

First Choice of Saginaw 10 Year Report

July 2015



**500 Hancock Street, Suite 200
Saginaw, MI 48602
Phone: 989-799-6451
Email: info@saginawfc.org
www.saginawfc.org**

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HISTORY

Back in 2005, a seed was beginning to grow. It was an idea of a few people associated with the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) who were concerned with the quality of life of adults with disabilities. So many adults served by SCCMHA live at or under the poverty level. For those who reside in adult foster care settings, after paying to have their personal care and community living support needs met, their remaining personal income is nearly nothing. At best it may be \$44 per month, which has not been adjusted in many years. And even then, the cost of medications or other necessities that are not covered by insurance may take most or all of those limited discretionary funds. Very little is left for their personal necessities, let alone individual pleasures of life. Going out to lunch. Purchasing a new coat. Going to a movie. Selecting a gift for a family member. These experiences often were simply not available financially to these adults whose disabilities have made it nearly impossible for them to have such choices in their personal lives. Their clothes may be used, not fit well, or not even be of the person's own selection. Personal outings or preferences that many people take for granted were just not an option for these adults. How would you live if you had \$10 a week or less to spend on your life choices? How would you feel? What would be your quality of life? These were the questions that motivated the creation of a new organization to address these unmet needs.

*And so, in 2005 **First Choice of Saginaw** was born. It began as a volunteer program of SCCMHA, and officially became a separate tax-exempt, non-profit organization in 2007. A group of volunteers work every year on their own time to support this little non-profit. All funds raised are used, except for a few supplies as needed, exclusively for the purchase of annual gift cards. Very few charitable organizations can boast such a robust percentage of funds raised going directly to the intended cause recipients. And every year in December, now for 10 years in a row, adults with disabilities living in an AFC who are identified with financial need, receive gift cards to spend on whatever they wish. Even though the card amounts might be considered nominal, they are graciously and deeply appreciated and are used by such adults every year, who now have a choice on how to spend some added personal funds as they so deem desirable. First Choice is still affiliated with SCCMHA, which supports the organization in many in-kind ways during each year.*

*Since 2005, First Choice of Saginaw has raised **\$121,509.80**, and disseminated these funds through a total of **2,983** gift cards to adults with serious disabilities in Saginaw County. The faces and voices of these card recipients are noted in this publication, along with the supporters and volunteers who have made First Choice of Saginaw what it is today, a unique organization that meets a special but critical need for some of Saginaw's most challenged citizens. You will learn more about the persons' whose lives have been impacted by First Choice of Saginaw in this first decade report. If you are moved by their stories as so many of us have been, please join us in supporting this unique need in any manner in which you are able. Recipients of First Choice of Saginaw are our fellow Saginaw citizens, who may have been given more challenges in life than most, but who have much to contribute to our community and deserve as we all do, a decent quality of life.*

First Choice of Saginaw has raised over **\$121,500** and distributed over **2983** gift cards to consumers residing in AFC homes!



First Choice of Saginaw Board of Directors

Ginny Reed
President

Tim Ninemire
Secretary

Ted Rapson
Vice President

Diane Steirs
*Former Board Member

Jan Histed
Treasurer

Donation Information

First Choice pledge forms can be obtained from
www.sccmha.org under
“What’s New” and “First Choice”.

Donations can be forwarded to:
First Choice of Saginaw, 500 Hancock, Saginaw, MI 48602
at any time for
ANY dollar amount!

Every donation makes a difference!

Checks should be made out to “**First Choice of Saginaw**”

Card Recipient Feature Stories



Elizabeth

Elizabeth Morford is 32 years old and has resided in her current group home for 8 years. She is an engaging, energetic woman who loves talking to people and going out in the community to eat or shop or attend events, but she needs assistance and supports from others in her life, including group home staff, her supports coordinator and a legal guardian. She is able to work part-time, several days per week in a sheltered work setting, but her earnings and her disability conditions limit her income significantly, so she does struggle with having sufficient personal funds to buy what she needs or wants. She has greatly enjoyed receiving First Choice of Saginaw gift cards for several years, and has spent gift cards funds on such items as clothing, a haircut, going out to a restaurant to eat and special food treats. Elizabeth attended the First Choice card dissemination event last year, along with several of her home roommates, and was observed to be snapping her fingers to the holiday music. The people in her life agree that receiving First Choice gift cards has enhanced her quality of life. Elizabeth's supports coordinator, Jamie Rivera, comments: "Elizabeth is a very loving and accepting person. She loves making new friends and accepts new individuals including her service providers in a very open and welcoming manner. She enjoys dancing and participates in a local dance recital annually. She is a very deserving woman who continues to strive to be the best, most independent self that she can be with assistance from others. She considers her support persons and peers in her home her 'family' and truly appreciates when she receives assistance."



Donald

Donald Chisa is a 21 year-old young man who has resided in his current group home for about 2 years. Donald is social and active. He loves playing basketball, talking about bugs, drawing and eating pizza. Donald is a student at Millet Learning Center and is currently enjoying his summer vacation. He will soon be returning to Millet for a summer program, where he can look forward to swimming and going on field trips. In addition to school, group home staff, his legal guardian and his supports coordinator help to provide the supports that Donald needs in his life.

Donald has attended the First Choice Coffee and Cookie Social event for the last three years. According to his supports coordinator, Nate Crawford, "Donald is pretty social. If there are activities, he is your number one participant." Donald shared his feelings about this annual First Choice event, "They're fun." Donald has received gift cards at each event he has attended. According to a staff member in his current home, "The gift cards...they help him a lot." Donald enjoys buying new things and being able to buy snacks of his choosing. With his most recent gift card, Donald was able to purchase shirts, shorts, blue jeans and books. A staff member reports, "He knows when he is wearing new stuff. He likes wearing new things."

Card Recipient Feature Stories, Cont'd



Laura

Laura Dwyer is 26 years old and has resided in her current group home for about 3 years. She previously lived in a few other homes, but has found her current home to be a much better fit. Laura is a friendly and polite individual who loves music, doing her hair and hanging out with friends and family. Self-care is very important to Laura and over the last year she has “completely changed” according to her guardian. Laura has had a focus on eating better and losing weight and this change has resulted in a great improvement with her self-esteem and health. Her guardian reports, “Now all she wants to do is take care of herself.” Laura recently graduated from the Transitions Center and will soon be employed in housekeeping at a hotel.

Laura has really enjoyed receiving First Choice of Saginaw gift cards for the last three years. Recalling her attendance to the First Choice Coffee and Cookie Social brought a big smile to her face. Laura’s funds are typically very limited and receiving the gift cards makes a big difference compared to what she can purchase in a typical month. Laura has been able to purchase items like clothing, a journal and personal care items for herself. Her guardian reports, “That extra card...it helps a lot.”



Marsha

Marsha LeBlanc is 50 years old and has resided in her current group home for about 2 years. She previously lived in another county. Marsha is a friendly and caring individual with a winning smile who loves sleeping, shopping, dancing and helping others. She has many friends, including two best friends. Marsha needs assistance and supports from others in her life, including her legal guardian, group home staff and her supports coordinator. She is able to participate in SAID programs where she has been involved in two dance recitals. The first recital had the theme of “Grease” and the second recital had an “80’s Music” theme.

Marsha has really enjoyed receiving First Choice of Saginaw gift cards for the last two years. Her funds are very limited related to what items she can purchase and her clothing choices are very important to her. First Choice gift cards really help make a difference in her ability to purchase clothing and other items she loves. Marsha attended the First Choice Coffee and Cookie Social event last year, where First Choice gift cards are dispersed. She attended with several of her housemates and her impression is that the party is “Okay”. Last year she went shopping with her sister where she has spent gift card funds on such items as a snowflake t-shirt and a stuffed animal. Marsha’s supports coordinator, Patti Colpean, comments: “Marsha is very caring and concerned about others.” Marsha does “...lots of good things.”

THANK YOU SO MUCH SAGINAW COMMUNITY!

First Choice of Saginaw is supported solely by volunteers, many persons who give their time, ideas, talent, goods, funds and energy to support our local non-profit. Thank you to all of the people, companies and groups who have supported the organization in so many different ways over the past decade to make a such difference in the lives of persons with serious disabilities, this includes everyone who has purchased or participated in our fundraisers! A special thank you to the members of the First Choice Committee, who are the key planners of fund-raising events and activities and who routinely volunteer their individual time to support the organization. First Choice of Saginaw, and most importantly, the individuals who benefit from the annual gift cards provided, are truly grateful for your generosity in our first ten years. You are most appreciated!

Volunteers/Donors 2005-2014

***Indicates First Choice Committee Member or Board Member**

CORPORATE

7-Eleven Food Stores-Weiss St.
Advanced Care Pharmacy/Anthony LaRouche
Advomas/Cheryl Korpela
Affordable Screen Printing
Alpha Delta Kappa, Alpha Sigma Chapter
Altrusa International Inc. - Saginaw Foundation
AMPM Advertising & Marketing
Assisted Living Opportunities
Bay Connections
Beacon Harbor of Saginaw
Bethesda Lutheran Homes & Services
Cambridge/Laura
City of Saginaw, MI
City of Saginaw, MI Police Reserves
Community State Bank Employees- Community
Care Fund
Conley's Security
Crumbs Gourmet Cafe
Daughters of Penelope, Dryas #169
Dematic Corp.
Denny's
Drunken Monkey Tattoos
Duro-Last Roofing
Easy Printing Center
Edna's Beauty Salon
Faith Lutheran Church
Faith Lutheran Ladies Guild
Frank Medel
Frankenmuth Jaycees
Frankenmuth Printing & Advertising Gifts
Freeland Enterprises Inc.
Friends of Bayside Lodge, Inc.
Frueh's Floweres (Petal Pusher)
Galen E. Wilson Petroleum

Glenvale/Kris
Great Lakes Loons
Guardianship Services of Saginaw County
Hamilton Street Pub
Holy Family Catholic Church
Hopevale Church
Independent Living Solutions, LLC
Jack's Fruit Market
Jimmy John's—S. Michigan Ave.
Kneaded Angels
Kroger—Davenport
Mapleton United Methodist Church
Matrix Pain Management
Michael's Arts & Crafts
Mobile Medical Response
Nazarene Church - Giving Tree
Old Town Gym
Olde Crows Quilting Bee
One Source Office Products
Open Arms, Inc.
Paxson Oil Co.
Princing & Ewend
Psi Iota Xi Sorority- Theta Tau Chapter
Randall & Myra Norton - Norton Accounting &
Consulting, PC
ResCare McCarty
ResCare Vienna
Riverside Family Restaurant
Roseview/Tiffany & Vicki
Saginaw Bay Underwriters
Saginaw Children's Zoo
Saginaw Community Foundation
Saginaw County Assoc. of Retired School Personnel
Saginaw County Employees Credit Union

Volunteers/Donors 2005-2014 Cont'd

Saginaw Culture Club
 Saginaw Exchange Club
 Saginaw Valley Rotary Club
 Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA)
 SCCMHA - Community Support Services
 SCCMHA - Community Ties North
 SCCMHA—Community Ties South
 SCCMHA—Family PsychoEducation Group
 Slatestone/Mary
 St. Charles Haunted House Assoc.
 St. John Vianney
 St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
 Stevens Worldwide Van Lines
 TBF Graphics/Greg Turner
 The Bottom Line Auto Repair
 The Exchange Club of Saginaw
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Tim Horton's—Gratiot Rd.
 Tri County NAMI
 Van Herweg Electric, Inc.
 Wallace & Irene Bronner Family Charitable Foundation
 Walmart
 Weight Watchers Club
 Weiss St. AFC/Linda Jacques
 WKCQ Radio Station/MacDonald Broadcasting

INDIVIDUAL

Abigail Bender
 Adrienne Calhoun
 Aida Ponce, M.D.
 Andrea Fisher
 Angela Lonsway
 ***Angie Irish**
 Ann Beeler
 ***Annie Midcalf**
 Arletta French
 ***Ashley Kilgore**
 B.L. & Loubbertha Little
 Barbara Glassheim
 Barry Jones
 Bedonna Maiberger
 Betty Matula
 Bill Turner

Billie DeShone
 Brenda Hariston
 Brenda Mikesell
 Brenda Wachner
 Brett Lyon
 ***Bruce & Ginny Reed**
 Bruce & Susan Beckett
 Bryan & Lori Ackerman
 Carl Gwizdala
 Carol A Schneider
 Carol King
 Carolyn Hammis
 Carrie Davis
 Celestine Buckley
 Char Dow
 Cheryl Carlevato
 Cheryl Kime
 Chris Bauman
 Chris Gutierrez
 Christine Rohr
 Christopher & Tracy DeShone
 Chuck & Mary Howley
 Connie Filizkowski
 Cynthia Joseph
 Dale & Mary Ellen Tithof
 Dalia Smith
 Daniel & Ann Larson
 Dave Dunham
 Dawn Estrada
 Dawn Garcia
 Debasish Mridha, MD
 Debbie Jones-Burt
 Debbie Ninemire
 ***Debbie Vasquez**
 Debra Erickson
 Delores Ford-Heinrich
 Denise & Rodney Francis
 Dennis Bruno
 Desire Knirem
 Diane & Lawrence Loiselle
 Diane Steirs
 Diane Stover
 Donald Christensen
 Dora Moore
 Dorothy E. Webster

Volunteers/Donors 2005-2014 Cont'd

Doug & Marilyn Leffler

Dr. Peter Smith

Dr. Renee Clark

Eileen & Lou Vescio

Elise Hodgins

Ericka Booker

Eryn Briggs

Evelyn Wolfgram

Faye M. Harrison

Felicia McRae

Fred & Karen Whals

Frederick Stahl

Gary Smith

George & Shelley Turner

Gina Munguia-Zamora

Greg Carter

Heather Beson

Holli McGeshick

Irene Davila

Jaime Mathews

James Call

James Sharon

James Van Herweg

***Jamie Smith**

***Jan Histed**

Janet Lalonde

Janet Miller

***Janet Zimmerman**

Jared Ninemire

Jean Grey

***Jefferson Mathews**

Jennifer Hunt

***Jennifer Keilitz**

Jennifer Rieck-Martin

***Jennifer Tomaszewski**

Jerekah Tomaszewski

Jill & Martin Jones

Jill Loth

Jill Peck

Jim Sharon

John Suchocki

Jose Mendoza

Joseph & Elizabeth Rousseau

Joyce Rivers

Jules Steffek

Julie Diaz

Julie McCulloch

Katherine & Burris Smith

Kathleen McFarland

Kathy Klann

Kayleigh Reed

Keith & Rebecca Bauer

Kelley Blanck

Kevin Sackett

Kim Hall

Kip Sedlak

Kirstie Troup

***Kristie Wolbert**

LaDonna Jones

***Laura Scott**

Lawanda Freeman

Lawrence & Roxanne Jones

Lawrence H. Sims

Leola Wilson

Lesia McAfee

Linda & Greg Schneider

Linda & Jeff Williams

Linda Gnatkowski

Lisa Olivarez

Linda Santino

Linda Tilot

Linda Troutman

Lisa Smith

Loretta Wittkopp

Lori Garchow

Lorraine Goward

Lucia Vargas

Lynne Thomas

Lynwood & Barbara TerBush

Malinda LaFramboise

Margaret Davenport

Marie Kulick

Marilee Perez

Marilyn L. Dowd

Mark Leffler

Mark Sauve

Martin H. Stark

Mary Baukus

Mary Beth Reams

Mary Catherine Moore

Mary Freyre

Volunteers/Donors 2005-2014 Cont'd

Mary Langschwager
 Mary White
 Matt Briggs
 Matthew Mikolajski
 Melessia McIlroy
***Melinda McGovern**
 Merilee Perez
 Michael & Vicki Mikolajski
 Michael Cierzniewski
 Michael Shuster
 Michelle Vance
 Mickenzie Kulick
 Mike Zurna
 Monique Taylor-Whitson
 Morgan Notestine
 Nancy Birdwell
 Nancy Clark
 Nancy Johnson
 Nichole Birchmeier
 Nichole Russell
***Nora Hollis**
 Norma Plater
 Pam Hales
 Pam Harris
 Pam Weisenberger
 Pamela Barckholtz
 Patricia Colpean-Decker
 Paul Hoffmann
 Pauline Najera
 Phylis Merriam
 Ray & Judy Albert
 Raymond & Julia Albert
 Regina Williams
 Rev. Patricia A. Sims - Guard
 Rich Firebaugh
 Robert & Sharon Schultz
 Robin Heise-Kukulski
 Rochelle Thomas
 Rocky Archangeli
 Roger & Ann Finta
 Ron & Julie Elson

Ruth Fraiss
 Ryan Mulder
 Sally Weber
 Sandra Erway
 Sandra Lindsey
 Sarah Denman
 Sarah Jarvis
 Scott Lange
 Shaila Kirkpatrick
 Shannon Kaudle
 Sharon Patton
 Shawn Scott
 Sheila Austin
 Sheryl Deutsch
 Shirley A. Bidwell
 Stephanie Spencer
 Steve & Luann Ramer
 Sue Furlo
 Sue Stinnett
 Sylvester Liggins
 Sylvia Davis
 Tammy Johnson
***Ted Rapson**
 Teri Jarema
 Terrence Koscielski
 Thomas & Linda Cierzniewski
 Tim & Karen Gaertner
***Tim Ninemire**
 Timothy Hogan
 Todd Dixon
 Tom Peck
 Tom Zato
 Toni DeMatio
***Tracey Madigan Fannin**
***Vaia Economou-Clifford**
 Vanessa Randall
 Victoria Samuel
 Wardene Talley
 Warren & Cindy Myrick

First Choice of Saginaw is deeply appreciative to the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority organization for the enduring in-kind support over the past ten years.

Adult Foster Care Homes where Gift Cards were Disseminated

A Touch of Gentleness	Highland AFC
Adams Manor	Holland AFC
Alpine Grove	Home Away From Home AFC
Angel Cove AFC	HomeLife—824 W, Kalamazoo
Angel Haven AFC	HomeLife—Interlochen Home
Athens AFC	HomeLife AFC—10th
Babion's AFC	HomeLife AFC—8th
Baywood	Hoornstra AFC
Beacon Harbor #1	Hope AFC
Beacon Harbor #2	Hope Network Agnes Rambo
Beacon Harbor #3	House of Hope AFC
Beacon Harbor #4	Howell's AFC
Beacon Harbor #5	Hunter AFC
Beacon Harbor #8	Jayden AFC
Bethesda Lutheran Group Home	Jayden Janes AFC
Bickel AFC	Karen's AFC
Cambridge	Kneaded Angels
Cardinal Care AFC	Korting AFC Home
Carruth AFC	Krasinski AFC
Catalina Way	Kunta AFC
Cedar Crest	Lee Lee's AFC
Conquest AFC	Liberty
DEB #2	Liberty Manor
DEB #3	Lou's AFC
DEB #4	Love, Sharing & Caring AFC
DEB AFC	Loving Family Home
Diane's AFC	Maddiford AFC
Diems AFC	Magline Whitley AFC
Divine Love AFC	Mata AFC
Draine AFC	Meiser AFC
Elder Care	Miller Rd. Group Home II
Garchow AFC #1	Navaho Trail
Geddes	New Beginnings AFC
Gera Rd. AFC	New Center
Glenvale	New Hope
Gracies AFC	Open Arms AFC
Gray's AFC	Pack AFC
Great Lakes AFC	Pam Krasinski AFC
Harbor Point East/West	Patton AFC
Haven 1	Prosperity House
Hayden AFC	Rattalee Lake Group Home
Heaven Angels	Reis AFC
Heavenly Realm #2	ResCare Premier—Avalon
Heavenly Realm #3	ResCare—Francis Home
Heavenly Realm #4	ResCare—Gleaner
Heavenly Realm AFC	ResCare—McCarty

Adult Foster Care Homes where Gift Cards were Disseminated, Cont'd

ResCare Premier—Reamer Meadows
ResCare Premier—Riverview
ResCare Premier—Vienna
Riverfront
Roseview
Roy's AFC
Saginaw Valley AFC
Santino's AFC
Schiavone I
Schiavone II
Schiavone III
Schiavone IV
Schiavone V
Schiavone VI
Schiavone VII
Sewell's AFC
Sewell's Care II
Slatestone
Sloan Rd. AFC
Smith's Elder Care
Southbridge
Southport
Sparck's AFC
St. Augustine Group Home
St. Augustine Group Home II
St. Charles Home
Sunnyside Assisted Living II
Sweeney's AFC Home
Swilley AFC Home
The Prosperity House
The Ridge
Tyraunda Reed AFC
Ultimate Care Housing
Union Court Assisted Living Center
Vertis P. Smith Manor
Victory AFC
Wallace St. AFC
Weiss AFC
West Lake I
Westwood
Whitley AFC Home I
Willie & Carrie Whitley's AFC
Woodlawn
Woodworth AFC

GARAGEHOW HOME

First Choice



Diane shopped at Meijer's and bought herself tops, blue jeans, a hat & glove set, and pop. with change left-over! She was proud to have been chosen to receive one of the gift cards.

Stacy (L) and Nancy (R) both went to Meijer's on their spending spree. Stacy was happy to have been able to purchase her son a Christmas gift this year. She also bought chocolates and a jumbo can of popcorn to share. Nancy bought personal needs, and cologne which would have not been possible without the gift card. She is grateful for the gift.



Phyllis anticipated this holiday season as she's viewed many in the past to be "blah." But the unexpected gift card almost brought tears to her eyes. She shopped at Wal-mart stating "it helped her and her spirits tremendously." She hopes the program will grow so everyone in the program will get a gift card next year.



Valerie is grateful her home provider Lori buys gifts and many things they need, but having the gift card allowed her to get "all the things she needed." She shopped at Wal-mart for bright colored towels, and her favorite cologne. Valerie said "not having family near, the gift card helped me get through this holiday season."



Sandra shopped at Meijer's where she bought a white sweater and skirt set. She said "it felt good to have some body really care."

SCHIAVONE HOME

First Choice

Susan and William were able to buy their own radio/CD players. They both enjoy country music. Susan said "it felt so good buying things I never thought I would have." "Thank you for the gift card." William was really surprised and thankful too.



Gary went on a shopping trip with other residents to Super Wal-mart. He was able to purchase two pair of jeans, a coat and boots. "It was a great surprise to have this extra money and hopefully next year everyone who qualifies will get the gift card."



Robert was able to buy his girlfriend a gift this year. He said "I still have a little money left over I'm saving for a rainy day."



Elmer loved his shopping trip the employees took them on. He never had that much to spend on himself. He was so surprised to get the gift card, and hopes he is chosen to receive the gift again next year.

Hattie shopped at K-Mart. She loved having the extra money stating "I was able to buy my man a box of chocolate covered cherries." She hopes more people will be given the opportunity to get gift cards next year. "Thank you."



Rosemarie said "if it weren't for the gift card, I wouldn't have had any money this holiday season." "I bought slacks, socks, blouses and a couple of video games." "My Guardian Angel came to visit me this year as I had a blessed season." She hopes this program continues and benefits everyone who needs help.



Rosemarie said "if it weren't for the gift card, I wouldn't have had any money this holiday season." "I bought slacks, socks, blouses and a couple of video games." "My Guardian Angel came to visit me this year as I had a blessed season." She hopes this program continues and benefits everyone who needs help.





Elizabeth has her sights set on using her Wal-Mart gift card on new clothes.



Rose stated "I will buy new clothes with my card." Thank you very much.



Rick is using his Meijer gift card to purchase his daughter a Christmas gift. He is very grateful for the gift!



Yvonne wants to buy her father after shave for Christmas.



"I will buy perfume for myself, and something for a friend who's also on a fixed income."



The ladies plan to shop at Wal-Mart for personal needs such as, nail polish and makeup.



"I want to purchase a red robe for my mom with my gift card."

First Choice 2006 holiday gift card dissemination party



Theresa

"I want to buy new slippers, and a nightgown. and if I have any money left, I will buy a video game for my boyfriend."



Gloria

Gloria will use her Wal-Mart gift card for personal items.



Willie

Willie is very grateful for the gift!

First Choice 2006 holiday gift card dissemination party



Rose

Rose told us she would like to buy a friend perfume for Christmas.



Ron & Christine

Ron said "I am going to buy a new razor with my gift card."

Christine wants to use her Wal-Mart gift card for new shoes and an outfit.

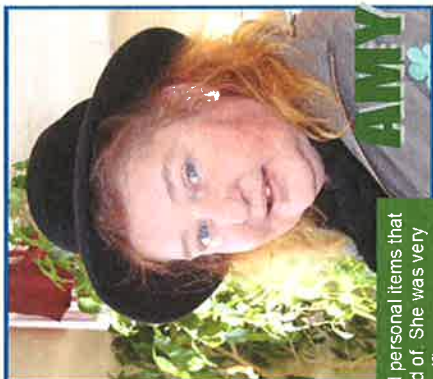


Theresa

Theresa is using her Meijer gift card to buy a swimsuit for an upcoming vacation she is looking forward too.



Randy bought jeans and a heavy metal CD. This was the second time he received a gift card from First Choice, and he is very thankful.



Amy purchased personal items that she was in need of. She was very thankful for the gift.



Phyllis said Ms. Rose from Bayside Lodge escorted her to Meijer to buy a new radio and pop.

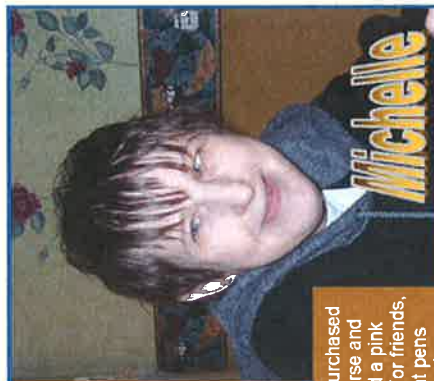
First Choice 2007 of Saginaw



Kathleen was happy to receive a Meijer gift card. She was able to buy discounted Christmas candy, and freshly stocked Valentine's



Roy "Bill" bought a pop-rock CD, and a pencil sharpener for his word search puzzles.



Michelle purchased a black purse and wallet, and a pink sweater. For friends, she bought pens and notebooks.



Tom bought tennis shoes and a drill with drill bits so he can help around the house. He was very grateful to receive a First Choice gift card once again.



Sharon is a grapefruit lover, so she bought a grapefruit spoon and grapefruit! This is the first time she received a First Choice gift card, and is very thankful.



Mary had a good time at the cookie social. She bought jeans, and a top with her Meijer gift card.

First Choice 2007 of Saginaw



Dale, an obvious Loons fan, purchased a baseball sweatshirt with his gift card. He was very grateful to receive the gift.



Sharon stated "the money came in very handy." She bought personal items with her gift card.



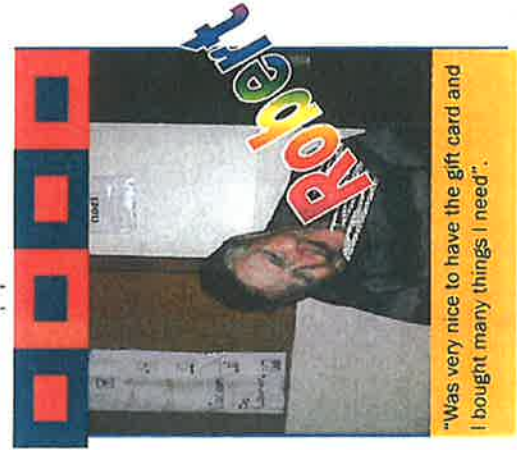
Judy bought pants and tops for spring. This was the second time she received a First Choice gift card, and she is very thankful.



Jay purchased football cards, pants and pop when he went shopping. This was his first time receiving the card. He enjoyed coming to the cookie social too!



First Choice
of Saginaw **2008**





Patty

Patty bought silver jewelry and thought it was so nice that people care and think of others to better someone else's life.



Gwen

Gwendolyn was so happy to be able to buy her pretty dishes and saucers with flowers on them. She feels blessed that others were giving with their money. It uplifted her spirit and she would like to say thank you.



Mark

Mark was happy to receive his gift card. He bought a pair of real nice winter boots.



Cathy

Cathy was so happy to receive her gift card that she actually cried! She had so much fun shopping. Thank you all for the gift.



Kathleen

Kathleen loves to crochet for people she cares about. She bought yarn with her gift card and she is so thankful!



Gail

Gail is grateful for this gift card. She bought shampoo, clothing and personal items, but mostly she had fun!

2009

First Choice of Saginaw



Rosemarie was left with such spirit and gratitude for receiving the gift card. Her family is far away and she felt as though she was loved by getting this gift. She purchased a watch and a coat.

Greg was very appreciative for his gift card. He had a great time shopping and was able to buy jeans, sweatshirt, music, pop and snacks. Thank you very much!

Lela felt as though she was a special person because of her gift card. She bought herself a couple beautiful sweaters and socks.



Theresa was happy and thankful for the gift card. She purchased supplies to do her cross-stitch as well as a watch and necklace.

Mary was able to buy a nice new winter coat, hat, mittens and scarf. She had so much fun shopping with her gift card!

2009

First Choice of Saginaw



Obie Williams appreciates all that you have given.



Arnold Clark bought a beautiful new watch and Old Spice Gift Set



Adeline Erlenbeck was able to buy herself some new earrings, tops, socks, pants, gum and candy.



Hattie Hall purchased socks, fruit cake mix, blueberries, pants and a turtleneck. It made her feel so GOOD!!

2010 FIRST CHOICE GIFT CARDS MADE US SMILE! THANK YOU



Darrell Kretz would like to thank you all very much! He plans to use his gift card to purchase spring and summer clothes.



Sandra Kapp had fun shopping and was able to buy herself pants, a top, socks, fruit and pop. Thank you!

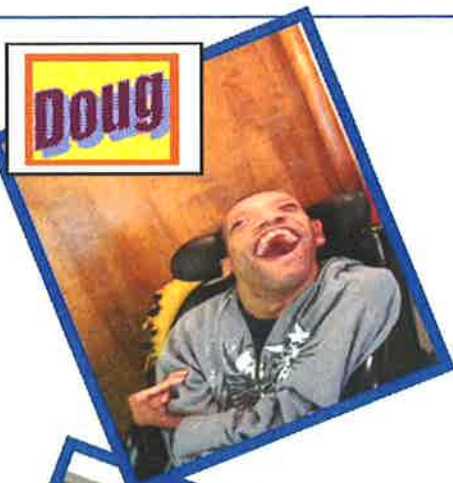


A Heartfelt Thank You from Roberto Salinas



Dallas Howey bought two movies and wants to say THANK YOU!

Doug



Kathy



Betty



Francis



Mary



The wonderful resident's at the St. Charles CLF Home were full of glee and excitement while expressing their feelings of gratitude for their gift cards!

Doug was able to buy his favorite snack – Hershey chocolate bars and a warm fuzzy Eskimo hat, sporting the U of M emblem!

Kathy was happy because she was able to purchase some pretty lounging clothes to wear while she has visits with her mom and family that she loves.

Betty loves to play BINGO at the Maple Grove Senior Center & she was able to buy herself a pretty pair of sneakers to wear, along with her favorite thing in the world – Diet Coke!

Francis purchased pretty shirts and pajamas with her gift card. She looks forward to wearing her new pair of Capri pants as well this coming spring!

Mary was so pretty while she showed off her sequin hat, matching shoes and top that she bought with her gift card. Mary had such happy eyes and pretty smile as she said thank you!

To Wendy Iken & her staff at Saginaw Valley Residential St. Charles CLF Home, thank you for the hospitality and enthusiasm with regard to this project.



Joe was very excited to go shopping with his gift cards!



Marvin said a big thank you for his gift cards



Rebecca appreciated her gift cards very much!



Eric purchased gifts for his family with his gift cards.



Elizabeth was very thankful for her gift cards!



Annette was very happy to receive gift cards from First Choice!



Alfred did some Christmas shopping with his gift cards



Cecilia was excited to purchase personal items with her gift cards



2012

Connie plans to buy a pair of moccasins with her gift cards!



Mander is very thankful for his gift cards!



Nancy plans to buy yarn and some shirts with her gift cards.



Susan is going shopping for a purse and clothes.



First Choice of Saginaw

2013

Teddy is going to buy some nice gifts for her grandchildren, children and, of course, herself!



Elizabeth is going shopping for groceries!



Danny will be buying lots of ice cream with his gift cards!



Andrew will purchase gifts for his family and boots for himself.





2014

Thank you from all 317 people who received gift cards this year. The cards and your generosity were very much appreciated!





FIRST CHOICE OF SAGINAW NEEDS YOU!!!

First Choice of Saginaw is a small, non profit organization affiliated with SCCMHA which raises funds annually to provide holiday gift cards for adults with serious disabilities served by SCCMHA who have limited discretionary funds and reside in residential settings. In FY 2014, the 10th anniversary of the organization's fund raising efforts, First Choice again raised funds to provide gift cards to over 300 consumers of SCCMHA services. FY 2015 fund raising is now underway. Gift cards are annually disseminated to selected individuals in December. Any interested person, group or company can support First Choice fund raising efforts in a variety of ways, whether you have an hour or two to donate your time, can offer some in-kind resources or want to get more involved in the annual fund raising efforts. All SCCMHA staff members, contracted providers, families and community volunteers are invited to participate to support this unique charitable organization. The First Choice of Saginaw website address is: www.saginawfc.org.

VOLUNTER YOUR TIME

The Friends of First Choice Committee sponsors various fund raising efforts. Watch for these notices, and offer your time to help with an event. Even a brief amount of volunteer time is meaningful for the long range success of First Choice. You can also join the planning committee. If you or any organization you are affiliated with are interested in supporting First Choice through your own special fund raising project, contact First Choice of Saginaw for any needed information and materials and we may be also be able to help you support your event. **Volunteers with any fund raising event in 2015 will receive a First Choice t-shirt, as supplies last!**

PROVIDE IN-KIND SUPPORT

Are you too busy to volunteer your time? Most fund raising events invite donations of food or items to sell. Watch for these notices and offer a small in-kind donation to support a planned event whenever you are able to do so. Used books for book sales, good condition costume jewelry for jewelry sales, and unused greeting cards of any type are just several examples of the periodic events where you can donate items to help the annual campaign. Some individuals have donated event tickets that they have and cannot use for First Choice to offer in a silent auction, with all proceeds going to First Choice.

OFFER YOUR RESOURCES

Every increment of support helps the organization. For example, did you know that there is a pop can collection in the lower level break rooms at the Hancock and A&W buildings for First Choice? Some staff members and others donate small amounts of money throughout the year, at various events, at various times or through payroll deductions.

GET MORE INVOLVED

New members for the monthly noontime meetings of the Friends of First Choice Committee are always greatly welcomed. Typically meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 Noon and alternate between the SCCMHA Hancock building & A&W building. Contact Jennifer Tomaszewski at jtomaszewski@sccmha.org or 989-498-2269 to be added to the meeting notices and reminders for First Choice events. Or if you have an idea for an event that you would like to lead or suggest, great! You may also contact Ginny Reed (greed@sccmha.org) or Tim Ninemire (tninemire@sccmha.org) at any time for more information.

AMAZON SMILE

New this year, First Choice of Saginaw is set up with the AmazonSmile program at www.smile.amazon.com. AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support First Choice of Saginaw every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to First Choice of Saginaw.

First Choice of Saginaw is a 501c3 organization, donations are tax deductible.

Contact Information: 500 Hancock Street, Suite 200, Saginaw, Michigan 48602 or (989)-799-6451.

2015 Calendar of (Remaining) Events

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Location/Organizer</u>	<u>Event</u>
Sept. 18, 8:30-10:30am	A&W (Angie Irish)	Pancake Breakfast
Oct 2, 11:30-1pm Cook-off	Hancock (Jennifer Tomaszewski)	7th Annual Chili
Oct. 1-26 sale <i>To be delivered by Oct. 30</i>	All (Angie Irish)	Halloween Candygrams
Nov, TBD	Hancock (Anne Midcalf/ Jefferson Mathews)	Pie Sale
Dec. TBD	Hancock (Ginny Reed)	Jewelry/Card Sale
Dec. TBD	A&W (Ginny Reed)	Jewelry/Card Sale



For more information contact:
Jennifer Tomaszewski at 498-2269



First Choice of Saginaw participates in AmazonSmile!

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?

Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.



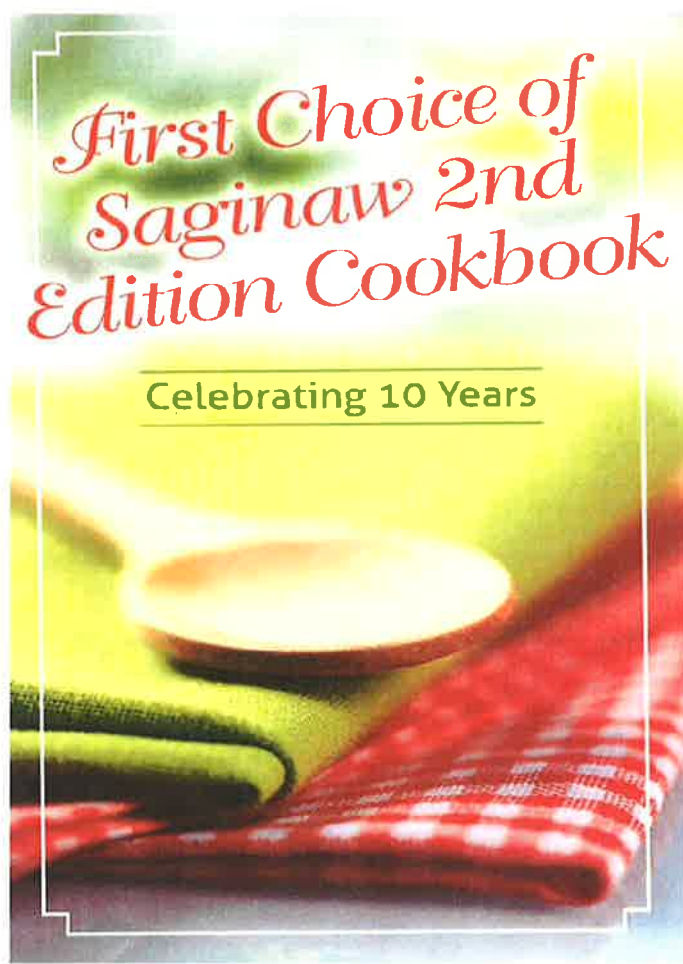
Cookbook Sale

\$8.00

Cookbooks can be purchased through Melinda McGovern @ A&W
(989) 797-3472/mmcgovern@sccmha.org

Or

Jennifer Tomaszewski @ Hancock
(989) 498-2269/jtomaszewski@sccmha.org





LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE FOR FIRST CHOICE OF SAGINAW

Looking back, the past 10 years and first decade for First Choice has been an amazing journey of both impact and hard work, especially given the economic challenges faced by many in Saginaw. The organization has much to be proud of through the amazing work of many talented volunteers and supporters. Looking forward, we hope that we will continue to be able to make a difference in the quality of life for so many adults with serious disabilities living on the edge of poverty. We are excited about some new endeavors, including the involvement with the Amazon Smile program. In 2016 watch for a new First Choice calendar for sale too. We will continue to be dedicated to supporting the personal needs and wants of adult citizens in our community who deserve this special support, and as noted throughout this report, are tremendously grateful in so many individual ways. Thank you to the Saginaw community for all of your help in our endeavors, we could not have done it without you, and we look forward to the next 10 years of service.

The Friends of First Choice Committee would love to hear from you!

First Choice meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and alternate between SCCMHA Hancock Bldg. & Albert & Woods Professional Development & Business Center (A&W)

Our next meetings are scheduled for:

August 12, 2015 @ 12 noon at SCCMHA, 500 Hancock, Saginaw, MI 48602

September 9, 2015 @ 12 noon at A&W Bldg., 1 Germania Platz, Saginaw MI 48602

If you have ideas on how to improve the program or if you have a great fundraising idea, please be sure to contact us so that your ideas can be discussed at an upcoming First Choice meeting!

Contact:

First Choice of Saginaw
(989) 799-6451

Email: info@saginawfc.org
www.saginawfc.org

