

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

From Homelessness to a Home — A Solid Ground Success Story

Happy and homeless may sound like a contradiction in terms, but not for Jackie.

“If I don’t put a smile on somebody’s face, I haven’t done my job,” she said.

So when Jackie found herself homeless last year, she wasn’t about to let it get her down.

Not so long ago, Jackie had a good job as a Kroger butcher, a nice mobile home in Warren, a husband and was expecting a child. Then she went into labor three months early and Will, now age 9, was born weighing 1 ½ pounds.

“He wasn’t even the length of a school ruler,” she said. “And if you look at my thumbnail, that was the size of his whole hand.”

Jackie quit working so she could provide the round-the-clock care Will required. After several years, management at the mobile home park convinced Jackie to work for them. Then one day in 2010, while sitting at her desk, she had two massive strokes.

“I don’t know how I survived it,” she said. “My doctor called me his miracle patient.”

Despite some paralysis on her left side, frequent headaches and memory loss, she tried to go back to work days after the strokes. It was too much for her and Jackie, now a single mother, had to make some tough decisions. Jackie filed for unemployment, and received it, only to be forced to repay \$2,656 when her former employer fought the claim. She did, but it took almost all of her savings.

“The other residents would deliver little boxes of food with a note,” she said “Some said, ‘We love you, Jackie.’”

The affection the residents had for Jackie grew out of her kindness during the 4 years she managed the mobile home park. She placed dozens of homeless families into homes by selling them abandoned units for \$1, getting them cleaned up and then helping them move in.

Despite the support of her neighbors, in January 2010, Jackie was forced to sell her mobile home. Even then, she put the needs of someone else in front of her own and sold the unit to a young couple with a baby for 10% of what it was worth.

In the next few months, Jackie and Will’s lives changed quickly. They



Former resident, Jackie

moved in with her brother and his family for a time, but that didn’t work out. Because it was near the end of the school year, Jackie decided to use the last of their savings to rent a hotel room near Will’s school so he could finish out the year.

When summer vacation hit, so did homelessness.

She went to apply for the MCREST program, a 30 day shelter program that moves from church to church.

“I was terrified. I sat there looking at those people thinking ‘Oh, my God,’” she said. And for the first time, she allowed herself to feel down.

“For about 30 seconds, but I quickly changed my mind,” she said, flashing her signature smile.

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Our Mission:

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

Spotlight On... Jean Demeter

Jean Demeter came to Solid Ground several years ago after learning about the shelter through Holly Fujishige, a member of Jean's church.

She attended the open house in November of 2008, and was impressed by what she saw. Since she started at Solid Ground, Jean has worked mainly in the office. Currently, she works one day a week where she warmly greets visitors and callers.

Jean enjoys crafting, sewing and reading, but she is particularly fond of making jewelry. She has found a way to benefit the shelter with her beautiful creations.

While Solid Ground volunteers are busy preparing for a fundraiser, Jean is making jewelry,

which she donates. Her beautiful and unique jewelry has been sold at the annual Abundant Blessing Sale and the Tee Up For Kids Golf Outing.

Jean moved from Tennessee to Michigan to attend Detroit Bible College. While there, she met her husband of 47 years, Bill. Together they have one son and three grandchildren.

Jean worked as a travel agent manager until she developed Parkinson's disease.

Volunteer work became a part of Jean's life when she served for 16 years as a leader for the Pioneer Girls. She has also sang in her church choir.

When asked how she feels about



Volunteer Jean Demeter

Solid Ground, Jean said, "I think Solid Ground is one of the best non-profit organizations around. The workers are tremendous, caring and helpful. I am very happy to be a part of Solid Ground."

Attention, All Kroger Shoppers!

If you shop at Kroger, you can have 5% of your grocery bill donated to Solid Ground. If you haven't signed up yet, you can find the link and the step-by-step instructions by visiting our website at www.solidgroundinc.org, or call our office for assistance.

If you have already signed on to the program, thank you very much. Our most recent Kroger check totaled more the \$760.

For those of you who went on line and signed up for yourselves, we need you to log on an **re-enroll**. This is very easy and will take less than 5 minutes.

1. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Click on Michigan
3. Click on **Enroll now for 2011-2012**.
4. Type in your email and password.
5. ~ Type in Solid Ground; click search.
~ Click circle in front of our address.
~ Hit Save Your Selection.
6. Log out. Your done!
7. Check the bottom of your receipt next time you shop to make sure it says your donation is going to Solid Ground.

If you provided us with the information and allowed us to sign you up, we will take care of this process for you.

From the Desk of the ED

Homelessness is on the rise. In 2004, Macomb County reported 899 homeless. In 2005 that number was 947. It jumped to 1,142 in 2007. Currently, it stands at 1,011. Of those, 135 surveyed last lived in Warren, 87 in Roseville, and 62 had their last permanent address in Clinton Township.

Statewide, there are more than 86,000 homeless. Of those, 51% are families with children and 13% are veterans who cannot find affordable housing. More than one-third of the homeless are working poor.

Nationally, there are 1.35 million children who are homeless on any given night. Homeless children are more susceptible to illness, more likely to go hungry, at greater risk of being learning disabled, and may have academic difficulty. Families are the fastest growing sub-population of the nation's homeless due to underemployment, foreclosure, lack of affordable housing and poverty. Homeless families live in hotels, shelters, with family, and on the streets.

What will you do with this information? Will you help a family in need by donating your time and resources? Solid Ground helps homeless families and individuals every day and needs volunteers to continue its mission.

Sources: Macomb County Continuum of Care Point in Time Count, Macomb Intermediate School District www.misd.net, Michigan's Campaign to End Homelessness <http://www.thecampaigntoendhomelessness.org/>

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



CFC# 88394

- 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 _____

Second Annual

Tee Up For Kids

Cracklewood Golf Club

Monday, June 27, 2011

Check-In: 8 a.m.

Tee Time: 9 a.m.

Buffet: 2:30 p.m.

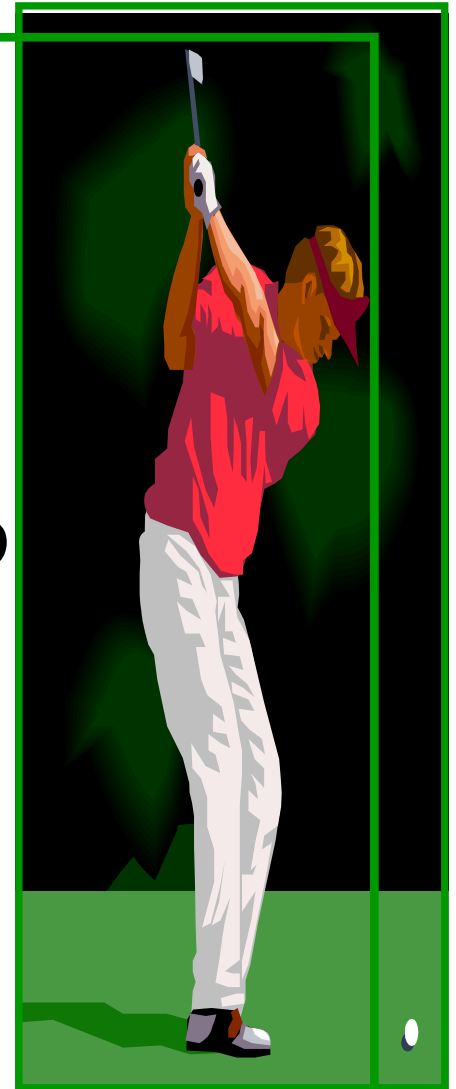
\$105 Per Person

\$30 Dinner Only

Registration Deadline

May 31, 2011

This outing includes: 18 holes of golf w/cart,
putting green,
hot dogs on the turn,
a buffet dinner,
silent auction,
50/50 raffle & prizes.



**\$10,000
Hole
In
One**

Cracklewood Golf Club

18215 24 Mile Road
East of Romeo Plank Road

Proceeds benefit Solid Ground Transitional Housing Shelter

Tee Up For Kids GOLF Outing

Format: A four-person scramble. All players hit their first shot. The team then chooses the best shot. All four players hit their second shot from that position. The team continues this process until the hole is finished. Teams are permitted to position their balls within one club length, left or right of the ball they have chosen to play. However, teams are not permitted to move one club length, left or right, out of a hazard, i.e., bunkers, creeks, or out of bounds areas.

Contests: Long Drive Hole, Closest to the Pin, and a Skins game.

Buffet: 2:30 p.m.

Auction: Throughout the day

Awards: During buffet

Not a golfer? Not a problem! You can support this worthy cause with a monetary donation, a corporate sponsorship, or by donating auction items and prizes.

Or join us for the auction and a terrific buffet!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$550 - Golf, lunch, dinner, foursome w/ hole sponsorship | <input type="checkbox"/> \$420 - Golf, lunch, dinner, foursome |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$105 - Golf, lunch, dinner, individual # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 - Dinner only, non-golfer # _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Total \$ _____ |

Golfer Information *(If unknown, specify TBD)*

Company Name/Sponsor (If applicable): _____

Team Captain: _____ Phone: _____

Golfer #2: _____ Phone: _____

Golfer # 3: _____ Phone: _____

Golfer # 4: _____ Phone: _____

Captain 's Address: _____

Street

City

Zip

Email: _____

Non-Golfer *(Dinner Only Information)*

Guest #1: _____ Phone: _____

Guest #2 _____ Phone: _____

Guest #3: _____ Phone: _____

Guest #4: _____ Phone: _____

All money must accompany registration forms. Make checks payable to Solid Ground and mail to:

17955 11 Mile Road, Roseville, MI 48066

**For questions, contact Suzanne Jones at 586-557-7576 , Frank Tenkel at 313-719-8741,
or Pam Carline at 586-775-6020.**

A Little Change = A Big Change

At the end of a normal day, the average person has at least some spare change in their pocket. Generally, people either throw that change into a jar, give it to their kids or put it in their purse or pocket.

Have you ever thought about the potential that spare change has? Have you ever thought that maybe that spare change could be used to bring about positive change in someone's life? What we may think of as "left over" money can be used to house, clothe and feed a homeless family.

Wondering how your spare change think about it...the average person has of each day. If that person saves that of the month, and \$365 at the end of would happen if you took that money 10 other savers...or 100! Now I'll bet change can amount to a big difference



can do such great things? Well, about a dollar in change by the end dollar they will have \$30 at the end the year. Now consider what and combined it with the money of you can see how a little spare in the life of someone in need.

Now that you see the potential of your "throw away" money, and the positive change it could bring to the lives of homeless families, I am sure you are wondering how you can help. Well it's very easy...find a container and, at the end of each day, throw your spare change into it. When the container is full, simply bring it to Solid Ground and we will do the rest. Then start all over again!

But, let's multiply that change again! Recruit members of your church, your coworkers, family members and friends to save their spare change for Solid Ground because *the more change we receive, the more change we can make.*

Our mission at Solid Ground is to empower the homeless and teach them the skills needed to have stable and productive lives. We need your help to carry out that mission. So, when you break a dollar, instead of spending that change, or losing it in the couch cushions (never to be seen again) think of Solid Ground. Give us a little change and we'll show you big results!

A Word from the Executive Director...

Solid Ground Celebrates Second Anniversary

It has been two years since Solid Ground opened its doors to our first family, Tim, Nancy and Timmy!

From the very first day, we here at Solid Ground have worked diligently to make our mission come to life:

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

Since opening our doors, we have helped more than 70 people. Of those, 30 were head of households, and of the 30, 15 had families who have moved out and maintained their housing or continued their education by using the tools

that were provided them while at Solid Ground.

Recently, we have had several families move out, making room for 5 new families about to enter our program. Of the 5 that moved out, 4 have moved into their own home, and are self sufficient.

These great efforts are made possible through the hard work of the ALL the staff and volunteers who help our residents recognize their potential as well as encourage them along the way.

While here at Solid Ground, our residents participate in parenting classes, nutritional workshops, self esteem groups, job skills, and resume building. Their time at Solid Ground helps to pro-

vide them with a solid foundation on which to start their new beginning.

While the ground didn't always seem "solid," we have persevered. At Solid Ground it is our vision to give hope and a future to every life we touch, and we will continue to do the work that God has called us to do.

I would like to thank all those who prayed with us and for us, those of you that were here in the beginning, and those that are still here!

God gave us a vision and a mission, and with your prayer and support we will continue to help the community by providing our residents with spiritual support and hope for a brighter future.

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: Fruit snacks, Gogurt yogurts, cooking oil, corn starch, chicken & beef broth, soup, snacks, eggs, turkey breakfast sausage, cereal, garlic, pepper, Grill Mates steak seasoning

Household Items: Laundry detergent, fabric softener, dish soap, all cleaning supplies, broom, dustpan

Other Items: Plastic storage containers, 1" x 24" metal baking pan, 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, bowls, cups, paper towels, plastic ware, straws, 32 gallon garbage bags

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
2010-2011

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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!

# Determination, Hard Work Pay Off for Family

...Continued from Page 1

Jackie and Will entered the MCREST program on June 14 and Jackie went to work trying to right their lives. She made calls, she applied for programs, she did everything anyone told her to do. And she applied for housing at Solid Ground – twice. Just when her stay at MCREST was coming to an end, and she was getting nervous, Solid Ground shelter manager, Katrina Harris called. They could move in the very next day.

“We were in room 10,” Jackie recalled. “She opened the door and I was in awe. I cried. It is probably the nicest room there.”

Jackie recalls sitting in the recliner in her room as Will slept, and thinking about all the blessings she had in her life.

“I knew God was with us,” she said.

On August 31 Jackie had a third stroke, and her fourth on Oct. 10. Despite the setbacks, Jackie worked and researched and did everything she could to make good use of their time at Solid Ground.

“I just remember thinking, ‘It ain’t controlling me. Homelessness ain’t controlling me,’” she said.

Executive Director LaWanda Jackson calls Jackie her star student!

“She did everything she had to do,” said Ms. Jackson. And that is why Jackie was able to move from homelessness into her own apartment within only 10 months.

Now, sitting in her and Will’s two-bedroom Roseville apartment, Jackie is thinking about the next step in her life.

“I haven’t got a grasp yet on not working,” she said. But she has a plan – a daily plan, monthly plan, and a 10-year plan.

And part of that plan involves a time when she can come back to Solid Ground, this time as a volunteer.

“I love you guys,” she said, smiling that signature smile. “I just don’t think you have any idea.”

*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.

## **Arthur Murray Presents: Dancing With Our Local Musicians!**

Join us July 31 when area musicians team up with professional, competitive dancers for our first-ever **Dancing with the Musicians**. The event will be at Petruzello’s Banquet Center in Troy from 4-10 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and include dinner, dancing and the competition. If you know a popular musician who might want to be a part of this fun **fundraising** event, or to purchase your tickets, contact Holly Fujishige at **(586) 419-2207**. Watch for additional details in our next newsletter.

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.