

A Resource for Friends and Supporters of Solid Ground, Inc. A Transitional Shelter For The Homeless

One Year Anniversary...

Family Finds Success Living on Their Own

Tim and Nancy moved into Solid Ground with their son Timmy in April, 2009. Prior to joining the Solid Ground family, Tim was living with a friend, and Nancy and Timmy were living with a relative.

Tim worked at an Oakland County grocery store, often six or seven days a week, where he had been employed for several years. He rode his bicycle back and forth to work each day. Due to a lack of transportation, Timmy was enrolled in school but had not attended for weeks.

After moving into Solid Ground, Tim continued to work at the same grocery store. He would get up every morning around 5 am, take a bus to get as close to his work as possible, and then ride

his bike the remaining 5-6 miles. Tim did this for the next seven months in order to provide for his family.

During their stay at Solid Ground, Nancy had some health issues that landed her in the hospital for weeks at a time. During that period Tim would take care of their son, or secure other care for Timmy, while still making it to work every day. The family worked together as a team during their seven-month stay at Solid Ground and were able to move out and into their own apartment in October of 2009.

The family sought help from another housing organization that helped them pay their security deposit and the first month's rent so they could get into the apartment. Tim and Nancy stayed in Macomb County, but found a place close to the Oakland County border to make it easier for Tim to ride his bike to and from work.

This month, the family joyfully celebrate their one year anniversary of being out of Solid Ground and back on their feet. They still live in the same apartment and plan to renew their lease for another year. Timmy is enrolled in the same school and is doing well.

During a recent visit with this family they talked about their life now, one year outside of Solid Ground.



Tim, Timmy & Nancy enjoy life *after* Solid Ground.

Nancy has had a few incidents with her health that resulted in her being hospitalized. Tim had to take time off work to care for their son. The time off of work set them back a little bit, but they were able to maintain their household.

Tim goes to work daily. Nancy stays home to care for the house and Timmy. He is in the 4th grade now and loved his backpack full of school supplies that Solid Ground was able to provide through the generous donations from the community. A local church in the neighborhood comes by every Sunday to pick up Timmy and take him to Sunday School. Nancy even bought a cute skirt so she can attend church with him. Tim and Timmy enjoy going to the gym in their apartment complex and working out together.

One year after leaving Solid Ground the family is succeeding at being self-sufficient. Way to go Tim and Nancy. We pray for continued success for you and your family.

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Our Mission:

To empower people who are homeless, or at risk, to achieve and maintain independence.

Spotlight On... Julia Rizzi

Julia Rizzi brings a bit of sunshine with her wherever she goes. So when she showed up at Solid Ground to volunteer with the children, she was a welcome addition.

She learned about Solid Ground last year while taking a class on social work at Macomb Community College. She called and had an application faxed to her.

“I quickly filled it out and, believe it or not, after breast surgery my husband and I dropped it off,” she said.

She began volunteering with the children, but has expanded her role to include the fund development task force. Julia has pitched in for the Abundant Blessing Sale, Tee Up For Kids, and the upcoming Three Alarm Chili Cook-Off.

“I love volunteering at Solid

Ground especially when I get the opportunity to interact with children,” she said.

Though Julia is short of “free time” these days, she still enjoys weight and cardio training.

“I have done body building shows and in the last one I placed first in the Michigan show,” Julia said..

She is happily married to her husband of 22 years, David. They have four children; Brian, 34, Anna, 31, Derek, 23, and Ryan, 21, who is currently serving in the U.S. Navy. They also have three beautiful grandsons, Garrett, Ben and Wesley.

Julia loves her job at The Manors at Knollwood Apartment Complex in Clinton Twp., where she has worked for more than 10 years. She is in her last semester at MCC



Volunteer Julia Rizzi

and will apply to Oakland University’s Social Work Program in the Winter of 2011.

“All the SG staff and all of the volunteers truly care and want to see the residents empowered to succeed positively in their future,” she said.

SG Supporters Raise \$16,000 in Emergency Drive

Last month, Solid Ground put out a call for emergency operating funds. Within a couple weeks, our generous benefactors from far and wide dug deep into their pockets and donated \$16,000, ensuring the house had the funding it needed to make its bills for the month.

We can barely express our gratitude. A simple thank you seems inadequate.

As you know, Solid Ground volunteers work very hard to raise the money needed to support the families who live here while putting their lives back on track.

You also know the economic downturn has not

passed. Nor have those who serve Solid Ground given up working to raise the money needed each month to pay the bills.

So, in addition to offering a simple straight forward way to donate money, we also want you to know about some upcoming events that serve as both a means to raise money as well as a fun time for all of us who support the mission of Solid Ground.

So be sure to take a look at pages 4-5 for our “fun-raising” events, as well as page 6 for ways to donate money and supplies.

Again, **THANK YOU** for your ongoing support.

A Word From Our Residents

Reflections of a Teenager
HOMELESSNESS

In my eyes, being homeless is very complicated and emotional.

It doesn't always mean that you live out on the streets, cause me and my family don't.

This process has been the biggest change in my life...From having everything you want, to like nothing at all. Its emotional.

But at this moment I have a home and family. At least I'm not on my own. I never expected this to happen but it did.

Honestly, it's only going to make me stronger.

Tee Up For Kids

Solid Ground teamed up with St. Lucy Church Scholarship Fund to hold the Tee Up for Kids Golf Outing Aug. 14 at Selfridge Golf Course. About 100 people turned out for golf, a silent auction and dinner.



Above, Judge Pamela Gilbert O'Sullivan, right, talks with Nancy Skula. The Judge was the only golfer to boast a only hole-in-one at the fundraiser and won a golf foursome for her efforts!



Pictured above, board member Holly Fujishige talks with Sam Nehra.

Event organizer Jerry Solomon, right, hit the links with some friends at the day long event.



Solid Ground

Empowering people who are homeless, or at risk, to achieve and maintain independence.

Mail To:

**17955 11 Mile Rd.
 Roseville, MI 48066**

Phone:

586-772-3604

Fax:

586-772-3605

Email:

sgth@sgth.org

Donation Form

- I would like to pledge to give \$ _____ per month beginning _____ (date).
- Enclosed is a donation in the amount of \$ _____
- I would like to receive my newsletter via email.
- I would like to donate my professional services _____
- I have included Solid Ground in my estate plans.
- Each month my church/organization will:
 - Provide a meal
 - Take up an offering
 - Place Solid Ground as a line item in our budget.



Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

COME JOIN THE FUN...

The Second Annual Solid Ground

Three Alarm Chili Cook-Off



Join us as we serve up some tasty chili and wicked, big fun. Buy a taste, get a vote. Find one you love, buy a bowl!

Date

Saturday, Oct. 16

Time

11 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Place

Warren Woods Baptist Church
14251 12 Mile Road, Warren

Cost

\$2.00 per bowl

\$.50 per taste

\$2 per bowl

586-772-3604

All proceeds benefit Solid Ground, transitional housing for homeless families, the elderly and disabled individuals.

...AND SERVE MANKIND

“Homeless 365”

A 3 Mile Walk to Benefit



Date: 10/23/2010

Registration: 9 a.m.

Walk: 10 a.m.

Pre-register by: 10/15

Entry fees:

- \$30 per person by 10/15
- \$40 per person day of the event
- \$200 Team of 10 walkers

You must register by 10/15 to be guaranteed an event T-Shirt

Starting Location: Solid Ground
17955 Eleven Mile Road

Walking Route: On Gratiot from 696 to Common and back to Solid Ground

Water stations every 1/2 mile

Lunch provided after the walk

A courtesy van will be available to walkers



For information, contact:

LaWanda Jackson or Katrina Harris
586.772.3604



PRIZES

Prizes for:

- ◆ The most pledges
- ◆ The oldest walker
- ◆ Team with the most walkers

Please support our mission to empower people who are homeless, or at risk, to achieve and maintain independence. Become a sponsor of Solid Ground's 2010 walk, "Homeless 365."

Gold Sponsor: \$500
Identification as title sponsor on T-Shirts and all promotional materials; 10 free walk registrations.

Silver Sponsor: \$300
Identification on T-Shirts and all promotional materials; 5 free walk registrations.

Bronze: \$200
Identification on T-Shirts and all promotional materials.

Sign Sponsor: \$250
Sign registration and lunch location with sponsor identification.

All logos & sponsorship registration needed by 10/6.

Mail form and entry fee to:



17955 Eleven Mile Road
Roseville Mi 48066

Phone: 586.772.3604

Fax: 586.772.3605

E-mail: ljackson@sgth.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

T-shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Your signature indicates your intent to hold harmless Solid Ground for any injury sustained during this event.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of parent/guardian if under 18 _____ Date _____

What Can I Do To Help?



We have a couple of effortless, simple ways to help us in our mission to house homeless families, the elderly and people with disabilities.

need to download the application online, or go to the store, fill out the form, and ask to be linked to Solid Ground. Our code number is #90331.

Visit Kroger's website at http://www.kroger.com/mykroger/Pages/community_rewards.aspx.

If you shop at Kroger or Meijer, you can designate that a percentage of your purchase come to Solid Ground. All you need is a Kroger Plus or Meijer 1 card. Kroger donates 5%. Meijer donates 1% and requires you pay by cash, debit card or a Meijer credit card.

Go to the Meijer home page at <http://www.meijer.com/rewards>. The six digit # you need is 583125.

At the bottom, under the Get More column, click on Meijer Community Rewards. Under Meijer Customer, click on Learn More About the Program. Under How do I sign up, click start here. Now you can apply for a Meijer Credit Card, or sign up for a Meijer 1 Card. (You will need to use a debit card or cash for purchases to qualify for cash back to Solid Ground.) Click on Join Now and follow the prompts. Your card will arrive by mail.

If you don't already have a Kroger Plus Card, you

If you already have a Kroger Plus card, you can go to their website and link your existing card to Solid Ground. Go to the website, click on Michigan and follow the prompts. Again, you need to use the code number, 90331.



By choosing either, or both, of these options, you are ensuring an on-going revenue stream for our "house."

Another option is to go to www.magfundraising.com/solidground where you can choose from 650 different magazines at up to 85% off newsstand prices. While there, pick up a couple of tubs of cookie dough, or purchase restaurant gift cards. All of these items make terrific gifts.

Up to 40% of your purchase will be returned to Solid Ground to support the on going mission of housing the homeless of Macomb County.

What if you could change a life.....lift someone up..... alter a path.

WOULDN'T YOU?

Well you can.

For a mere \$10 a month...\$2.50 a week....36 cents a day...you can provide *solid ground* for a homeless family, a senior or an individual with a disability.

The easiest way is to go to our website, www.solidgroundinc.org. Click on the link for the Become A Sponsor page and sign up for a safe monthly donation through PayPal using your credit or debit card.

Or you can call, give us your information and we can set up your monthly donation for you. A third alternative is to use the form on page 3, fill it out completely, mail it to Solid Ground or fax it to 586-772-3605 and we will set up your monthly donation.

Once you sign up, you don't have to do another thing!

All three are quick, safe and easy options that allow **YOU** to make a difference in someone's life.

Solid Ground Wish List

Paper products, including toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, and personal hygiene items are always at the top of our needs list.

The following is a partial list of items needed on a regular basis. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions.

Food Items: Non-perishables including canned fruits, vegetables, tomatoes and sauce, soup, pasta, rice, potatoes, chili, juice boxes, snacks (chips, Rice Crispy Treats, cheese & crackers, fruit cups), syrup

Household Items: Laundry detergent, fabric softener, all cleaning supplies

Other Items: Large rolls of Saran Wrap and aluminum foil, Kleenex

Personal Hygiene Products:

Toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, diapers (all sizes), baby powder, feminine hygiene products, etc.

Beverages: Coffee, tea, juices, lemonade, juice boxes and Kool-Aid, creamer and sugar, coffee stirrers

Paper Products: Toilet paper, napkins, plates, cups, paper towels, plastic ware, straws, garbage bags, and bowls

Client Needs: Bus tickets, gift cards for gasoline, Target, Wal-Mart, or other stores for clothing items and personal items.

Solid Ground is also in need of **stamps** and cash donations.

For information on volunteering or internship placement at Solid Ground, call 586-772-3604.

LaWanda Jackson
Executive Director

Executive Board of Directors 2009-2010

Diane Lynch
President

Frank Tenkel
Vice-President

Karen Vergosen
Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Pam Carnline
Joann Eder
Holly Fujishige
Sharon Martin
Pastor Michael Nardin
Agenique Smiley
Wandena Gay Swartz

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Doreen "Dee" McCardle  
**Founder**



**SOLID GROUND**  
17955 Eleven Mile. Rd  
Roseville, MI 48066  
Phone: 586-772-3604  
Fax: 586-772-3605

**Giving Hope & a Future to Homeless Families, Elderly & the Disabled**

Please visit our website at <http://www.solidgroundinc.org>. Check out updated events calendar, contact information, newsletter archives and much more. In addition, you can now make a donation to help support our mission. Check in often to see what's coming up!



## **SOLID GROUND, INC.**

17955 Eleven Mile Road  
Roseville, Michigan 48066

Phone (586) 772-3604 Fax (586) 772-3605  
Website: [www.solidgroundinc.org](http://www.solidgroundinc.org) • Email: [sgth@sgth.org](mailto:sgth@sgth.org)

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Roseville, MI 48066

*Thank you!*

To everyone who has  
donated to the cause of  
Solid Ground,  
our heartfelt thanks.  
All individual expressions  
of gratitude will be printed  
in the annual report.

## **JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING**

Solid Ground will hold its annual meeting Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010 from 3-5 p.m. at The Masonic Temple on Gratiot, north of I-696. The event will include an update from the president, executive director and committee chairs. Refreshments will be served. New officers and board members will be installed. The meeting is open to the public. Please join us for an informal gathering of those who support Solid Ground.

If you would like to have a Solid Ground representative speak at your company or organization, please contact us at [sgth@sgth.org](mailto:sgth@sgth.org) or (586) 772-3604.