

Housing Development & Energy Conservation: This Department provides homeowner rehabilitation through CDBG funds, home development through NSP and HOME funds, and energy conservation through Weatherization, energy education, and crisis utility assistance. **Specialized Transportation:** This Department has a fleet of 10 wheelchair lift equipped vans to take people to non-emergency medical appointments Monday – Saturday.

Emergency Services & Homeless Initiatives: This Department works with homeless individuals and families to assure housing stability and work with them to attain self-sufficiency. The Bridges out of Poverty program is a core service in this department, as well as HUD SHP, MSHDA TBRA & HPRP, SSVF, and the Michigan Coalition HMIS System, and Project Homeless Connect. **Aging & Disability**

Resources: This Department is primarily funded by the local Senior Millage and Area Agency on Aging 1B and provides over a dozen programs for seniors and disabled people including ramps, Medicare D enrollment, chore service, home care, resource advocacy, fuel and unmet needs assistance, and minor home repairs. **Monroe County**

Food Bank: This Department oversees CSFP, TEFAP, and the food pantry network that includes 15 community and faith-based organization distributing 75% of emergency/supplemental food in Monroe County. This year we added a new client choice pantry called **The Lord's Harvest Pantry**, putting all our resources...


Under One Roof
Building on a strong foundation
annual report 2011





4.3 MILLION
INVESTED
IN THE
COMMUNITY

OVER 277
PARTNERSHIPS
FORMED

9,377
LOW INCOME
PEOPLE SERVED



welcome to mcop...
won't you step inside?



from the
executive director:

Our theme for this year's report, Building on a Strong Foundation, represents our agency's movement. From our rich 47 year history to the new face of MCOP opening the Lord's Harvest Pantry this year – MCOP has made great strides in being a solid, accountable, and meaningful organization.

Our mission to improve the quality of life and promote self-sufficiency through community action is alive and well. Over the past three years, with the help of federal stimulus dollars, we have been able to enhance this mission by implementing the Bridges out of Poverty Program, building the Lord's Harvest Pantry, weatherizing hundreds of homes to improve energy conservation, and helping those who are homeless maintain permanent housing. These along with our mainstream programs like specialized transportation, services for older adults, and housing development and rehabilitation help us to give low-income people the hand up that they need.

None of what we do is possible without the support from our community. Our foundation is strong because of the support we receive from dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and of course our excellent staff. To all who support MCOP – a heartfelt THANK YOU goes out! We look forward to making more progress in Monroe County in the years to come by helping people live to their greatest potential.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie Zorn Kasprzak

The Lord's Harvest Pantry

www.thelordsharvestpantry.org



Feeding Monroe County with dignity.

On January 30, 2012, the Lord's Harvest Pantry opened its doors for business. This after 2 ½ years of hard work and dedication to see that no Monroe County resident was hungry and without food for their table. Owned and operated by MCOP with the support of a 13-member Advisory Council of faith-based and community organizations, the Lord's Harvest Pantry aims to serve Monroe County with dignity. This project is particularly exciting because of its innovative components.

These include:

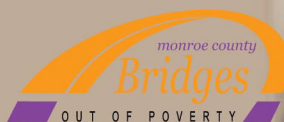
- The Pantry is designed to distribute food on a points system that follows the "food plate" created by USDA to prioritize eating nutritious foods and promote healthier choices.
- The Pantry was modeled after the "Fish & Loaves" Pantry in Taylor and is client choice. This means that clients can pick the foods they like and meet their dietary restrictions in a grocery store environment versus getting a ready-made box of food that may or may not all get eaten.
- The Pantry uses technology with the development of the IRIS (Internet Referral & Information Source) system to make sure clients are served in a more holistic manner, receiving a comprehensive listing of service they are eligible for upon completing their Pantry visit.
- The Pantry has expanded hours of service including weekends and evenings to assure broad client access to food provisions.
- The Pantry was built through a Coalition of local churches and community-based organizations to help avoid duplication of service, have sufficient volunteer support, and to provide long-term sustainability for the project.

This homegrown project has been widely supported by many individuals, corporations, and private foundations. For that we are extremely grateful and look forward to reporting our first year's results in our next Annual Report.

we thank our advisory council members



Bridges Out Of Poverty



Fostering Innovation: For three years straight, MCOP has experienced sharp increases in requests. The number of clients making requests far exceeds the dollars we have to spend. To address this issue, MCOP introduced two new innovative programs: the Client Choice Pantry and Bridges out of Poverty. Bridges out of Poverty is a nationally - recognized best practice curriculum used to work with low-income people to explore their current situations, identify their barriers to self-sufficiency, and realize the dreams they've long forgotten.

MCOP currently celebrates 36 graduates with amazing outcomes!



"I know now that poverty does not have to be passed down like a family heirloom. Bridges taught me that I can end poverty in my life and for my children." BOP Graduate

Impact on the Community: **SERVICES** - During FY 2011, MCOP served 9,377 unduplicated people. With an overall population in our County of just over 150,000 and poverty level at 10.1% - our penetration rate is 63% of service to our low-income population.

COLLABORATION - In addition, over 277 partners were engaged to help support our work through volunteerism, in-kind donations, and collaborative partnerships.

In 2011, MCOP logged 2,506 volunteer hours and an additional 1,520 hours from our low-income clients.

ECONOMY - MCOP infused \$4.3 million into the community, through a variety of mainstream programs, as well as by introducing new services to our menu with stimulus funds allocated to our agency. This total budget is represented by 71% federal funds, 12% allocated by state government, and 17% from private and local resources. MCOP operates under five primary departments that include:

- **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY CONSERVATION:** This Department provides homeowner rehabilitation through CDBG funds, home development through NSP and HOME funds, and energy conservation through Weatherization, energy education, and crisis utility assistance.

In 2011, 29 homes were rehabilitated bringing them up to Housing Quality Standards, 289 homes were weatherized helping to reduce utility costs for low-income households, and 5 foreclosed homes were taken off the market and sold as affordable housing

- **EMERGENCY SERVICES & HOMELESS INITIATIVES:** This Department works with homeless individuals and families to assure housing stability and work with them to attain self-sufficiency. The Bridges out of Poverty program is a core service in this department, as well as HUD SHP, MSHDA TBRA & HPRP, and the Michigan Coalition HMIS System and Project Connect.

In 2011, 409 individuals and families avoided being homeless with emergency rental assistance and supportive housing, 36 homes were saved from foreclosure, and 27 received emergency home repairs. In addition, 119 households were kept warm through help with utility assistance and 38 participated in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Larry Meritt purchased this wonderful home through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. As a disabled veteran, Larry had trouble making ends meet. But through NSP, Larry now has a stable home, a working car, and a savings account.



· **AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCES:** This Department is primarily funded by the local Senior Millage and Area Agency on Aging I B and provides over a dozen programs for seniors and disabled people.

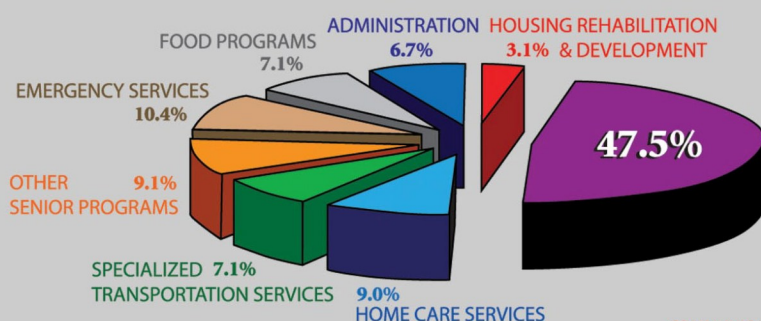
In 2011, 1,237 unduplicated senior households remained independent due to the help of MCOP's programs for older adults. Similarly, 54 persons with disabilities also remained independent in their homes due to MCOP intervention. In total, 167 seniors were assisted with Medicare D enrollment, 220 received Home Care, 210 were assisted with lawn care and snow removal, tax credits were prepared for 371 resulting in nearly \$90,000 in refunds, 6 ramps were installed, and 83 seniors were helped with fuel assistance.

· **SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION:** This Department has a fleet of 10 wheelchair lift equipped vans to take people to non-emergency medical appointments Monday – Saturday.

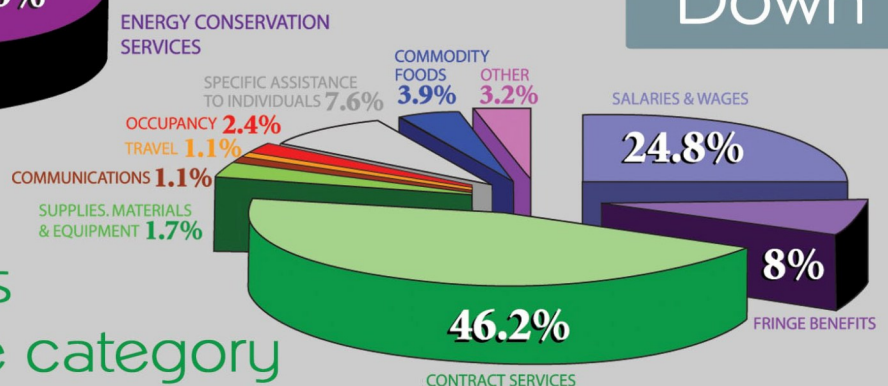
In 2011, 7,817 rides were provided traveling 168,271 miles.

· **MCOP FOOD PROGRAMS:** This Department oversees CSFP, TEFAP, and the food pantry network that includes 15 community and faith-based organizations distributing 75% of emergency/supplemental food in Monroe County.

In 2011, MCOP distributed 698,718 pounds of food throughout Monroe County. This includes 687 emergency food boxes, CSFP distribution to 4615 people, TEFAP distribution to 2,612 people and mobile pantries were held serving 9,376 individuals. Finally, the Monroe County Food Bank served 20,427 meals.



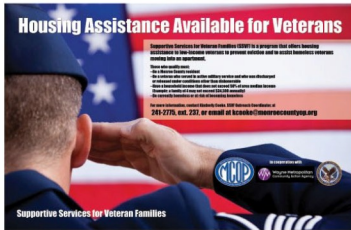
use of funds by department



use of funds by expense category

The Break Down

reaching out to the community



**PROJECT
HOMELESS
CONNECT**

MCOP is proud to be a part of the community and continues to support wonderful programs like the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program, Shelter Concert, Walk for Warmth and Project Homeless Connect. All directly benefitting Monroe County's Homeless.

Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. - Author Unknown

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CHARLES WATKINS

Thank You.

Our Mission:
Improving the quality of life and
promoting self-sufficiency
through community action.

Our Core Values:
Making a Difference
Giving Voice
Offering Hope
Providing Guidance
Building Dreams



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www.monroecountyop.org

We couldn't do it without our **partners:**



"LIKE" MCOP ON FACEBOOK!



THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

L A Z B O Y
FOUNDATION

