



December 2019



Chelsea

603 S. Main Street
Chelsea, MI 48118
734-475-3305
M, T, Th, F: 9am-4pm
W: 9am-7pm

Dexter

7275 Joy Road
Dexter, MI 48130
734-426-7002
Wednesdays: 12-7pm

Mission: Providing essential supports to alleviate the effects of hunger and poverty for those in the Dexter, Chelsea, and surrounding communities.

Faith In Action Addresses Emerging Issues

During 2019, Faith In Action continued its successful partnership with Avalon Housing to address family housing needs in Dexter. There is a need for supportive affordable housing in the community, and this has weighed heavily on the staff of FIA for several years. We are pleased to be working on Hilltop View Apartments, with up to 24 housing units for area families. The goals are to provide multi-bedroom units for families, to house veterans, and house those in the area who are homeless. Plans include a food pantry, office space, community room,



Faith In Action will provide supportive services to help Dexter families lead healthier, more productive lives.

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To learn more about FIA, see our website: faithinaction1.org or visit us on Facebook at Chelsea/Dexter Faith In Action.

and playground. It is wonderful to be taking action to address this need.

Dexter's Mayor Shawn Keough has stated, "From my perspective, supportive housing should be close to the community, close to the schools, close to the shopping centers and the public areas, and to public transportation. One of the primary goals of supportive housing is to create a stable home environment for those that don't have the means to provide it for themselves and their families without some sort of help."

Dexter School Board President Michael Wendorf said the district is "committed to accepting and providing a quality education for all children in our community in a supportive school environment. This commitment extends to each child, regardless of means and family circumstances. The goal of providing affordable and even supportive housing for families in our community is then, in my opinion, a laudable goal. A goal that includes creating a more stable home environment for more of our children."

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From the Board President



Courtney Nicholls,
President
Faith In Action

In 2020, Faith In Action will celebrate 40 years of serving the community. Throughout these 40 years, we have provided services to the most vulnerable people in Dexter and Chelsea.

Recently, a community member saw one of our staff in town and stopped them to say thank you. Their sibling had lost their job, and the community member advised them to contact FIA.

FIA provided the person with groceries and helped pay an urgent utility bill. With this support, the person was able to find a new job and get back on their feet.

This is one example of what FIA does every day. If you know a friend or family member who is struggling financially, please have them stop in. We are here for the community!

Your generous donation to Faith In Action means we can provide food for a family's home pantry, a tank of gas for a single mom, a little boy's new backpack filled with school supplies, Christmas gifts for a family, and more.

Thank you for considering FIA in your annual giving. ■

Courtney Nicholls

Courtney Nicholls
Board President

Emerging Issues *...Continued from cover*



Karl Fink, Faith in Action Board member, presents to Dexter Planning commission, September 2019.

Going forward, we ask for your donations to secure the needed development funds by early 2020. Next, preliminary architectural plans will be finalized, followed by construction bids. Groundbreaking is expected during summer 2020, with completion expected in 2021.

We know that when people have stable housing and supports, many things are possible. They're able to address the

issues that have led to their homelessness. With supportive housing and through community-building, adults and children move beyond survival and can reach their potential. ■

Save the Date:
**FIA Annual Fundraiser Dinner
and Auction**
April 25, 2020



FIA's New Executive Director

Sheri Montoye is honored to be the new Executive Director of FIA after the retirement of Nancy Paul. Sheri grew up on a centennial farm in Monroe as one of seven children. She graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Family and

Community Services. Sheri is earning a master's degree in Public Health at George Washington University.

Her non-profit and community-focused work includes the National Youth Leadership Forum, 4-H Agent in Cass County, Community Health Improvement staff at St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, and 4-H Program Coordinator for Washtenaw County.

Sheri and her husband, Brian, reside in Chelsea with their three children.

"I am profoundly happy to be in this new role to support people in need of help. FIA is a respected organization and is agile enough to do so much good for our community." ■

Humanitarian of the Year, Nancy S. Paul

Faith In Action was pleased to present the 2019 Howard S. Holmes Humanitarian of the Year award to Nancy S. Paul, who retired in 2019 after 15 years as Executive Director of Faith In Action.

Nancy grew up in Manchester and attended Kalamazoo College, where she met her husband, Jim. They returned to this area to raise their four children.

Nancy worked with the Senior Nutrition Program, was the Director at the Dexter Senior Center, and served with many community and civic groups to improve the quality of life in our area.

Her work at FIA included expanded services, increased fundraising, emergency response, and

a partnership with Avalon Housing. ■

"I was most proud when people would leave feeling supported, heard, respected, and helped though they came to us apprehensive and afraid. They knew privacy would be maintained and that we would do whatever we could for them and their families." –Nancy Paul



Nancy S. Paul, FIA former Executive Director and 2019 Howard S. Holmes Humanitarian of the Year.

What Does FIA Do?

FIA primarily serves people in the Chelsea and Dexter school districts and surrounding areas who have limited financial situations.

Services Include:

- groceries
- hygiene needs
- onsite laundry and shower
- emergency utility payment
- medical and dental expenses
- job search
- eviction prevention
- clothing room

We are grateful for the support of many local partners, volunteers, and churches. Some include: Cedars of Dexter, Chelsea Cub, Boy and Girl Scouts, Chelsea Garden Club, Chelsea Knights of Columbus, Dexter Builders, Dexter Girl Scout troops, Dexter Leos, Dexter Rotary, Food Gatherers, Material Girls, Meijer Simply Give, Post Office Food Drive, Shoe Lady – Tammy Bridges, St. Joseph Giving Garden, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, Toys for Tots and Teens, and Washtenaw United Way Coordinated Funding. ■



Our growing FIA team (L-R) Sheri Montoye, Executive Director; Miranda Salazar, Social Worker; Sarah Shugart, Associate Director; Doug Smith, Social Worker; Tracy Dickinson, Benefits Navigator/Administrative Assistant.

Do you need help? Your friend? A family member?

To qualify for in-depth services at Faith In Action, your income should fall within these thresholds. If you aren't sure, or have financial concerns, always feel free to reach out to FIA staff anytime for advice or help.

Persons in family /household	Max Monthly Income
1	\$2,082
2	\$2,828
3	\$3,555
4	\$4,292
5	\$5,028
6	\$5,765
7	\$6,502
8	\$7,238
8+	Add about \$737 per additional person over 8 in the household.

Visit faithinaction1.org to find out more!



603 S. Main Street
Chelsea, MI 48118

7275 Joy Road
Dexter, MI 48130

NON-PROFIT ORG.
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 229
ANN ARBOR, MI

Occupant/Resident

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How Do I Help?

Please consider a gift to Faith In Action

Make a donation online or use your own envelope and mail to: **FIA, 603 S. Main St., Chelsea, MI 48118**



Yes! I want to help!

To pay one time or set up monthly auto pay via PayPal visit: faithinaction1.org

Name Email

Street Address City State Zip

We/I would like to support Faith In Action with a tax-deductible gift of:

\$_____ I have enclosed a check **payable to Faith In Action**

\$_____ Please charge my credit card: Visa MasterCard

Account Number Expiration Date Security Code

Signature

My gift is in Memory of Honor of _____
Name

Please send notification of my gift to: _____
Name

Street Address City State Zip

Yes, I am interested in finding out more about planned giving to FIA.

I want to learn more about seasonal item giving (backpacks, holidays, etc.)