was established in the community room. It offers various levels of reading material for residents to utilize.
- Informational brochures on reading material for children are available in the Community room at Edgewood Village. These are provided for parents separated by age appropriate groupings.
- Storytime, an educational program from Capital Area District Library, will be provided for children on a bi-weekly basis beginning in June.
- The Edgewood Village office has been provided with Lansing Community College (LCC) registration information, application forms, financial and other assistance. This was provided by the Women’s Resource Center Coordinator, Linda Minter.
- An Informational Night on the resources of LCC was hosted for residents on March 2.
- Beany Tomber, of WKAR, will introduce the “Ready to Learn Program” to residents, which is an educational program for parents and their children.
- A Gazebo is scheduled to be built for use by residents and their families to be used for story telling and picnics.
- Pam Andrews, Principal of Donley Elementary School and Susan Ziera, Reading Specialist, have requested help with tutoring for children of the village and the Towar Garden community for the After-School Program. We are currently working on getting these volunteers.

Karen Casey, Director of the MSU Service Learning Center, will provide MSU College of Ed Students as tutors for After-School Program and the children in this program.
- Opal Wong of the Brain Gym Program was hired as a consultant to provide resources for our After-School program.
- 30 commercially rebuilt computers have been purchased for the Computer Learning classes offered at Edgewood Village. More will be purchased as the need arises.
- Mary Lou Smith, resident of Towar Garden and Greg Grothous, Director of the Snell Tower Recreation Center, joined the Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program Committee.
- Jennifer Phillips was hired as Director of the Computer Learning Center and the After-School Program. See her article on page one for her accomplishments since then.

Lab

(Continued from Page 1)

Lots of other things are in the works down here as well, such as an educational self-paced learning CD library for the center so that anyone interested in learning new computer programs such as Microsoft Excel or Word will be able to check out the self-paced CD for use in the center.
A disk library has also been started so that when people wish to save or download information to the computers, they can purchase a disk from the center for 25 cents so that we no longer have the excess volume of information saved on the computers.
I am also in the middle of earning my CompTIA A+ certification, which, “...proves that a candidate has a broad base of knowledge and competency in core hardware and operating system technologies including installation, configuration, diagnosing, preventive maintenance and basic networking,” according to the Computing Technology Industry Association, or CompTIA.
Also, once things in the center calm down, there are lots of exciting programs gearing up for the After-School Program as well that I will be involved with. Much of this will begin in September when school is back in full-swing. I am looking forward to more involvement and interaction within the community as time goes on and getting more programs off the ground and rolling.
From the Past...

"My family and I relocated back to Michigan more than eight years ago with small children and no jobs. We didn’t have a lot of options, thankfully, not long after relocating, we were accepted into Edgewood Village. During the time we lived in Edgewood, our children started school, made new friends, and we became a part of a great community. The best part of living there was we were able to further our education and even became homeowners for the first time. I feel that living in subsidized housing made it all possible and I appreciate government programs out there for people like me to help them better themselves. Thank you Edgewood Village for helping make my dreams come true."

Sincerely,
Keisha

Our Present...

"A Season Of Change"

It’s May and spring should be upon us, even in Michigan. My favorite time of the year is spring, when things feel fresh and new. This spring is especially important to me because I am finally graduating with my Bachelors degree from Sienna Heights University. Two and a half years ago, I left my husband and moved into Edgewood Village. I had a Junior and Senior in high school and two younger children. The way hasn’t always been easy. Some days, things seemed so cloudy, I wasn’t sure I’d find my way at all. Today, I have a child in preschool, one in elementary, and two in college. We did make our way and we will continue to follow our dreams.

I graduate May 8th, on Mother’s Day, and I am looking forward to even brighter days. I want to thank Edgewood Village for the significant role they played in allowing me to pursue my dreams through the subsidized housing program. Edgewood, (no matter how much paperwork they need-smile), allowed me to pursue my college education with their housing program. I want to encourage anyone who currently benefits from living at Edgewood Village to use this opportunity to pursue your dreams. Doing is believing. Thanks.”

-Carla Bozeman (see picture to left)

Arlene’s Corner

A submission from Arlene Ulrich, Site Manager

In looking back over my years at Edgewood Village, what gives me the greatest satisfaction is the many children who grew up here and come back to visit. They tell me of their lives now, their jobs, their families, and their successes. I also think about all of the residents who I regretted to see move, but I knew they were moving on to the career they aspired to and a home they now own.

Congressments to the two residents who have articles in this publication for their successes and to all of our residents who come to our office to keep us posted on their goals and achievements.

A special thanks goes out to the team at the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, the parent to Edgewood Village, for their direction and for making it possible to keep affordable housing here at Edgewood Village, and also for making it possible for the many past and present Residents and Families to see their dreams and goals come true.
Edgewood Happenings

**Storytime Comes to Edgewood Village**

The Capital Area District Library, the Bookmobile, and Kevin Post, the Bookmobile Librarian, present Storytime at Edgewood Village. Every other Monday from 4 pm to 5:30 pm in the Community Room starting June 6, brings crafts and stories for everyone. All ages are welcome with crafts designed for ages four to nine years old. Coloring books and crayons will be provided for our younger children.

June 6, is Flower Week, learn about flowers and make a paper flower to take home. June 20, is Bug Week, learn about insects and make a bookmark. July 18, is Plant Week, learn about plants and gardening and take home a plant of your own. August 1, is Weather Week, learn about the weather and make your own windchimes.

**New Faces In the Edgewood Village Office**

There are a couple of new faces in the Edgewood Village Apartment office. Jennifer Phillips, which you may have already read about, and Jill Morris, the new Assistant Manager. Jill took over for Debrah Peters in early April, when Deb accepted a Site Managers position at another apartment community.

Jill grew up in Mason, Michigan, where she currently resides with her eight year old daughter Paige.

**Computer Learning Courses are Set to Begin**

The Edgewood Village Computer Learning Center is now open and rolling again with classes beginning June 4th for Head Start parents. The courses cover everything from the most basic computer information, to the Internet and word processing. All the classes are designed to educate students about how to use the computer to get a job, assist their children with homework, and further their computer education.

There are a few openings still available for our residents and we would love to invite you to apply. Dates are limited so rush on down to the Computer Learning Center to reserve your seat today, or call the Director, Jennifer Phillips @ 517-827-1159 or 517-351-1400.

"...use this opportunity to pursue your dreams. Doing is believing."

-Carla Bozeman
THANKS!!!

The members of the Community Outreach Program are deeply grateful and much encouraged by the generous support of the following individuals and institutions.

**Individuals**

- Marguerite Barratt
- Henry Blosser
- Jacquelynne K. Border-Conyens
- Frieda Brown
- Paul & Mary Costelloe
- Anne Porter Day
- John & Betty Duley
- Tom & Nancy Edmiston
- Paul & Donna Freddolino
- Karl & Karen Gotting
- Mike Head & Mary James
- Ellen & Doug Hoekstra
- David Hollister
- David & Iris Horner
- Bob & Polly House
- Al & Barbara Jones
- David & Helen Krathwohl
- Chris Root & David Wiley
- Bill & Eldonna Ruddock
- Almus Thorp Jr.
- Robert & Gerry Torp-Smith
- Art & Sandy Vine
- Dan & Linda Wertz
- Dave & Bev Wiener
- Kris Wisniewski
- Howard & Judy Wolpe
- Opal Wong

**Institutions**

- Edgewood United Church
- Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation
- Loomis Law Firm
- Presbyterian Church of Okemos
- Presbytery of Lake Lansing

**In-Kind Contributions**

- ACD.Net: Free Internet Access for participants
- Capital Area District Library: Bookmobile services
- Edgewood Village: computer lab, support services
- Greater Lansing Housing Coalition: Adm. Services
- Head Start: Computers for Head Start parents
- Lansing Community College: Education resources
- Michigan State University: Interns and Volunteers
- New Horizons Computer Learning Center:
  Technical Assistance and free instruction

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*I would like to support the Community Outreach Program*

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of ____ $250 ____ $200 ____ $100 ____ $50 ____ $25 ____

Name: ________________________________________________________________

E-mail: ________________________________________________________________

Street Address: _________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: _______ Zip Code: ________

Please make checks payable to Edgewood Village, Community Outreach Program

6213 Towar Garden Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823

*Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.*

Thank you for your support
Great Lansing Housing Coalition
1017 W. Lapeer, Lansing, MI 48915

Community Outreach Program at
Edgewood Village, a subsidiary of GLHC

Upcoming Events
A submission from: Jill Morris; Asst. Manager

Community Day is coming to the Towar Garden area. It will be held once again from 10 am to 4 pm at the Snell Tower Recreation Center located on Porter Ave. There will be a parade, ballons and kids games, and a basketball shootout. Have fun with the neighbors you know and get to know some new friends all at the same time. If you think you might like to help with this event, please call the Edgewood Village office at 517-351-1400 or Greg Grothous at the Tower Recreation Center at 517-332-8851. Look for the banner to be hanging out soon regarding the date.

Lansing Community College Women’s Resource Coordinator, Linda Minter, will be coming once again this year to discuss with residents about Lansing Community College and what it has to offer. Linda and her associates will be on site at Edgewood Village to offer information about financial aid, the Women’s Resource Center and how it can help residents and help you with some career options. They will also be available to provide general information about the college itself. Don’t miss this opportunity to broaden your horizons and accelerate your education. Gentlemen, don’t let the name scare you, the Women’s Resource Center provides assistance for you as well. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Edgewood Village offices at 517-351-1400 so that we may get an idea of how many people to expect. Once the date for this event has been scheduled, a flier will be distributed with further information.
I began in April as the new director of the computer center. Since my arrival, my major push has been the Computer Learning Courses that we offer to Head Start parents, residents of the Village, and residents of the Towar Garden area. I was presented with a list of 98 applicants from Head Start from previous years that had not yet taken the classes. With the help of Jill Morris, the Asst. Site Manager of Edgewood, we contacted each of the people on the list. Each person was offered the opportunity to complete our classes and many took advantage. Our graduate list has grown quite a bit and the feedback has been wonderful. One of the graduates, Frank Buskulic, had this to say after completing the course, “This class has been a great learning experience for me. I just want to thank Jennifer for all of her help every step of the way in my computer education. I recommend this class to anyone trying to get ahead in the computer driven world and better yourself...”

Our kick-off for new classes and newly enrolled students is set for October 15, 2005. We are looking forward to serving more participants and are ready and geared up for a great season.

Another major job of mine was to make sure that all of the computers in the center were working correctly. Now, the center has nine working stations, which includes the computer that is established as the Director’s. All of the computers are connected to the Internet and to our new printer/scanner/copier which has been newly purchased.

With school just starting, we are still looking for volunteers to help keep it open later in the evening for students to be able to use this time for homework. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jennifer at 517-827-1159 for more information.

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Edgewood Village Reading Nook

A new Reading Nook has been created in the Community Room located inside the Edgewood Village tower. The Reading Nook houses the Capital Area District Library’s Book Nook, as well as books used for both the After-School tutoring program and the Summer Reading Program, “Reading Stars.” The Reading Nook has 4 bookshelves currently and we are planning on having a mural painted on the mirrors to encourage creativity and reading. If you are interested in submitting artwork for the mural, please speak with Jennifer in the computer center.

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Visit our web page! Http://www.edgewoodvillage.org
Edgewood Village Reading Stars

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

For the first time ever, Edgewood Village offered a Summer Reading Program for our residents. The idea was spurred on by John Duley as an idea, which turned out to be a wonderful success for those involved. Our program used resources from the Capital Area District Library, CADL, with a lot of help from their Outreach Program Director, Bill Nelton. Mr. Nelton provided ideas, as well as assistance with providing prizes and inspiration for the program creators. He was a great help in getting the program rolling.

Many area businesses and local residents contributed to the program as well, including the Curious Book Shop and Archives Book Shop, both located in East Lansing, the Goodwill Retail Store located in Lansing, Eric and Lynn Hanson & Family in East Lansing, Balinda Hoggs, an Edgewood Village Resident, Alan and Eleanor Isola in East Lansing, the St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store in Lansing, and Thrifty Treasures located in East Lansing. The Program began July 1st, 2005 and ran until August 19, 2005. The participants kept track of the time that they read each week and when they had reached 100 minutes, they were allowed to select from various prizes including free books, free pizzas, passes to the Ingham County fair, and even Beanie Babies. Each participant who turned in minutes also received a $10.00 gift certificate to either the Curious Book Shop or Archives Books. At the end, anyone who read 400 minutes was put into the grand prize drawing to win a wooden magazine rack, courtesy of the Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program.

There was a total of nine participants. One participant, Jessie Cottenham, mentioned this about the program, “I had fun being in the reading program because it helped to encourage me to keep on reading.”

Although the Reading Stars program will not be around next year, the Capital Area District Library will be taking our readers under their wing to continue the push for reading.

Adult readers: Violet Schulert, Kylie Huntington, and John Kroll. Not pictured, Deborah Adams.


After-School Tutoring Program

A submission from: Jill Morris

The Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program is pleased to be offering a new After-School program for students attending Donley and Whitehills School. This program is designed to provide direct instructional support to improve your child’s social and academic skills. The students will also be learning some new exercises called Brain Gym. The Brain Gym activities help students improve their concentration, memory, reading, writing, listening, and more. The 80 Tutors/Instructors are volunteers from Michigan State University. The After-School Program is set to begin September 26, 2005. For more information on our program, please call Jill Morris at 517-351-1400, or Jennifer Phillips at 517-827-1159.

Picture Left: Jill Morris with Nala Perkins.
Meridian Township Towar Sports Camp

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

What is summer without sports? This summer, along with Meridian Township Parks and Recreation and the Snell Towar Recreation Center, Edgewood Village hosted a basketball camp which ran August 22, 2005 – August 26, 2005. The camp was arranged for children in first through eighth grade to enhance their skills in basketball. The participants learned drills to do at home to improve their skills outside of camp and short scrimmages were held at the end of each day. Snell Tower Recreation Center Director, Greg Grothaus and Edgewood Village Manager, Arlene Ulrich, were the coaches and leaders. A total of 14 children participated.


A Sad Good-Bye with a Bright Future

A submission from: Arlene Ulrich

After approximately 15 years of residing at Edgewood, Charles Mann, resident, friend, and board member, is leaving the property to pursue higher education at Eastern Michigan University. Charles moved to Edgewood Village with his mother when he was only nine years old. He attended school at Donley, then McDonald, and later, East Lansing High School.

Until his departure, he was a resident member of the Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program Board, as well as the Edgewood Village Housing Corporation Board. He acted as Vice President on both the Boards. Charles is a fellow that I remember coming into the office in his football uniform with his shoes hanging around his neck and a sheepish grin on his face, saying, “I am sorry I don’t have my key.” Many times, my response was, “I’m sure glad I moved you and your mother close to the office and not further back on the property!” But of course, when I let him back into his home, Charles always responded with a, “Thank you!”

It was a true pleasure to see Charles grow up from a fine young boy into the fine man he is today. Over time, Charles grew up and became a caring and involved resident. We will truly miss Charles and we wish him great success in the future.

Younger pictures of Charles and one with his Mother, Laura Moore.
Another Community Day Success

A submission from: Arlene Ulrich

By all reports a good time was had by all attending the 20th Annual Community Day, Saturday, July 23rd at the Snell Towar Recreation Center and Park. Community Day started as a celebration of an Anniversary of the Towar Education Center the first year. It was such a success, it was decided to do it again the next year, and so the neighbors of the Towar Gardens, Edgewood Community could enjoy a day of meeting each other, chatting, and just having good old fun. There was an old fashion family egg toss, pet judging, basketball shoot, sprint race, moonwalk, kids games, and of course, a dunk tank. The dunk tank was very popular with the opportunity to dunk Dave Casazatt, our local mail carrier, Greg Grothous, our Recreation Center Director, and Brian Cenci of Fitzgerald Henne and Associates who also brought a cotton candy machine and saw to it everyone had free cotton candy.

This year, we were missing an original founder, Geri Snell, due to health problems, but Edgewood together with TC3, our Neighborhood Association, had the great pleasure of keeping Community Day alive as a neighborhood tradition. Community Day is not a fundraiser. Many things are free and any money made is used to Community Day expenses the next year. As starting with the second year, Edgewood Village had the pleasure of providing all prizes, ribbons, medals, and balloons. This year, to help build up next years kitty, we also donated the hot dogs, buns, condiments, and pop.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who gave so willingly of their time and talents including our own Kitty Carlisle, and Dawn, Chris, and Dan Brown. Dan Smith, the designer and builder of the ever popular, “cat house scratching post” and Clyde Grant, the owner of Goedert’s Garage, the guy who can build anything.
Economic Justice For All is the Goal

A submission from: John Duley

The Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program, especially the Closing the Digital Gap program serving residents of the Village and Towar Garden, and Head Start Parents, owes its existence to the inspiration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. whose birthday we are honoring in this issue of the Village Monitor. We are part of his legacy of the struggle for economic justice for all.

Dr. King came to MSU February 11, 1965 from the voting rights struggle in Selma, Alabama to launch MSU’s Student Tutorial Education Project. He began his speech on that occasion, “I would like personally to commend the All University Student Government for instituting the Student Tutorial Education Project to take place at Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. It is a great expression of your humanitarian concern and I know it will go a long, long way to give hope to the people of Mississippi who have struggled so long to get in the mainstream of American life.” He spoke with clarity and hard earned understanding of the “Selma situation” and of “the sheriff” who will go to any length to deny Negroes their constitutional rights.” The East Lansing Towne Courier reporting on his appearance said, ‘His was the voice of experience, of hope and of optimism. It is a powerful thing to hear a man who has repeatedly risked his life say simply, “Any man who does not have something he would die for is undeserving of life.”’

As a part of MSU’s 2001 celebration of Dr. King’s birthday, Dr. Preston Williams, Houghton Professor of Contemporary Theology and Social Change of Harvard University was invited by Provost Lou Anna K. Simon to address the University on “Dr. King’s Unfinished Dream-Economic Justice for All.” It was on this occasion that the Closing the Digital Gap Program was initiated as a part of Dr. King’s legacy of economic justice for all. Dr. Williams reminded us “While we often characterize the age of King in terms of marches, King practiced much more. He sought to make us aware of our economic power as consumers, workers, and economic agents. Operation Breadbasket, an economically oriented program with the theme, ‘Do not buy where you cannot work and are not respected,’ functioned in a dozen cities and sought through boycott and demonstrations to secure more and better jobs for Negroes as well as to persuade merchants to bank in Negro banks and sell Negro-produced products in their stores.

The last two issues that King initiated during his life were economic: the attempt to organize the Poor People’s Campaign and his participation in the sanitation workers strike in Memphis, Tennessee…King was concerned that all workers have an opportunity for employment, adequate and equal wages—living wage that would make it possible for all families and individuals to enjoy both basic needs and the social and cultural amenities of life.”

In March of 2001, Coretta Scott King spoke in the same auditorium as her husband spoke on February 11, 1965. On stage welcoming her to our community and testifying to the impact Dr. King had upon their lives were several people: Dr. Robert Green who took a Leave of Absence from the University in 1966 to serve as the Educational Consultant to Dr. King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

See Justice on page 2
Justice

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Green led the James Meredith March Against Fear from Memphis, Tennessee to Jackson, Mississippi, Paula Cunningham, President of Lansing Community College, Sharon Banks, Superintendent of the Lansing School District, and Mayor David Hollister who attributes his continuing public service to his meeting with Dr. King during his 1965 appearance at MSU.

Mrs. King challenged the young people of the University to “be ashamed to die until they had done something for humanity” calling them to create a more just and compassionate nation.

As Senator Edward Kennedy says in his introduction to Dr. King’s “Where Do We Go From Here” speech, “The economic justice work Dr. King laid out in that speech has yet to be accomplished.” That is why the Closing the Digital Gap program was launched on his birthday in 2001, and is dedicated to continue his legacy of economic justice for all.

With this issue of the Village Monitor we recommit ourselves to continue this struggle with you as our partners.

After-School Tutoring Program

The Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program was pleased to offer our new After-School program for students attending Donley and Whitehills School. This program was designed to provide direct instructional support to improve the child’s social and academic skills. The students also participated in some new exercises called Brain Gym. The Brain Gym activities help students improve their concentration, memory, reading, writing, listening, and more.

There were 40 students enrolled in the program and 80 Tutors/Instructors from Michigan State University. The tutors were utilized for the tutoring and Brain Gym activities. Each of the tutors were trained by our Brain Gym advisors, Opal Wong and Janet Mahoney in order to help them better understand the program, as well as to give them a better insight into the mind of the children. The parents of the students were also encouraged to come to an informational meeting about the program as well, where they participated in some of the motions and movements associated with Brain Gym.

The After-School Program began September 26 and ended December 8, 2005 with a pizza party for all involved. During the time of tutoring, the students participated in 15 minutes of Brain Gym and one hour of one-on-one tutoring with their tutors. The tutors were scheduled the same day each week and were assigned to one student for the length of the program, so many of the students and tutors grew to be close friends.

Both the Snell Towar Recreation Center and Edgewood Village hosted tutors and students for the program. Feedback from the tutors, students, and parents praised the program.

With the first session over, the new session will begin February 6, 2006 for the new enrollees. If you would like to enroll your child, please call Jill Morris at 517-351-1400, or Jennifer Phillips at 517-827-1159 for Edgewood Village enrollment, or Greg Grothous at 517-332-8551 for enrollment at Snell.
Thank You!

A submission from: Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program Staff

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent donations to our program over the years. With your generous support, all of the programs including our Computer Learning Courses, the After-School tutoring program, and our Summer Reading Program, are available to our residents, Head Start Parents, and the surrounding community. We are very appreciative to all of those who have aided us in the past, as well as any future aid we may receive. You have touched many lives through your assistance and with our diligence to help others, you will continue to provide extraordinary benefits to those in and around our community.

Once again, thank you for all that you have done for us and our community and we thank you in advance for any future charity you may bestow upon this program and our fellowship.

Edgewood Village News

Programs, Programs, Programs...

Edgewood Village prides itself on offering a multitude of different programs and venues for growth. We are consistently scheduling dates for affairs for our children, such as the After-School Tutoring Program and our summer reading program, “Reading Stars,” as well as arrangements for adults like the Urban Options Exploration Seminar about Conserving Energy in your home. The potential for assistance with higher learning through our Lansing Community College Informational Night is wonderful, and in the past we have offered other programs such as a Family Literacy Workshop with PBS Ready to Learn and an Impressions 5 Science trip for kids, but we need to know what you, as our residents and the people we serve, would like us to concentrate our efforts towards.

We will continue to keep offering our assistance through various affairs and programs, but if there is something specific you would like to see, please let us know. We try to accommodate the needs and desires for everyone, and we plan arrangements based on current issues, like conserving energy, and advancing your education, but if there is something we are missing, we want to know. Any suggestion or input is always welcome in the office. We are here to make this community thrive and to continue to make Edgewood Village a great place to stay!

Our Newest Face

Please help us in welcoming our newest member to our team, Dawn Fox. Dawn accepted the position of Leasing Agent with Edgewood Village in October, after Judy Darnell retired.

Dawn graduated from Morrice High School in Morrice, Michigan, where she currently resides with her self-proclaimed, “pack of dogs.”

After high school, Dawn attended both Northern Michigan University and Lansing Community College, pursuing a degree in Geography. While attending school, she also managed to continue working, so she is used to juggling multiple projects at once, a necessary ability working in our busy office.

Dawn keeps a happy smile on her face and has been a bright addition to our office already. We look forward to many cheerful, if not hectic, times to come.
Computer Learning Center Update

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

The Computer Learning Center has on average 300 plus visits per month by approximately 70 to 80 different people. Most of our guests come in to use the computers for surfing the Internet, whether to find a job, check their email, or for entertainment purposes.

Due to the extensive use of our computer center by our residents, as well as the Computer Learning Course students, many of our computers have experienced deadly crashes. With outdated software, our computers are still running on Windows 98, we were unable, without extensive time and work, to revive the aging machines. Therefore, the approval was passed to refurbish the computer center with computers purchased from a local company that will be running Windows XP. The new machines will be equipped with the Microsoft Office Professional 2003 Suite as well as both Anti-Virus protection and Spy Ware protection.

Also coming with this renovation will be the ability for the Director to control printing and downloading files in order to curb some of the problems we have experienced, as well as the ability to run our new protection from one computer and download updates and such simultaneously to the other computers, cutting down on the down-time we experience for these necessary updates currently.

Along with a computer rehaul, the center will be receiving new carpet as well to complete the renovations. Everyone is very excited to see the results and to have the new software.
A “Head Start” for Children

A submission from: Mary Farrand

During the administration of Lyndon Johnson, the impact of poverty on children and adults in this country became known. It was determined that our government needed to respond, and the ‘War On Poverty’ programs were created as a result. Head Start was a program designed to provide a free preschool experience to children from low-income families.

Research has shown that low-income children who attend a preschool program become adults who, when compared to other adults who were low-income children and did not attend a preschool program, are:

- More likely to have completed high school and have significantly higher achievement scores
- Three times as likely to own their own homes; twice as likely to own two cars; four times as likely to earn over $2,000 per month
- More likely to stay married; less likely to have children out of wedlock
- Arrested half as often

Head Start began with a summer program in 1965, and Capital Area Community Services, Inc. (CACS) was one of the agencies to receive Head Start funding during its first year of existence.

The Head Start program operated by CACS has continued to expand over the years until today when 1,370 children who are three to five years of age are provided services through Head Start. A new program, Early Head Start, was added a few years ago to provide services to 70 children who are newborn to three years of age, including pregnant mothers.

It takes 45 classrooms to serve the 1,440 children enrolled in CACS. It is not an easy task to find 45 classrooms that meet licensing standards and are still affordable. CACS is so grateful for partners like Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation who make space available to help us give children a ‘HeadStart’ in being prepared for success in school and later in life.

CACS and Edgewood Village have partnered for over 15 years to serve the greater East Lansing area. Sixty-eight children are served each year at the site. CACS refers to the two classrooms as Towar I and Towar II. Children who attend Towar I and II come from the apartments at Edgewood Village and other areas throughout East Lansing, including married housing at Michigan State University. The two classrooms are rich with various cultures, ethnicities, and languages making for a unique and very special preschool experience for all of the children and their families.

A special ‘thank you’ to the Edgewood Village board of directors, managing staff, and residents for providing needed classroom space and welcoming the children and their families to your community.
Thank You!

A list of Individuals, Institutions, Companies, and Associations who make our work possible. The members of the Community Outreach Program are deeply grateful and much encouraged by your generous support!

**Individuals**
- Alan & Barbara Jones
- Alan & Eleanor Isola
- Alan & Jane Suits
- Almus Thorp Jr.
- Andrew Blane
- Anne Porter Day
- Art & Sandy Vine
- Belinda Hogg
- Bill & Eldonna Ruddock
- Bob & Polly House
- Chris Root & David Wiley
- Dan & Linda Wertz
- Dave & Bev Wiener
- David & Carolyn Schuermans
- David & Helen Krathwohl
- David & Iris Horner
- David Hollister
- David Wiley & Christine Root
- Douglas & Elizabeth Hall
- Douglas & Katherine Johnson
- Ellen & Doug Hoeckstra
- Eric & Lynn Hanson
- Eric & Pamela Schoen
- Eugene & Mary Lou Huddleston
- Frances & Clyde Everton
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- Jacquelyne K. Border-Conyers
- James Davis & Margo Smith
- James Fogelshaus DDS
- Janet Mahoney
- John & Betty Duley
- John & Rosemary Murphy
- Karl & Karen Gotting
- Katherine Guins
- Keith McCall
- Kris Wisnieski
- Kriss Ostrom
- Marguerite Barratt
- Marjorie McIvoride
- Mary Lou & Greg Smith
- Margaret Salyers
- Maxie Jackson
- Mike Head & Mary James
- Neil & Elizabeth Cullen
- Opal Wong
- Paul & Donna Freddolino
- Paul & Mary Costelloe
- Preston & Constance Williams
- Robert & Elizabeth Anderson
- Robert & Gerry Torp-Smith
- Sandra Amundson
- Tom & Nancy Edmiston
- WT & M. Eileen Magee & Tom Magee

**Institutions**
- Edgewood United Church
- Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation
- Loomis Law Firm
- Presbyterian Church of Okemos
- Presbyterian Church of Okemos
- St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store
- Thrifty Treasures
- Goodwill Retail Stores
- Curious and Archives Book Shop

**In-Kind Contributions**
- ACD.Net: Free Internet Access for Computer Learning Course Graduates
- Capital Area District Library: Bookmobile services
- Edgewood Village: computer lab, support services
- Greater Lansing Housing Coalition: Adm. Services
- Head Start: Computers for Head Start parents
- Lansing Community College: Education resources
- Michigan State University: Interns and Volunteers
- New Horizons Computer Learning Center: Technical Assistance and free instruction
- Meridian Twp. Parks and Recreation

I would like to support the Community Outreach Program
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of $250 $200 $100 $50 $25 $_____

Name: ________________________________

Street Address: ________________________________

City: _____________________________ State: _______ Zip Code: _______

Please make checks payable to Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program
6213 Tower Garden Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823

Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation is a 501©3 charitable organization.

Thank you for your support
"GET MICHIGAN YOUTH MOVING"

Snell Towar Rec. Center in cooperation with Edgewood Village, and Meridian Township Parks & Recreation, will once again have a Summer Recreation program for youth in the Towar Garden and Edgewood Village Communities.

This program promotes creativity, physical fitness, leadership and social interaction through supervised recreational activities during the summer. Staff organize activities and weekly field trips Monday through Thursday (no programs on Friday) from 10:30am-4:30pm. Sign up is first day of program or first day child attends at Snell Towar Rec. Center.

Closed July 4th
Ages: 6-12

Begins June 12th.
The last day of the program is August 3rd.

On the basketball court at Edgewood Village last summer.

"SPARTAN BUDDIES" FOR OUR KIDS

With the help, guidance, and supervision of the Meridian Township Police Department, Edgewood Village is planning on utilizing a program for youth called the "Spartan Buddies."

The program was developed in 1993, which aims to improve children's sense of self-worth.

On the basketball court at Edgewood Village last summer.

Officer Gayelorl
Mankowski of the Meridian Township Police was an early advocate and creator of the program.

Spartan Buddies from MSU are expected to make contact with their designated youth at least once every week and Officer Mankowski generally coordinates at least one group outing per month while the program is going on.

Although the specifics are not worked out, we look forward to getting this program up and running for our youth.

Future information will follow prior to when the program kicks off.

"...everybody has been so wonderful to me with offers to help in any way..."
—Violet, Resident of Edgewood Village

RESIDENT TESTIMONIAL

Hi, I'm Violet and I live at Edgewood Village. I moved here a year and a half ago and like it very much. I love my apartment and the staff is very friendly and helpful. They allow cats and that isn't easy to find in a nice apartment complex. They sign for packages when they are delivered which is a major service to me. The free bread on Fridays is great too. I also find the staff interested in me.

At the same time I moved in, my best friend John also moved into a town house. It was nice to live only five minutes apart. He used the computer lab, and I get computer help there. We were both very happy here.

A year ago, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Still, the staff and our friends here were supportive, often providing meals for him, along with other help as became more ill. Unfortunately he died a month ago.

Since he died, everybody has been so wonderful to me with offers to help in any way, which have come from everywhere. Jenn, in the computer lab, even adopted his cat, taking a big load off my mind.

All in all I find Edgewood Village a great place to live.

Violet and John
An After-School Program Parent Thanks the Program

A submission from: Dawn Brown, Edgewood Village Resident

February 21, 2006

Dear Edgewood Village and Tutoring program:

We are writing to express our gratitude for the tutoring program and the attention you’ve given to our son Austin this year.

Austin’s grades have improved markedly over the past few months. We have also noticed that he now approaches his spelling and reading homework more confidently. With your coaching, he has discovered that if he applies himself consistently to understanding a difficult problem, he will succeed.

I am not sure Austin would be where he is today if it wasn’t for you and this tutoring program! Austin got his first 100% on a spelling test. I believe he was able to achieve this due to the tutoring program.

We are very impressed with your tutoring program, as well as with the amount of care and attention you’ve given our son. We just wanted to thank you for the tutoring program and to let you know that it is making a difference in our lives!

Sincerely,
Dawn & Dan Brown

Austin Brown with his 100% Spelling Test.

Do you Recognize this Man?

A submission by: Jennifer Phillips

Dave McDowell comes back to us through the General Motors JOBS bank program once again. About a year ago, Dave joined our organization, but was called back to work at GM. Now, he has returned.

Dave helps Jennifer, the Computer Learning Center Director, with the day to day operations of the computer center. He also maintains the hardware and some of the software applications used to keep the computers running. Dave has been a great help in refurbishing computers for the students that take our Computer Learning Courses offered here at the Village.

Before coming here, Dave worked as a GM electrician for 10 years, spent 6 years in the US Army, and drove a bus for the Lansing school district.

We are very proud to have Dave on board, once again, and we look forward to having more good times and receiving great work with him.

Post Script: Soon after writing this story, Dave was called back to work at GM. It was a sad day when he left, again! We thank him for all of his hard work and effort to our program.
Networking for our Neighborhood

Recently, both Jill Morris, Asst. Site Manager, and Jennifer Phillips, Special Programs Director, attended a three day conference in San Diego, CA put on by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and their Neighborhood Networks group.

According to the Neighborhood Networks web site, http://www.neighborhoodnetworks.org, HUD, “…created Neighborhood Networks to encourage property owners to establish multi-service community learning centers in HUD insured and assisted properties. Neighborhood Networks was one of the first federal initiatives to promote self-sufficiency and help provide computer access to low-income housing communities.”

Neighborhood Network centers help to improve computer access, advance literacy, prepare residents to take advantage of employment opportunities, and to provide access to healthcare information and other social services. While at the Regional Technical Assistance Workshop, (RTAW), Jill and Jennifer participated in sessions regarding various things such as keeping residents safe in emergencies, creative volunteer recruiting, and ways to keep up with the ever changing world of technology.

They also spent time networking with other organizations from around the country, as well as Puerto Rico, discussing our computer center and the many successes we have shared with the residents, our after-school program and the results the residents have achieved, as well as trying to find out new ways to use old equipment for the betterment of our residents, such as utilizing old model computers for “Internet-only” media stations.

The RTAW was held April 5 through April 7 at the Hyatt Regency Islandia Hotel in San Diego.
Making the Effort is Worth the Outcome

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

Since June of 2005, our Computer Learning Courses at Edgewood Village have gone through many changes. That summer began with the creation of the four basic modules of the classes. It took many hours and many people putting their heads together to create this foundation for our classes.

From there, we started with the list of names and phone numbers of residents of Edgewood Village and Head Start parents that had enrolled many months, maybe even a year or longer, to take the courses offered at the Computer Learning Center at Edgewood Village. From that list, each person was contacted personally, either by telephone, if the phone number was still valid, or through a postcard in the mail, letting the individuals know that the courses were back on track and would be scheduled soon. This began the second stage; actually teaching the classes.

Soon after going through the classes with residents and families, there were noticeable holes in the curriculum. From here, the four modules were revised, the first of many revisions to come.

At this stage, each of the students that completed the four basic modules, received a computer with the Windows 98 Operating System, which had a CD-ROM drive, a monitor, a mouse, a keyboard, all of the power cords, and thanks to the generosity of the people at ACD.Net, 6 months free dial-up Internet access. These computers were workhorses, but led to problems down the road, therefore, our initiative brought us to purchase from a local source, some newer, faster, more reliable computers which included an update to Windows XP Professional Operating System.

After the new curriculum was introduced, the next process was to figure out how to help our students move forward with their newly acquired skills. This demand brought on the desire for our Extended Education Courses.

The Extended Education Courses are courses that the student can take at no charge, to further develop their computer skills. Classes can be taken at Edgewood Village, at the Capital Area District Library, or through New Horizon's Computer Learning Center, who donates a class valued at $250 to anyone who successfully completes our four basic modules. Classes range from learning more advanced techniques working within text editing software, to desktop publishing, or a more advanced course in the Windows XP Operating System. Taking these additional courses costs no money and even offers an extra incentive such as receiving All-in-One printer, a USB flash drive for portable data storage, or even software, or speakers for their home computer.

Since the program restarted, all the way back in June 2005, 84 Head Start parents and Edgewood Village residents have successfully completed our four basic modules. Approximately 40 percent of those completed have continued their education with Extended Learning Courses as well.

Although we have not quite met our goal of graduating 100 students in a year, it is most certainly in the realm of possibility, and just on the horizon.

Classes end in June because of vacations and other factors, and resume in September. If you are interested in taking the courses, please contact Jennifer Phillips at Edgewood Village, or if you are a Head Start parent, contact your Family Advocate for more information and for an application.
Thank You!
A list of Individuals, Institutions, Companies, and Associations who make our work possible.
The members of the Community Outreach Program are deeply grateful and much encouraged by your
generous support!

Individuals

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In-Kind Contributions

- Edgewood United Church
- Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation
- Loomis Law Firm
- Presbyterian Church of Okemos
- Presbytery of Lake Lansing
- St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store
- Thrifty Treasures
- Goodwill Retail Stores
- Curious & Archives Book Shop
- In-Kind Contributions
- ACD.Net
- Capital Area District Library
- Edgewood Village
- Greater Lansing Housing Coalition
- Capital Area Community Services Head Start
- Lansing Community College
- Michigan State University
- New Horizon's Computer Learning Center
- Meridian Twp. Parks & Recreation

I would like to support the Community Outreach Program
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of  ____ $250  ____ $200  ____ $100  ____ $50  ____ $25  ____ Other

Name: ____________________________________________

Street Address: ____________________________________________

City: ____________________________  State: ___________  Zip Code: ___________

Please make checks payable to Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program
6213 Towar Garden Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823

Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation is a 501©3 charitable organization.

Thank you for your support
It seems as though each day in the summer, someone is coming to us with suggestions to help improve the future of the children that live at Edgewood and in the Towar Garden Community. This summer, we began to implement two new programs, along with continuing our current programs. Below, are brief explanations of the programs we offer.

The Edgewood Village / Snell Towar Recreation Center After-School Program: This program, run in cooperation with the Snell Towar Recreation Center, Donley School, Whitehills School, and Michigan State University, begins at the start of the East Lansing school district calendar year and finishes at the end of the school year. It was designed for children, Kindergarten through sixth grade, as a one-on-one tutoring program. The program begins at approximately 4pm and runs until 5:30pm. While there, the students work on homework or any other learning activity with their assigned tutor who comes to us from Michigan State University. We also utilize some materials from the “Brain Gym,” which is a program designed to make learning easier and even fun for the children.

Spartan Buddies Program: This program is new to our area. With the help, guidance, and supervision of the Meridian Township Police Department and Edgewood Village, we are planning on utilizing a program for youth called “Spartan Buddies.” The program was developed in 1991, which aims to improve children’s sense of self-worth. Officer Gaylord Mankowski of the Meridian Township Police was an early advocate and creator of the program. Spartan Buddies from MSU are expected to make contact with their designated youth at least once every week and Officer Mankowski generally coordinates at least one group outing per month while the program is running. Although the specifics are not worked out, we look forward to getting this program up and running for our youth.

Active Citizenship: Making A Difference: This is also a new program started this year. This series is run in cooperation with Michigan State University as part of a class. The Michigan State students involved are expected to enhance their leadership skills and be a mentor to youth on our property. The youth on our property are therefore inclined to interact with college student mentors, which will strengthen their written and verbal communication skills, build their interaction with others, and lead them to see the importance of staying in school and becoming active and responsible citizens.

With all of this, it is easy to see that the staff at Edgewood Village and Snell Towar Recreation Center are very devoted to improving the quality of life of our children, and we strive to help our children become responsible, active, knowledgeable, and caring youth, in preparation for a more productive and healthy life.

If you would like any additional information about these programs, or would like to enroll your child in them, please contact Jennifer Phillips at 517-827-1159 in the Computer Learning Center at Edgewood Village, or Jill Morris in the Edgewood Village office at 517-351-1400.

Prepare for Lower Prices, Higher Speeds, & More Reliability
A submission from: Eric Schoen, Vice President of ACD.net

Edgewood Village and ACD.net of Lansing, are bringing a direct fiber optic connection to the community. The fiber will be connected to DSL broadband equipment that will be placed in Edgewood’s tower building.

The project is scheduled for completion this fall. Edgewood residents will then have high bandwidth DSL service available for $10.00 per month as well as optional telephone service with unlimited local dialing at $12.95 per month, plus any applicable taxes. DSL not only differs from dial-up regarding speed, but your computer is constantly connected via its network card when it is turned on.

The DSL service will be up to 200 times faster than standard dial-up Internet connections and up to four to five times greater than other providers whose Internet service must include telephone service at a monthly rate of over $40.00 per month.

The project entails running fiber cable above ground on telephone poles, then running cable from the tower building to each of the other buildings. That cable will connect to the phone wires that run into your apartments thereby avoiding the disruption of rewiring your apartments.

Once the project is completed, residents will be able to order service directly from ACD.net. ACD will provide telephone support to help you connect your computer to the Internet and to start phone service. In some cases, ACD may need to dispatch a technician to an apartment for on site help. This will of course be with permission and at a mutually acceptable date and time. Edgewood and ACD will provide an information packet in the near future with phone numbers and support hours.
Raising Public Awareness About Edgewood Village Computer Learning Center

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

As reported this summer, Jennifer Phillips and Jill Morris attended a conference in San Diego, CA to learn more about the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Developments off-shoot organization, Neighborhood Networks. Since the conference, both have felt the desire to become more active in the Neighborhood Networks group. Therefore, when Neighborhood Networks week approached this year, Jennifer took on the responsibility to showcase our Computer Learning Center (CLC) at Edgewood Village to the community.

Community Days is held annually in July for the Towar Garden Community area which includes Edgewood Village and an approximately 5 block area of the neighborhood. Community Day was held July 22, 2006. This year, Jennifer, along with the CLC assistant, Kathryn, answered questions and highlighted our CLC with a booth set-up at the Community Day event in honor of Neighborhood Networks Week.

The booth held information regarding the classes that are offered at the center, as well as Center usage waivers and general information about our CLC, such as hours and location.

HUD observes National Neighborhood Networks Week each year to pay tribute to residents, owners, managers, and center staff, as well as to raise public awareness about center programs that help residents.
The World Around Us

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

It was decided since there are so many other organizations that work with us, to make our programs possible, and who support us in other ways, it would be good to highlight some of their activities in this newsletter as well. Below are two separate articles from two different organizations that provide us support in many ways. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them, and all of our supporters, for their time, commitment, and input to our organization. We appreciate all you do for us.

From the Snell Towar Recreation Center

A submission from: Greg Grothous; Snell Towar Center Director

Snell Towar Recreation Center is located at 6146 Porter Ave - the big yellow building you can't miss it. The Center is surrounded by Towar Park which has a baseball field for 12 & under, basketball court, sand volleyball court, and a play structure. Inside the Center is a pool table, two foosball tables, air hockey, and our newest addition "carpet ball" along with various board games. The Center also has a "Book Nook" that is stocked and updated by the Capital Area District Library. In conjunction with Edgewood Village Snell Towar also provides tutoring for children at Donelly and Whitehills elementary.

The centers hours fluctuate with the East Lansing school year. During the school year, the Center is open from 3:30-6pm, Monday through Friday. The hours are adjusted for no school days such as holidays and spring break.

Programming includes: Teen Night every Wednesday from 6:30 - 9:00pm.

For adults and Seniors, Cribbage is played every Tuesday from 1 -3pm; Bunco is played the second and fourth Monday of the month from 1 - 3pm. Euchre is played every Friday from 6:30 - 9pm.

Outside the regular programs the Center hosts a Halloween Open House and a Breakfast with Santa during the Holidays.

For the past seven years, the Center has hosted the "Summer Playground Program" for children ages 6 to 12. This 7-week youth development program promotes creativity, physical fitness, leadership and social interaction through supervised recreation activities. This program is jointly sponsored by Meridian Township Parks and Recreation, TC3 "Towar Community Concerns Committee" and Capital Region Community Foundation. For more information contact the Center at 332-8551 or the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Office at 853-4616.

Capital Area District Library Offerings

A submission from: Bill Nelton; CADL Outreach Director

The Capital Area District Library (CADL) Outreach Services Department, which was established in September 2001, offers services to people who are not able to use the Main Library or one of it’s branches.

One of the services provided to this community by the CADL Outreach Services is the Bookmobile which stops at Edgewood Village and also at the Snell Towar Recreation Center. The Bookmobile provides a wide variety of materials to patrons of all ages and provides these materials in a variety of formats which include both print, audio, and video materials.

Another service provided by the CADL in our community is the Book Nook, which is a collection of books meant to be tutoring aides and recreational use for youth at both Edgewood Village and Snell Towar. These two collections are refreshed every month by taking out most of the books and replacing them with different titles. At Edgewood Village, residents are asked to make sure to sign the books out if they wish to take them home to read.

An activity provided by Outreach Services which has been a lot of fun are the reminiscing programs held at Snell Towar usually on the first Wednesday of every month. These programs are designed to bring back memories on pertaining to a particular time period or a certain topic. The goal of these programs are to create opportunities and resources to share stories with each other and hopefully introduce children to eras and topics to which they may or may not know much about. Within the reminiscing program, there are twenty separate topics, which include the 1920s, the Great Depression, fashion, music, the 1950s and the Home Front during World War II.

Also, Outreach Services has connected with the refugee population by partnering with the Refugee Development Center. The goal has been to encourage library use as well as to raise awareness of diversity and promote cross-cultural understanding.
A Cooperative Effort to Educate Tomorrow’s Leaders

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

For approximately 2 years now, Edgewood Village and the Snell Recreation Center, a community center located in close vicinity to Edgewood, have been operating an After-School Tutoring Program for Kindergarten through sixth grade students. The program is run with the help of the East Lansing school district through the assistance of teachers and the principals, as well as Michigan State University, who each semester, provide Edgewood Village and Snell with 80 students to tutor the children in a one-on-one setting.

Each day, the tutors arrive approximately 15 minutes prior to the student’s arrivals to prepare the provided snack each day, and to arrange the tutoring room. The students then arrive and begin their activities.

It is stressed throughout the program that the tutors are to work on homework with the young students, or, if there is no homework, to find something educational to work on each day. Some pairs choose to work on the computer at web sites like homeworkhelper.com or funbrain.com, while others play board games such as Scrabble to enhance the learning process.

This year, we received a letter from a parent who has two of her children enrolled in the program. Below is her letter.

“I wanted to write and thank you for the tutoring program. Nikki is understanding algebra and her homework assignments are being turned in completed. She enjoys it. Haley is reading better and enjoying reading and her spelling has improved greatly. The tutors make it fun but they learn a lot too. I like the fact that the tutors are in touch with the teachers that helps a lot. Thank you for this program. It has helped my girls get better grades.

-Kim Harmon”
A Dream Coming True

A submission from: Jill Morris

Late last Fall, Edgewood Village entered into discussions with a local area service provider to offer the Village High-Speed Internet service, along with telephone service at a lower cost than generally available to the public. These discussions led to the Village entering into a contract with ACD.Net for these services.

After a long and arduous process of breaking ground, digging tunnels on the property to bury wires and fiber, gathering permits from the local governments, and stringing fiber and wires on telephone poles, the preparation is nearing completion. To unveil this new and exciting service, Edgewood Village, ACD.Net, and several other community organizations and friends gathered on June 14, 2007 at Edgewood Village to celebrate the launch.

John Duley, President of Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation, spoke to the crowd about what this project means to our community and the benefits. Mr. Duley thanked everyone involved in our Community Outreach Committee and the members of the Edgewood Village Board for their loyal and continued support.

Following Mr. Duley’s speech, Mr. Eric Schoen, Vice President of ACD.Net, spoke on their behalf to explain the service and the capabilities this service will offer.

After a brief relocation indoors due to rain, Ms. Arlene Ulrich, Manager of Edgewood Village, read a script prepared by Ms. Jennifer Phillips, Special Programs Director of Edgewood Village, who was absent from the program, about the Karl Gotting / Truman Morrison Community Outreach Program and the history and future plans for this committee.

Many local organizations and businesses were well-represented. Offering their remarks were, Ms. Lucy McClintic of the Capital Area Community Services Head Start Program, a Lansing Community College East Campus representative, Mr. Brian Jackson, Dr. Hiram Fitzgerald, Vice Provost for Community Outreach at Michigan State University, the Vice President of Capitol National Bank, Ms. Ronda Thompson, Ms. Pam Andrews, Principal of Donely Elementary School in the East Lansing Public School District, and Ms. Ulrich also read a prepared statement from the Towar Community Concerns Committee (TC3) on their behalf as well.

The evening ended with Mr. Schoen, Mr. Duley, and Ms. Lisa Taillon, an Edgewood Village resident and Village Board Member, mimicking the actual connection of the lines and concluding comments from Mr. Duley.

The ‘Communication Connectivity Ceremony’ as it was dubbed, began with a picnic-type meal at 4 pm and concluded at approximately 6 pm. Many attendees stayed to chat with the representatives from ACD.Net, as well as some of the other organizations represented.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made this event possible. Without the input and guiding hands from the many residents, staff of Edgewood Village, organization and business leaders, and community representatives, this evening of great importance would never have happened.

There is still time to sign-up for both of the services being offered by ACD.Net and Edgewood Village. If interested, please contact the Edgewood Village office at your earliest convenience.

Continued on page 2.

Visit our web page! http://www.edgewoodvillage.org
Continued from page 1

We were strongly supported in our efforts to provide these services to our residents by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which is why we received this letter from the Detroit office of HUD, following our announcement of the new provided services.

JUN 17 2007

Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation
1017 W. Lapeer Road
Lansing, MI 48915

SUBJECT: Edgewood Village Neighborhood Networks Center (NNC)
         Edgewood Village Apartments
         East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Owner:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would like to congratulate you on your recent success with respect to the Edgewood Village NNC.

In today’s world, we must always keep our minds focused on the technology of tomorrow. The partnership you created between Edgewood Village’s computer center and ACD.Net is clearly an example of your dedication and commitment to providing quality computer access and education to the residents of Edgewood Village Apartments. We thank you for your support of the Neighborhood Networks Initiative, and wish you many years of success.

If you have any questions about Neighborhood Networks, or need assistance in your technological efforts, please contact Pamela Wildfong or Mary Mathis at (313) 226-7900 extension 8126 or 8149 respectively.

Sincerely,

Barbara Chiarello
Director of Housing
Detroit Multifamily Hub

cc: Edgewood Village Apartments
Super Summer Success

A submission from: Sue Ziara; Brain Power Team at Donley Elementary

In order to remind children about the importance of summer reading, Donley reading teachers have planned three summer reading parties at Edgewood Village Community Center.

Our first party took place on June 15th. 22 children enjoyed special treats while listening to Donley teachers read some favorite stories. There was time to write a summer poem and/or play a reading game before visiting the Capital Area District Library Book Mobile to sign out books.

The next two reading parties will be held at Edgewood Village on July 20th and August 17th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. All Edgewood residents who attended Donley School last year or who will attend Donley School next year are invited to participate. (Children who have Bookmobile library cards should bring them along.)

Meanwhile, we hope that all of our students are reading for at least 15 minutes every day! Students who read during the summer months often continue to progress while those who do not read, often regress.

Photo courtesy of Microsoft ClipArt

Planning for the Future

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

On April 19, 2007, two LCC employees, Brian Jackson, LCC East Coordinator, and Curlada Eure-Harris, Career Counselor for LCC, came and spoke to some of the older youth on the property regarding planning for their futures. This presentation was designed to be a thought provoking seminar which would drive our High School aged students to think about their future plans and what they would like to do post-high school.

The youths in attendance were asked open ended questions regarding what they would like to do for a living and what they thought they needed educationally, to be able to obtain that position.

Ms. Eure-Harris and Mr. Jackson led the discussion and were able to help the students try to navigate their options to fulfill their expectations.

All in all, the presentation was a smash and the group hopes to hold another in the fall to more students to try to help them prepare and gather their thoughts as well.

Beautification of Edgewood Village

A submission from: Mary Lou Smith; Committee Member

The committee consisting of Edgewood Village Outreach Committee members, residents, and other partnering community members, was formed to research the issue of increasing the appreciation and enjoyment of the arts by the residents of Edgewood Village through the addition of some type of art work on the grounds.

The committee has met three times so far and has "brainstormed" ideas, toured the grounds of Edgewood Village, and toured the MSU Children's Garden.

The committee won't reconvene until fall, and at that time, hopes to involve MSU landscaping experts, as well. Some ideas that are being considered are a "Children's Garden", some type of sculpture, a sitting area, and some type of thing that resident children could become involved with, such as making stepping stones to be placed in an area that contains a piece of sculpture and/or a garden area.

There are several areas of the grounds that lend themselves well to the project. The committee has also considered making a multi-year plan, with pieces of the project done year by year.
Another Community Day is Coming!

A submission from: Arlene Ulrich

This year will be the 22ND Annual Community Day being held Saturday July 21st 2007, at the Snell Towar Recreation Center, located in Meridian Township.

Community Day started as a Towar Education Center anniversary celebration.

It was such a great success it was decided to do it again the next year so neighbors of the Towar Gardens — Edgewood Village community could enjoy a day of meeting each other, chatting and just having good fashioned fun.

There are many events including an old fashion egg toss, pet judging, basketball shoot, sprint race moon walk, kids games and of course, the yearly favorite, a dunk tank.

A recent popular event is a raffle for a wonderful Cat House-Scratching Post designed and built by Dan Smith, TC3’s Vice President.

When the East Lansing School District regrettably closed the Education Center, Geri Snell Director of the Snell Towar Recreation Center and Edgewood Village kept Community Day going. We were then joined by our Neighborhood association TC3.

The year 2004 when Geri Snell retired, Edgewood Village together with TC3 our Neighborhood Association had the great pleasure of keeping Community Day alive as a neighborhood tradition.

Community Day is not a fund raiser. Many things are free and any money made is used for Community Day Expenses the next year. This year due to the high cost of gas, groceries, and our economy at a whole, we have decided to reduce the cost in our food tent and have added additional free events like our basketball shoot off.

Community Day
July 21, 2007
As an outgrowth of protests against the Vietnam war in 1967, a multi-issue community organization called the Greater Lansing Community Organization (GLCO) was created.

One key conversation within GLCO revolved around the issue of decent and affordable housing in East Lansing for low to moderate income families. After working with the Edgewood United Church for two years on this issue, it was voted by the congregation to create the Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation. This corporation received its construction loan in late 1971 and by the winter of 1973, the 135 units that compose Edgewood Village were complete and ready for occupancy.

In addition to the normal community rooms found in all housing developments, Edgewood Village had been designed with a day care center, a health care center, and an information and referral service: three services not found in most other multi-family communities.

In 1994, the developer's responsibility for maintaining the property as affordable housing for low income families ceased and the owner was encouraged to sell to a non-profit housing corporation that would maintain it as affordable housing. In late 1994, the newly created Greater Lansing Housing Coalition (GLHC), along with guidance from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), purchased the property. HUD required GLHC to create a separate non-profit corporation to own and manage the property, hence, the Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation was created.

Currently, the day care center is being leased to the Capital Area Community Services Head Start program for $1 per year, and in 1997, through the encouragement of HUD, the Computer Learning Center was created.

Since its inception, the outreach program has seen many changes. The Computer Learning Center began with ten computer stations, running Windows 98, which was top-of-the-line at the time. Only two of the computers in the center were connected to the Internet, which meant a waiting time for users who wanted to get online. In late 2003, all the computers were connected to the Internet with high-speed DSL and the Edgewood Village Computer Learning Courses began. These courses were designed for Head Start Parents, Village Residents, and Towar community members who needed help with computers. In 2007, the rest of the computers were connected to the Internet with high-speed DSL and the Edgewood Village Computer Learning Courses began. These courses were designed for Head Start Parents, Village Residents, and Towar community members who needed help with computers. In 2007, the rest of the computers were connected to the Internet with high-speed DSL and the Edgewood Village Computer Learning Courses began. These courses were designed for Head Start Parents, Village Residents, and Towar community members who needed help with computers.
Continued from Page 1

This part of the program remained this way until mid-2005. At this time, the classes underwent a major overhaul with new teaching materials, a new teacher, and a center overhaul as well. The Center itself underwent a cleaning process, getting all of the computers back up and running. At this time, we removed two of the computers that could not be revived and kept the center running with eight, instead of ten computers, allowing people more elbow room while they were working.

The teaching materials were completely revamped with help from New Horizons Computer Learning Center and the online tutorial website, gcflearnfree.org. The new classes were unveiled in October of 2005. This would not be the end of the transitions for these classes, as the materials are updated about twice per year now, with new information and new tips and tricks for the students to learn.

The extended learning classes are still available, teaching everything from the Microsoft office suite, including Excel, Word, PowerPoint, etc. to résumé writing, job searching, typing skills, and beyond. About 40% of our students who take the first class, come back to complete some sort of extended learning to enhance their skills as well as to receive the incentives offered, such as printers, USB Flash drives for information storage, speakers, and software.

More recently in the Fall of 2006, the lab received another makeover with new carpet, fresh paint, new computers, and snappy Flat-screen LCD monitors, making the center more up-to-date and efficient for the users. We serve approximately 80 people who make around 325 visits per month in our computer center now.

In the summer of 2005, the summer reading program, called “Reading Stars” was developed to encourage residents and their children to spend time reading together over the summer months. This program asked for the enrollees to keep track of the minutes they read. For each 400 minutes read, the person would receive a free gift which was donated by local organizations and businesses. The prizes varied from books and pizza, to Ty™ Beanie Babies. The grand prize winner, Kylie Huntington, won a framed photo of the participants in the program and a small bookshelf unit for her home. This program only ran one summer, and since then, we have encouraged our residents to sign up with the Capital Area District Library and enroll in their summer reading program.

Also in 2005, the outreach program launched the After-School Tutoring program for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. This program would bring in 80 tutors from Michigan State University to tutor in a one-on-one setting the children who enrolled. This program ran in conjunction with the Snell Towar Rec. Center who used 40 of the MSU tutors for their own site. As part of the daily work with the children, we also used a program called “Brain Gym” which allows for the child to utilize both sides of their Brain in order to enhance the learning process. This was a series of movements and games which were completed everyday with the tutors and the children. Each year, this program keeps growing and achieving more impressive results. We are very proud of this program and have received positive feedback from both parents, as well as the schools, about how well the students are doing. This semester alone, between the two sites running this After-School Program, we received over 40 applications from parents and children interested in participating in the program. This was the highest return rate we have ever had!

Edgewood Village and the Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program prides itself on changing with the times. The jobs and roles of those involved fluctuate based on the needs of our residents and our community. We are not a stationary group and we will never settle.

Various photographs taken throughout the years including Computer Learning Courses, our Connection Ceremony, After-School Tutoring, the Capital Area District Library Book Nook, the annual Halloween Party, and the Meridian Township Snell Towar Recreation Center Building.

This Just In!
The Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program was just informed that Edgewood Village is the BookMobile’s second busiest stop on their approximately 45-stop route! This is why they choose to stop once each week on our property. Thank you and Congratulations residents for making this so successful!
Thank You!
A list of Individuals, Institutions, Companies, and Associations who make our work possible.
The members of the Community Outreach Program are deeply grateful and much encouraged by your
generous support!

**Individuals**

- Alan & Barbara Jones
- Alan & Eleanor Isola
- Alan & Jane Suits
- Almus Thorp, Jr.
- Andrew Blane
- Anne Porter Day
- Art & Sandy Vine
- Belinda Hogg
- Bill & Eldonna Ruddock
- Bob & Polly House
- Christine Root & David Wiley
- Dan & Linda Wertz
- David & Carolyn Schuurnans
- David & Helen Krathwohl
- David & Iris Horner
- David Hollister
- Douglas & Elizabeth Hall
- Douglas & Katherine Johnson
- Ellen & Doug Hoeckstra
- Eric & Lynn Hanson
- Eric & Pamela Schoen
- Eugene & Mary Lou Huddleston
- Frances & Clyde Everton
- Frank & Mary Lou Hatfield
- Frieda Brown
- H. Lynn Jondahl & Judy Martin
- Helen Penhale
- Henry Blosser
- Linda Minter
- Ian & Deane Barbour
- Howard & Judy Wolpe
- Jacquelynne K. Border-Conyers
- James Davis & Margo Smith
- James Figenshau DDS
- Janet Mahoney
- John & Betty Duley
- John & Rosemary Murphy
- Karl & Karen Gotting
- Katherine Guins
- Keith McCall
- Kris Wisniewski
- Kriss Ostrom
- Marguerite Barratt
- Marjorie McIlvride
- Mary Lou & Greg Smith
- Margaret Salyers
- Maxie Jackson
- Mike Head & Mary James
- Neil & Elizabeth Cullen
- Opal Wong
- Paul & Donna Freddolino
- Paul & Mary Costelloe
- Preston & Constance Williams
- Robert & Elizabeth Anderson
- Robert & Gerry Torp-Smith
- Sandra Amundsen
- Tom & Nancy Edmiston
- WT & M. Eileen Magee
- Tom Magee

**Institutions**

- Edgewood United Church
- Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation
- Loomis Law Firm
- Presbyterian Church of Okemos
- Presbytery of Lake Lansing
- St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store
- Thrifty Treasures
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- Meridian Twp. Parks & Recreation

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I would like to support the Community Outreach Program
Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of ___ $250 ___ $200 ___ $100 ___ $50 ___ $25 $___ Other

Name: ________________________________

Street Address: ________________________________

City: __________________ State: _______ Zip Code: _______

Please make checks payable to Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program
6213 Towar Garden Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823

Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation is a 501©3 charitable organization.

Thank you for your support
Another Semester, Another Crop of Young Minds

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

The Edgewood Village and Snell Towar Recreation Center are in the midst of another semester of tutoring. This year, was our highest rate of return on applications. Between the Village and Snell, we received approximately 45 applications from parents interested in enrolling their children in the program.

This year, we have about 80 Michigan State University students whose ages range from Freshmen to Juniors, studying everything from Elementary Education, to Nursing, and even Accounting.

Also this year, as we have in the past, we have our America Reads tutors from MSU as well. These are students paid through the university to tutor the children and to help be the liaison between the Center Directors, Jennifer Phillips at Edgewood Village, and Greg Grothous at Snell Towar. We were lucky enough to have three of our past America Reads students come back to Edgewood Village, Kathryn Mitchell, Michael Morga, and Talessia Moss, one past tutor came back as an America Reads, Nick Suave, and one other student, Veronica Yousef, enrolled for her first semester.

The program began with tutor training the week of September 17-20. The following week, Edgewood began their first week of tutoring with the children. Snell began one week later on October 1. The program runs Monday through Thursdays for an hour and a half for the children, and the tutors stay an extra half hour to help prepare the tutoring room and to assist in cleaning up afterwards.

The official ending date of the program is one week before the Michigan State University tutors have exams, so that they may have plenty of time and energy to devote to studying. Therefore, the last date we have this program is December 5 for students attending Mondays and Wednesdays and December 6, for students who attend Tuesdays and Thursdays. On these last two days, there is a pizza party so the tutors and the children can say farewell and have some fun together.
Dr. King’s Legacy Continues

A submission from: John Duley

Fifty three years ago, on February 11, 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came from the storm center of the Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama, and spoke in the Michigan State University Auditorium to an overflow crowd of students and faculty. He came to launch the Student Tutorial Education Project. This was a project conceived by a MSU faculty member, Dr. Robert L. Green of the College of Education and myself, as the Presbyterian Campus Minister, following our participation in a voter registration rally in Canton, Mississippi, and endorsed by All University Student Government. At the invitation of the President of Rust College, a Black College in Holly Springs, Mississippi, over 100 MSU students and faculty, during the course of four years: 1965-68, spent six weeks each summer preparing the entering Freshman class of the college to be academically prepared for college level work.

Michigan State University on the weekend of Dr. King’s birthday celebration, Saturday January 13, 2007, for a reunion. Dr. King’s deeply held concerns for social and economic justice had clearly been embedded in the lives of these men and women by their experience in this aspect of the Civil Rights Movement. Their past and current commitments to his legacy were clearly documented in interviews with twelve of the participants and captured on two DVDs. Christine Lundberg stayed on after the summer to teach at Rust, then, after two years, to teach as the only white person in a black school in Drew, Mississippi, then to work on the Mississippi Head Start Training Coordinating Council, and to spend her life working for economic and social justice in the South. Dave Hollister attributes his brief encounter with Dr. King as the inspiration for his giving his life for public service as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, the Mayor of the City of Lansing, and Director of Prima Civitas, an agency of the State and MSU to bring new industry into the State. Lewis Rudolph gave up his Peace Corps assignment in South America immediately after STEP and returned to Detroit to teach in the inner city, and become a leader in the United Way nationally. The lives of the others were also shaped and given direction by their experience with Dr. King and this project. (If you are interested in obtaining the DVDs please email John Duley, duley@msu.edu)

So, we are not alone in our commitment to Dr. King’s legacy. We are surrounded and supported on every hand by people of good will.
On behalf of the Karl Gotting / Truman Morrison Outreach Committee

Our world and our lives change so quickly. Soon, the United States of America, will face a change in government with a new President, Vice President, and so forth. We are faced every day with decisions to make that may effect us in ways we have no manner of understanding at that moment. Our world is turned upside down from tragedies like flooding and outrageous fires. The radio, television, and various other newscasts generally offer the dimmest and frightening events. We take that information in, trying to look for a bright spot, or some good news to soothe ourselves.

With all of this in mind, the staff, committee members, and those influenced by the Karl Gotting / Truman Morrison Outreach Program Committee in the Edgewood Village Community and beyond, would like to take the time to thank each and every one of our donors, friends, colleagues, and partners for their commitment and dedication to our organization. We are pleased and very proud to announce this year, because of the decisions you chose to make, the Non-Profit organization which we are comprised of, received it’s highest monetary amount of donations from individuals, institutions, and other charitable organizations!

It has been said that, “one is nothing without their friends,” and we are proof of this statement. Without your munificent support, we would be unable to continue providing the opportunities, assistance, and the programs we supply to our neighbors, our community, and our friends.

From the bottom of our hearts, we offer our deepest and most sincere thanks. Thank you for being our, “Bright Spot.”
New Technology Makes It’s Way Into the Computer Center

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

In the short two and a half years I have worked at Edgewood Village as the Special Programs Director, I have been in the fore-front of many changes in the Computer Learning Center. Adjustments have been made such as having rules about the Center usage, updating printer capabilities, adding a scanner for resident use, using ACD.Net high-speed Internet, as well as carpeting and painting the room itself.

Our newest upgrade came just as the year 2007 was coming to a close. In late December, we received 10 new computers, speakers, chairs, and software for the computers to modernize the Center.

We now have faster Internet service, quicker computers with the newest version of the Microsoft Office Suite, 2007, two printers set up for resident use and comfy new chairs to rest in.

With all of these changes, we have also had to revamp our Modules which we use to train our Computer Learning Course students from. These have been rewritten to allow the students to understand the way our computers are run in the Center, then with that, we have installed newer software on their computers, mainly Internet Explorer, so what they receive in their homes, for their use, is the same as what they have been taught on.

The modifications to the modules we have made because of this update is just one of the many reasons that our modules are consistently and constantly re-examined. We study the modules, one through four, about every four to six months, just to make sure that we are providing the best instruction we can for our students. We try very hard to stay on top of the advancements with software, virus protection, hardware, and the likes, so that our students can be competitive and competent in the ever-changing world of technology.

Thus far, everyone has been impressed and satisfied with the transformations, both in the Computer Learning Center and with the modules and classes.

We are very pleased to be able to offer this improved equipment for our residents. If you haven’t seen all of the improvements, we suggest you come by, just to take a look, or to utilize our newest upgrades. We love to show off our beautiful, appearance and capabilities!

“Great Time to Buy”

A submission from: The Greater Lansing Housing Coalition & Jill Morris

On January 27, 2008, the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition hosted a special showing of four newly rehabilitated homes in the City of Lansing. “This is a great time to buy a home in Lansing,” said Lynne Martinez, Executive Director of GLHC. “With all the talk of foreclosures, GLHC wants people to know that it is possible to get good prices and good interest rates on homes and to avoid mortgages with escalating rates that can cause future problems.” Through a special agreement with the City of Lansing, GLHC is offering $10,000 to the right buyer to help them purchase one of these homes. For more information, please contact GLHC at (517) 373-5980 or Email: info@glhc.org.
CACS Head Start 2nd Annual
“Miles for Smiles”

A submission from: Capital Area Community Services Head Start

On April 19, 2008 the CACS Head Start is hosting a 5k Walk at Hawk Island Park to raise money to help provide dental care to Head Start students and their families.

Why “Miles for Smiles?” Dental decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease among our children today. Surprisingly enough, many of these student’s parents are also suffering from dental disease, and usually find a lack of community dental resources.

You could make a difference in the lives of Head Start families by being a walker or sponsoring a walker; volunteering to help at the event; donate items for the walk i.e., toothbrushes, bottled water, dental floss, toothpaste, etc.; or send a gift of $25, $50, $75 or whatever you feel good about.

For more information on how you can participate, please contact: Teresa Spitze, Health Programs Manager @ 517-482-1504. Registration starts at 9:00am, Walk begins at 10:00am.

Capital Area Community Services, Inc., Head Start and Early Childhood Programs, in partnership with the community and participating families, is dedicated to creating a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, nurturing, safe and healthy learning environment in which children, families and staff are inspired to reach their fullest potential.
On the Anniversary

A submission from: Jennifer Phillips

We tried to plan this issue of the Village Monitor to arrive in your homes on the 4th Anniversary date of the creation of the Karl Gotting/Truman Morrison Community Outreach Program and nearing the 14th Anniversary of the purchase of Edgewood Village by the Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation.

With this in mind, we would like to update you once again on the recent enhancements to the Computer Learning Center, the number of graduates from our Computer Learning Courses, and other accomplishments throughout the last year.

- There were 66 graduates from the Computer Learning Courses taught at the Edgewood Village Computer Learning Center between 2007 and 2008. These 66 graduates were either Head Start Parents or residents of Edgewood Village. By the time you receive this newsletter, there should be another sixteen graduates who will be added to that list. This means we have given out 82 computers, these 82 graduates have received six months free dial-up Internet access courtesy of ACD.Net, and 100% of these people have learned additional skills which will enable them to further their education, enhanced their job skills, and allowed their children, or themselves, a competitive edge in this computer driven society.

- Thus far, approximately 20 of these people, or 30%, received additional training beyond the basic courses and earned an incentive such as speakers, a USB Flash Drive for storing information, or a printer to take home to use with their newly acquired computer.

- As previously reported, in December of 2007, the Computer Learning Center was updated with new Dell computers, new software including the Microsoft Office Suite 2007, new more comfortable, durable chairs, and ACD.Net High-Speed Internet Service.

- The Special Committee for the Esthetic Enhancement of Edgewood Village (SCEEEEV) hung 16 hanging baskets of flowers on posts with solar powered lights on top around the Village to help beautify the property.

- The SCEEEEV Committee also planted lilies in the pond which blossomed nicely, until the community turtle decided they were turtle food!

- The After-School Tutoring Program run at Edgewood Village and the Snell TOWER Recreation Center, run by Meridian Township Parks and Recreation, hosted 160 Michigan State University Students as tutors for the children in our area, and served approximately 50 Kindergarten through sixth grade students living in our neighborhood.

- The Community Outreach Program began the initial creation and brain-storming of a possible new endeavor to help children succeed and proceed to college post high school.

- On the next page of the newsletter, you can read about the proposal for a new Community Building to serve our residents and patrons more adequately, and

- Also included on the next page is news about the proposal for a Children’s Park and Picnic area.

Without your continued support, we would not have been able to accomplish this great list of feats. We cherish your friendships, support, loyalty, and the kind words we receive throughout the year. With your continued support, we will continue to provide these services, fulfill needs, and grant wishes, one person at a time.
We Just Keep on Going

As this issue of the Monitor goes to press, documents are being prepared for a decision by the Board of Trustees of the Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation regarding the creation of a Children’s Park and Family Picnic Area for the residents of the Village and their friends. There are presently, on the property, some play equipment which is very old and not adequate to meet the more rigorous contemporary safety specifications.

We are planning to secure play equipment for both toddlers (2-5 year olds) and youngsters 5-12 years old that will be colorful, safe, and contemporary. The Board will be asked at their meeting on September 25, to review and act upon the recommendations of the Community Outreach Program (Please see the article by Mary Lou Smith for more information about the play equipment.)

The Children’s Park and Family Picnic Area will be located on a site that is currently a large open field north of the Head Start Center. The site currently houses a Basketball Court, some swings, and a baseball backstop. This field is also the proposed location for a Community Activities Center that will probably, when it is built, include:

- Multi purpose room to be used for recreational activities, dining area, classroom for extension courses such as nutrition, gardening, money management. Etc.;
- A Community Garden outside of the facility;
- A tool crib for Community Garden;
- A Day Care Center room or additional Head Start Early Childhood Room;
- A kitchen;
- A small conference room—meeting room for the Community Outreach Program, the Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corp. Board, etc.;
- An Edgewood Scholars Room and an office for the program coordinator;
- A computer lab;
- A tutoring room and facilities;
- The Capital Area District Library Book Nook;
- Storage area for computers, tables, chairs, sports stuff, etc.; and
- Restrooms.

Shown here is an idea for the North Elevation of the proposed building.

The Hard Good-Bye

Submitted by: Jennifer Phillips

One rarely gets the opportunity to write their own thoughts in a company newsletter about people who have influenced their lives. Lucky for me, I have that opportunity.

After 23 years of dedicated service to Edgewood Village, the Towar Garden Community, the Karl Gotting/Truman Morrison Community Outreach Program, and all of the other endeavors she chose to take on, Arlene Ulrich has retired as the Manager of Edgewood Village.

Arlene was the kind of “go-getter” that everyone wishes they had working with them, or for them. This is the kind of person that looked at a situation that needed attention, took charge, and handled the problem, with the best interest of all parties involved in mind.

There was rarely a day that Arlene couldn’t put a smile on the faces of her fellow employees, or those around her. Her dedication to the children in our community and her love of sports made her a favorite with the youth in the area.

Arlene will be greatly missed by all, especially people like me, who’s lives she has touched in an inexpressible way.

Filling the role of Edgewood Village Site Manager, is Jill Morris, who was promoted from Asst. Site Manager. We have also hired Heather Settles as Asst. Manager/Office Asst., Mary Edwards continues her role as Leasing Agent, the maintenance and janitorial staff of Gena, Mark, Dan and Connie continue their work as well, while I continue my role as the Programs Director, with a few new added responsibilities.
A list of Individuals, Institutions, Companies, and Associations who make our work possible.

The members of the Community Outreach Program are deeply grateful and much encouraged by your generous support!

### Individuals
- Amanda, D.C., Sandra
- Anderson, Robert & Elizabeth
- Baker, Richard
- Barbour, Ian & Deane
- Barnes-McConnell, P.W.
- Barrett, Marjorie
- Benavides, Tony & Carmen
- Black, Erin
- Blanc, Andrew
- Bloser, Henry
- Bobay, Jane
- Border-Coryns, Jacqueynne K.
- Bryeumann, Gus & Mary
- Brown, Freda
- Costello, Paul & Mary
- Cullen, Neil & Betsy
- Cullen, Elizabeth
- Davis, James
- Dukay, John & Betty
- Edmiston, Thomas & Nancy
- Evans, David & Nancy
- Everton, Clyde & Frances
- Figesna, James & Marianne
- Foss, John & Jacqueline
- Freddolini, Paul & Donna
- Gardi, Judith
- Gladen, Phyllis
- Goting, Karl & Karen
- Guins, Katherine
- Hannon, Eric & Lunn
- Harris, Phyllis
- Hafstid, Frank & Mary Lou
- Head, Michael
- Hixson, William & Vivian
- Hoekstra, Doug & Ellen
- Hogg, Delinda
- Hollister, David
- Homer, David & Iris
- House, Bob & Polly
- Hubbard, Eugene & Mary Lou
- Hunting, Bruce
- Isola, Alan & Eleanor
- Jackson, Marcie & Carrie
- James, Mary Lewis
- Johnson, Douglas & Katherine
- Jonsdahl, H. Lynn
- Jones, Alan & Barbra
- Klein, Douglas
- Kocher, James & Jean
- Kraftswohlt, David & Helen
- Lackman, John & Tracey
- Lamore, Rex & Kathy
- Magee, W.T., M. Elizabeth & Tom
- Mahoney, Janet
- Mallory, David & Judith
- Martin, Judy
- Martinez, Lynne
- Mathews, Donald & Grace
- McCall, Keith & Ann
- McKivide, Marjorie
- Mendol, Harold
- Messiah, Harvey
- Miller, Roberta
- Millar, Charles & Susan
- Minter, Tom & Linda
- Marbold, Laura
- Morrison, Melanie
- Murphy, John & Rosemary
- Nelson, Earle & Josephine
- Nil, Earl
- Nolan, Debra
- O'Kelly, Barbara
- Ostrom, Kris
- Perine, Helen
- Porter-Day, Anne
- Quinbach, Robert
- Root, Christine
- Ruddock, William & Eldonna
- Seifers, Margaret
- Schoen, Eric & Pamela
- Schurmanns, David & Carolyn
- Smith, Margo
- Smith, Dan & Mary Lou
- Speck, Jr., John
- St. Alans, Alan & Jane
- Swain, W.B. & J.
- Taylor, Gordon & Sheila
- Thomley, Heidi
- Thorpe, Jr., Almars
- Tiedje, James & Linda
- Torner, Irene
- Trommaldahl, Dawn
- Torp-Smith, Robert & Geraldine
- Ulrich, Artine
- Vine, Art & Sandy
- Wertz, Dan & Linda
- West, Dorothy
- Wiener, David & Beverly
- Wiley, David
- Williams, Preston & Constance
- Winans, Amy
- Wisniewski, Kris
- Wolpe, Howard & Judith
- Wong, Opal
- Wood, James & Frances
- Worthington, Linda
- Wrightmyer, Margaret

### In-Kind
- ACD Net
- Capital Area District Library
- Greater Lansing Housing Co.
- Lansing Community College
- Meridian Twp. Parks and Rec.
- Michigan State University
- New Horizons CLC

### Institutions / Trusts / Funds
- Curious & Archives Book Shop
- E. Cullen Trust
- Edgewood United Church
- Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation
- Goodwill Retail Stores
- Great Lakes Capital Fund
- Loomis Law Firm
- Presbyterian Church of Okemos
- Presbyterian of Lake Lansing
- Royal Lawn Service
- St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store
- The Beaswolf Fund
- Thrifty Treasures

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I would like to support the Community Outreach Program

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of __ $250  __ $200  __ $100  __ $50  __ $25  __ Other

Name: ____________________________________________

Street Address: ___________________________________

City: __________ State: ______ Zip Code: _______

Please make checks payable to Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program
6213 Towar Garden Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823

Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation is a 501©3 charitable organization.

Thank you for your continued support
Greater Lansing Housing Coalition
1017 W. Lapeer, Lansing, MI 48915

Community Outreach Program at
Edgewood Village, a subsidiary of GLHC

The Edgewood Beautification Project  Submitted By: Mary Lou Smith

The Special Committee for the Esthetic Enhancement of Edgewood Village (SCEEV), a sub-committee of the Karl Gotting/Truman Morrison Community Outreach Program, has had a busy year. To read about the hanging baskets and the water lily plants, please refer to the article on page one.

Another special note, thanks to the Ingham County Drain Commission, the eroded stream bank near the large pond on the property is going to be repaired this fall at no expense to Edgewood Village.

Other exciting things have also been happening this past summer as the Community Outreach Committee has been developing a proposal regarding the creation of a Children's Park and Family Picnic Area near the covered bridge. The area will include benches, picnic tables, walkways, and a large sundial.

A number of individuals and agencies are working cooperatively to further develop the vision for the grounds. Jane Greenway, Landscape Architect from Meridian Township is in the process of developing a sketch of the proposed Park. Luann Maisner, Director of the Meridian township Parks and Recreation Department, has provided us names of companies who manufacture playground equipment. Considerable money can be saved if a group of residents is willing to help erect the playground equipment, with supervision from the manufacturer.

Purchase of equipment manufactured from recycled materials will be a high priority. More information will be available at a later date. Committee members are currently visiting playgrounds to view the equipment in preparation for selecting equipment for Edgewood Village. Resident input will be requested after the draft of the plan is presented to the Community Outreach Committee.

The Children's Park and Picnic Area will include:
- Benches;
- Separate play equipment areas for toddlers and 5-12 year old youngsters;
- Picnic tables and grills;
- A sundial by which children will be able to tell the time of day by the shadow cast by their bodies;
- Handicapped accessible walkways; and
- Special gardens.

The funds sought by the Karl Gotting/Truman Morrison Community Outreach Fund this year will be used to help create these facilities. Please be generous in your support using the attached donation form.
A YEAR OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT

Submitted by: John Duley

The excitement and sense of achievement centers in two events:

1) The Children's Park and Family Picnic Area are fully operational! With the wonderful assistance of the local Miracle Playground Equipment Company, they discounted the cost of the equipment by 1/3 and their full staff joined in the Community Build July 31st - August 3rd. The build was a wonderful experience of collaborative and creative work. Village residents, Scholars, the management team and their families, companies we do business with, and many friends worked during the week of July 27th in preparation for the build and during the build. What a week of creative collaborative work and joyous accomplishment! We celebrated the Grand Opening on Friday afternoon, August 7th.

To see and hear the build in progress go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WvVkJyrmQ4

2) The second moment of high excitement was the inauguration of the Village Scholars Corps. On June 8th the first five Village Scholars appeared before the East Lansing School Board and were personally presented with Certificates of Acceptance into the program by Superintendent David Chapin. This was followed by a picnic for the Scholars and their parents on Sunday afternoon June 14th. Isaiah Dahlman, Michigan State University basketball star, was the inspirational speaker. Since then, as Ronda Levra reports in the Scholar Update section, the Scholars have been busy with field trips and community service.

Our disappointed high hopes stem from preliminary conversations with the Grand Rapids and Detroit Regional Offices of HUD in January regarding our plans to annually offer the Village Scholars Program to five fifth graders and their parents which HUD approved on the basis of prescribed ways in which the lease had to be written. The funding for this program was to be provided through the leasing of tower roof space to a cell phone company. The development of the lease, as proscribed by HUD, took considerable time to develop and negotiate. When it was submitted in June to the Grand Rapids HUD Regional Office, it was rejected. In a letter from the HUD Regional Office in Detroit on September 25, 2009 in response to our appeal of the decision, the reply was, "The scholarship program that you described sounds...like a wonderful program that could benefit the families...The issue is not with the program but funding of the program with project funds...it is a violation of the Regulatory Agreement..."

So, we turn to you to help us raise $14,000 for staff and saving account matching funds for the Scholars and tuition assistance as needed. We don't think the funds could be put to more important use. We hope you agree!
Community Happenings

Submitted by: Ronda Levra

I enjoyed getting to know the youth of the property this summer through our various youth summer activities. The children participated in four theme days a week. The children were encouraged to come to the community center at 4:30pm after the Snell Recreation Center summer program was completed for the day. They enjoyed “Board Game” days the best. We mostly played board games that belong to my son this summer. My plan is to expand the board games for the youth so that we will have games that will be engaging for broader age groups. The children also really enjoyed our “Books to Movies” days. With the help of CADL, we were able to rent movies that were originally books at no cost to the property. I have received a few suggestions for next summer and we are trying to find a way to accommodate those requests economically.

Summer is now over and school is back in session. The afterschool program is well on its way. We expanded the program this year to offer tutoring to all k-12 students. We have 36 students enrolled at this time and are busting the seams of the community room. The afterschool program is facilitated by the MSU America Reads tutors with the help of MSU ISS students. We have been a little short on tutors this semester but have been assured that we will have more tutors next semester from MSU.

Involvement in the Thursday evening Towar Activities has been steadily increasing. The book club has had its own “Books to Movie” nights and we have listened to excerpts from our feature author Jodi Picoult. We are developing activities for craft nights and as always we have had a good turnout for our potlucks.

We have been pleased with the resident involvement in the Great Start playgroups on Wednesdays. The Great Start playgroup leaders provide thought provoking fun activities for the children and their parents. The playgroup leaders also provide useful informational handouts that aid in the health and education of the children and families. Please feel free to drop by and visit Wednesdays from 10:30am to 11:30am.

The Annual Halloween Hot Dog Roast was a big success. We had a steady flow of trick or treaters with their families and we did not run out of food or drink. It was an evening filled with fun and many laughs!

Activities and Events to Come

For the Edgewood Village Community

Submitted by: Ronda Levra

We have been working with two organizations to get English as a Second language classes here at Edgewood Village for our residents. One organization will bring tutors for approximately 6 weeks, 4 hours a day, 2 to 4 days a week. The other organization will come in and instruct residents on how to use an online application to learn the English language.

The fall session of the After School Tutoring Program will be coming to an end on December 11th. We are working on coordinating some of the America Reads tutors to be available for assistance with homework between the Fall sessions and Spring sessions break of the tutoring program. The MSU students do not return to school until January 11th. The Spring session of the After School Tutoring Program will not begin until the beginning of February.

Speaking of breaks....Fall has arrived and winter break will be here soon. The computer lab will have restricted hours and restricted access to the youth of the property. The computer lab is located next to the main office and housed in the tower where our senior and disabled residents reside. We have restricted the access of the youth to ensure that the staff and the residents are not disturbed by the noise that can be generated in the lab. We will have a set time in the morning and a set time in the afternoon for the youth. There will be only 7 people allowed in the lab at a time, which is one person per computer. They will be allowed a maximum of an hour per day in the lab. The hour will be divided into two half hour sessions, the youth will be allowed to be in the lab for a half hour in the morning and an half hour in the afternoon. There will be a sign up sheet during each session for the youth to sign up for time to be in the lab. We will have fun activities available for the youth in the community room while they wait for their turn in the computer lab. This privilege will be allowed only if the youth are able to behave and keep the noise level down. As always, adults will have access to the lab anytime between 9:00am to 6:00pm. More information on the “Lab Winter Break Procedures" will be posted in the lab in the near future.
Village Scholars Update
Submitted by Ronda Levra

Village Scholars on the Move....

Last spring the 1st cadre of Village Scholars were inducted into the program and introduced to the community by Superintendent David Chapin at the June Board of Education meeting. It was followed by a great time at the 1st Annual Scholars Picnic for the scholars, their families, teachers, and representatives from the community. Their first activity as a group was a fieldtrip to Lansing’s Touch a Truck event at the 9th precinct police department. The scholars saw, touched and climbed in many of the vehicles that we see everyday working around our community. Later in the summer the scholars visited Lansing Community College to participate with the H.O.P.E. Scholars in their Leadership Academy. We also had the pleasure of visiting Swanson Design, the architect company that has been working with the property on a design for the new community center and Miracle of Michigan, the company that supplied the equipment for the playground and directed the residents in the playground build.

The Village Scholars are not only about having a good time. This summer the scholars had many community service opportunities. Many of you saw the scholars’ “Volunteer Recruitment Table” at Community Day this year. The scholars also went door to door to recruit volunteers for the community build of the playground. They assisted with the build by handing out tools and assisted with the spread of the safety surface on the playground. The scholars also had the opportunity to assist their parents or a resident during a four day long computer class. The class is normally two 6 hour sessions that we offer to Edgewood Village residents and Head Start parents. We broke the class down into 4 segments so that the scholars could assist us with the residents enrolled in the class. The scholars helped each resident navigate on the computers during the class and shared some of their individual computer knowledge along the way.

In September the scholars began participating in the after school tutoring/mentoring program. The scholars have been paired with an America Reads Tutor. The America Reads Tutors differ from the ISS tutors in that they stay with the program for the whole year. We have some America Read Tutors that have been with our program for two years and others that have been with the program the entire time they attended MSU. By pairing the scholars with America Reads tutors, they will have an opportunity to form a true mentorship relationship with their tutor. We are hoping that the MSU tutors can share their study techniques and help the scholars build good study habits.

The Village Scholars have been accepted in the Seats for Kids program at the Wharton Center for the winter season. We have plans to visit the MSU Vet School, MSU Planetarium, a walking tour of MSU and possibly catch a LCC Performing Arts production. The H.O.P.E. Scholars have also invited us to attend their annual outing to a Lugnuts game in May. Each event is meant to educate the scholars about their community and to help them feel comfortable on college campuses. We look forward to seeing this group do great things for the community.

I would like to support the Community Outreach Program

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of ____ $250 ____ $200 ____ $100 ____ $50 ____ $25 ____ Other

Name:________________________________________________________

Street Address:_______________________________________________

City:________________________________ State:__________ Zip Code:__________

Please make checks payable to Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program

6213 Towar Garden Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823
Improvements and Updates For Edgewood Village

Submitted By: Jill Morris

We are very excited to share that some much needed updates have happened here throughout the year. Due to the efforts of site staff, ownership, and our management company, Edgewood Operating was able to allocate funds for improvements.

Our new Playground and Picnic Area was completed this fall, which has been a wonderful addition to our Community. A new Maintenance Garage was also added this summer to enable our maintenance team to more effectively serve our residents. We are pleased to be in the process of installing new Energy Star Steel Entry doors along with adding a Heavy Duty Storm Door to every townhome on the property. We are hoping this will help each home become more energy efficient, thus lowering resident’s utility bills.

Our Maintenance team has begun to replace old cabinets and countertops, updating carpet and vinyl floors, as well as replacing old appliances throughout the property. Edgewood Village Management plans to continue our efforts to improve upon our community by meeting with a representative from Ingham County Housing Commission to perform an energy audit. This will help give us more information on energy saving solutions.

We would like to offer our appreciation and gratitude to our residents, staff, ownership, management, contractors, and vendors who have donated their time and services to our many projects here this year. Without all of our collaboration none of this would have been possible. Thank you, and we are looking forward to what next year may bring.
Edgewood Scholars Program on the Move

Submitted by: John Duley

We are very excited about what is happening with our Scholars! The first group is moving up to the MacDonald Middle School; a very significant transition for them. I visited with Ms. Meram Frierson, Principal, and John Atkinson, Associate Principal, shortly after school was out last spring to let them know that our Scholars were on their way to learn first hand, how big a transition it is. I learned a lot. It is a critical move. In moving up to the middle school, the student is really entering high school, with less personal attention from teachers and greater responsibility for his or her own life. As Ms. Frierson said to me, “As students they will not be treated as children, but as young adults responsible for their own behavior.”

We held a special meeting for all of the Scholars and their parents, shared with them what I had learned and gave them planners in which to record all of the dates, times and places of Scholars’ activities. We plan to do our best to help them learn the ropes quickly and do well in their new environment.

It is an exciting time also for our new cadre of Scholars entering the sixth grade as senior students in their schools with a new status as Edgewood Village Scholars. Recognizing their leadership roles in the community, we suggested a code of conduct they should all strive to live up to:

- **Respect and help** parents, teachers, staff, tutors, and other students
- **Conserve, reuse, recycle**
- **Honor** the environment, keep it clean
- **Protect** wild life; ducks, geese, their young (of which we have many) and all others
- **Serve** participate in community service
- **Preserve** the Village Commons
- **Be good citizens**

With Julie Sanchez now working with Ronda Levra as the person most responsible for the Village Scholars Program, the program is in excellent hands.

We hope you will continue your generous support for this work. It is a sound investment!

Village Scholars Round-Out the Summer

Submitted by Julie Sanchez

The remainder of the summer for the Village Scholars has been busy! The Scholars had their last Y-Fit experience at the end of July. For this one week we were able to visit the Westside YMCA, a great treat for the students. To start off our visit, the students learned and shared their knowledge on healthy nutrition and making smart snack and meal choices. Ms. Joy shared with the students a short history on the YMCA and its founding principles of care, honesty, respect and responsibility. To transition into our physical activities at the YMCA, Ms. Joy talked with the students about physical fitness.

After our group session, we experienced all the physical activities we could pack into an afternoon. The Scholars began with rollerblading and roller skating. Even Scholars who had never (continued on page 3)
Edgewood Village Upcoming Events and Activities

Submitted by Ronda Levra

Have you heard the news?!?!?...if we have at least 25 people signed up, we will have a FLU Shot Clinic right here at Edgewood Village, Monday October 4th from 11:30am to 1:30 pm. It will be free to Medicare participants and only $25 for all others. Please sign up in the office if you plan to attend. This service will only be available to our residents if we have enough people to sign up for the flu shots.

We are proud to add the Personal Action Towards Health (P.A.T.H.) program to our weekly schedule in the tower for our maturing residents. The program will provide helpful health and nutrition information to our residents. P.A.T.H. classes provide education and support to those suffering from a chronic disease. Some topics covered include: techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, pain, and isolation; appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance; appropriate use of medications; communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals; and how to evaluate new treatments. We plan to start offering the P.A.T.H. classes on Tuesdays from 11:30am to 2:00pm October 5th. Please stop in the office to sign up for the program.

Below please note the times of all of the tower activities:

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Don’t forget.... The after school program starts Monday October 4th. The MSU America Reads tutors have been helping us prepare for the after school program. Tutoring will begin when your child’s bus arrives and will end at 5:00pm. Please make sure your child arrives on time. We are all excited about this new season of fun and learning.

Computer Learning Center Happenings

Submitted by Ronda Levra

With the change in season, brings the change in schedules! School is back in session and the use of the computer center is in demand. At the end of last school year, we limited the use of the lab to an half hour per age group to allow for equal usage to the lab. The system we used eliminated arguing in the learning center and prompted fair usage of the computers. Below please be advise of the school year lab schedule for youth:

- East Lansing High School and Middle School students
  - 3:30pm to 4:00pm
- Donley Elementary students
  - 3:45pm to 4:15pm
- Whitehills 5th and 6th grade students
  - 4:15pm to 4:45pm
- Glencaim 5th and 6th grade students
  - 4:30pm to 5:00pm

The afterschool program will also be utilizing the lab from 4:30pm to 5:00pm.

Please encourage your students to check-in at home before coming to the learning center.

We are happy to announce the addition of volunteer lab assistant Vik Taneja to our team. He is here to assist residents with basic computer applications. His “Question and Answer (Q&A)” sessions will be Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. He is here to help with internet usage and MS Office software application questions. He will not be available to trouble shoot computer virus issues, due to the fact that we cannot be liable for anything that happens on your computer. Please stop by during one of his Q&A sessions and welcome him aboard.
skated before did an excellent job and got out on the rink. After skating, we moved to the pool. Our group was able to take advantage of the water slide, play catch, and play other water games. In the late afternoon the Scholars split into two groups. One group chose to rock-climb while the other group went to the skateboard park. All of the Scholars gave full effort in getting up the rock wall, climbing as high as they could. The skateboarding group showed off their tricks and tried some new ones. Each group had a great time.

In August, the Scholars were invited to attend the H.O.P.E. Scholars Leadership Academy at Lansing Community College with 100 other area students. The program was geared toward curriculum opportunities offered to students attending L.C.C. Our Scholars toured campus as they visited certain curriculum areas. We began in the Fashion Technology department where students learned the career opportunities available in the industry. Our Scholars were able to try their hand at designing and coloring their own clothing designs. The Scholars then moved onto 3D Computer Design where they played with and created objects using technology that created the movie “Avatar” and other 3D movies. L.C.C. students explained how 3D technology aids in medicine and surgery, and the building and compilation of many things such as cars, houses, and the human body.

The Scholars next visited the Hospitality section of campus. Chef Paul discussed how thinking outside of the box can create more food industry opportunities for those in the hospitality business. Chef Paul showed the students an uncooked egg, still in its membrane, created ice cream with CO2 from a fire extinguisher, and turned scrambled eggs to green eggs using only purple spinach juice. He did a great job at illustrating how a Chef will think outside of the box. Finally, the Scholars went to the planetarium where an L.C.C. professor showed the students the night sky and educated the students on space, space weather and galactic and stellar studies.

Finally, the last week of August, in preparation for the Edgewood Village Community Garden, the Village Scholars met with Angela Miller-Porter, our MSU horticultural specialist, and Jen Klein from the Greater Lansing Food Bank Garden Project to visit the Towar Community Garden. On our way to the Towar Community Garden, the Scholars were excited to see where their ideas will be implemented in the proposed Edgewood Village Community Garden and Children’s Garden, marked by Mr. Swanson of Swanson Design Studio. At the Towar garden, Ms. Jen showed us the plot that the Village Scholars would be responsible for watering and harvesting. The plot has lots of winter squash, potatoes, leaks, tomatoes, zucchini, and celery. The Scholars learned how to work the water pump and that the garden plants do best with lots of water at one time. The students also learned how to best harvest the vegetables without harming the plants. While we wind down summer activities with the harvesting of the garden, we look forward to the beginning of a new school year!

I would like to support the Community Outreach Program

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of $250  $200  $100  $50  $25  $ Other

Name: ________________________________

Street Address: ____________________________________________

City: __________________ State: __________ Zip Code: ____________

Please make checks payable to Edgewood Village Community Outreach Program
6213 Towar Garden Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823

Edgewood Village Non-Profit Housing Corporation is a 501©3 charitable organization.

Thank you for your continued support
From the Manager's Desk

Submitted By: Jill Morris

Well summer has come and gone once again and our children are now back in school. We did experience a great summer here at Edgewood. The season began with a tremendous storm and tornado making its way through the property and neighborhood. Our response and clean up was quick and life resumed as usual. With that and many move-outs this summer, the staff of Edgewood Village kept very busy.

I am pleased to share that of our move-outs throughout the summer months, five of those households were moving because they bought homes. It was so wonderful to be able to work with these families in the process of purchasing a home for the first time, as well as to see them advance forward in their lives. We will miss these great residents and wish them the best of luck in their adventures.

Some projects we have been working on this summer include completing a full energy audit on our town homes. Michigan Energy Options is the company working with us on this project. This is an effort by the ownership to improve on the energy efficiency of our homes making Edgewood a green community. We are in the process of a Technical Energy Audit for the Mid-Rise Building and our one bedroom apartments. This energy analysis will help us identify certain areas that need the improvements first, as well as start saving Edgewood and residents on energy bills.

We are looking forward to what our future brings with the many updates and improvements within our community!