

# *Grand Happenings*

*A publication of NorthWest Initiative*

510 W. Ottawa St., 2nd Floor, Lansing, MI 48933  
517-999-2894 (telephone); 517-999-2897 (fax); [www.nwlansing.org](http://www.nwlansing.org)



October–December 2019 - Volume XIX, Issue 4

NorthWest Initiative is hosting a  
**Soup, Chili and Baked Goods Fundraiser!!**  
During Silver Bells in the City—

Join us on Friday, November 22, 2019, 4:30-7:30pm  
510 W. Ottawa St., lower-level—Litton Hall

Cost: Soup/Chili—\$5.00 a bowl; Baked Goods—\$1.00 and up

Be sure to stop by before Silver Bells and enjoy a hot bowl of soup, chili, hot beverages, and delicious baked goods where funds will support NWI Programs!

*Take-Out will be available!*

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## ***Weekend Survival Kits—***

***Volunteer Groups & Individuals Needed!***

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NorthWest Initiative coordinates the volunteers for the Lansing Weekend Survival Kit Program and is currently seeking groups of volunteers or individuals to help pack the supplemental food kits. We meet twice a month on Wednesday evenings —5:30-8:30pm at the Harry Hill Center—5815 Wise Rd., Lansing. We need 40 volunteers for each packing as we have to pack upwards of 1,200 food kits for food insecure children attending nine Lansing Schools! This is a fun event and open to all groups who would like to help out. If you would like to speak directly to a Lansing-WSK Program staff, call Maddy at 517-999-2894 or email her at [madisonk@nwlansing.org](mailto:madisonk@nwlansing.org), or you can register your group directly by visiting the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4BADA928AAFB6-wskpacking26>

# NorthWest Initiative – Programs and Services

## NWI at a Glance-

### Outreach Services

Signing up for social service programs or personal needs items.

**Mondays and Wednesdays – 10am -12n and 1-3pm, or by appointment. Call Maddy or Renee to set-up an appointment at 517-999-2894.**

### Food Distributions

**1st & 3rd Thursdays; 11am -1pm; lower level of the Church. To sign up, call Renee at 517-999-2894.**

### ARRO–Ex-Offender Assistance Program

Call Monica at 517-999-2894 to schedule an appointment for an in-take on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday afternoons.

### ARRO Resume Development & Job Assistance

Monday-Friday, call Monica to schedule an appointment.–517-999-2894

### Workshops

For current information on our upcoming workshops and classes, call us at 517-999-2894 or follow us on Facebook!

### [www.facebook.com/nwlansing](http://www.facebook.com/nwlansing)

Be sure to “Like” our page and leave comments on the services you received. Thank you!



## Do You Need Help Applying For Social Services?

NorthWest Initiative’s Outreach Program is here to help you sign up for a variety of programs and services to assist you and your family. We can help you sign up for the Ingham Health Plan, Plan First, Medicaid, Medicare, EBT/ Bridge Card, social security disability, cell phones, utility assistance, housing, and much more. Outreach is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am-12n, 1-3pm or by appointment. Call Maddy or Renee at 517-999-2894 to schedule an appointment. The Outreach Office is closed on Tuesdays.

Our ARRO Program operates a court-ordered Adult Diversion Program and also provides additional services to individuals returning to Ingham County from a correctional facility or extended jail stays (over 6 months). Call the ARRO Office at 517-999-2894 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 9:30am-3:00pm.

Our office is conveniently located at 510 W. Ottawa St., 2nd Floor, Lansing, MI 48933.



To submit information about your upcoming event or community meeting to our newsletter, contact Renee at [renee@nwlansing.org](mailto:renee@nwlansing.org)

## Free Monthly Cooking Classes!

Classes are free and open to anyone who’s interested in learning how to cook!

Here are the class themes for the next three months:

### October 28, 2019

- Fall Soups & Stews

### November 25, 2019

- Holiday Hors D’oeuvres, Side Dish and Dessert

### December 16, 2019

(2 weeks earlier than normal)

- Holiday Cookies & Hot Beverages

If you are interested in teaching a class, call Maddy at 517-999-2894 or email her at [madi-sonk@nwlansing.org](mailto:madi-sonk@nwlansing.org).

Come join us as we have fun exploring new recipes and helping people learn to cook from scratch!! Each class is held on the last Monday of the month (except holidays when it’s generally held earlier) from 5-7pm at NWI, lower level kitchen).



NorthWest Initiative is a proud supporter of the AmeriCorps Programs through the Power of We Consortium & CEDAM in Lansing, Michigan

# NorthWest Initiative – Programs and Services

## Free Food Distribution at NWI

*1st & 3rd Thursdays  
from 11am-1pm*

If you, or someone you know, are struggling to feed your family, NorthWest Initiative offers a free food distribution program on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 11am-1pm (or until food runs out).

We always have a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, Panera Bread, and other food items! Come early and learn about other community resources to help your family. We also offer free delicious taste samplings and recipes.

We're located at 510 W. Ottawa St., lower level, Lansing, MI 48933—the corner of Ottawa & Pine, inside the First Presbyterian Church building.

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## Women's Support Group

Meets once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:00pm at NorthWest Initiative—510 W. Ottawa St., 2nd Floor, Lansing, MI 48933 (inside First Presbyterian Church building—corner of Ottawa & Pine Streets).

- Open to all women, ages 18 & up
- Bring a dish to share on those days
- The group is NON-JUDGEMENTAL
- The group is ENCOURAGING
- The group is SUPPORTIVE
- Negativity is NOT WELCOMED

For more information, contact Kendra at 517-999-2894.

## Remember to VOTE!!

**NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

This November, remember to cast your vote for Lansing City Council seats—Ward 1 and At-Large Council seats are on the ballot.

## Voting is a Right, Exercise Your Right!!

It's not too late to get an absentee ballot where you can vote from home! **Contact the Lansing City Clerk at 517-483-4141; or via email at [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).**

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## Dear Neighbors and Friends,

**We wish everyone a safe and happy upcoming holiday season!**

NWI will be closed on following holidays so we can spend time with our families:

**Thanksgiving**  
November 28 & 29, 2019

**Christmas**  
December 25, 2019

**New Year's Day**  
January 1, 2020

We will re-open for services on the following business day.

## NWI Seeking Interns & Volunteers

NorthWest Initiative is seeking volunteers to help with our Fall and Winter Programs!

If you are a college student interested in an internship or a person who has a few hours to volunteer each week, we offer several opportunities as follows:

➤ ARRO Program—  
\*Office Assistants  
\*ARRO Program Assistants

➤ Outreach Program—  
\*Receptionist  
\*Office Assistants  
\*Website Coordinator  
\*Social Media Coordinator  
\*Neighborhood Canvassing  
\*Mobile Farmers Market  
\*Weekend Survival Kits  
\*Cooking Class Instructors  
\*Taste Sampling Assistants  
\*Special Event Planning

➤ Food Systems Program—  
\*School Nutrition Assistants  
\*Before/After School Nutrition Assistants

For specific information on internships or volunteer opportunities, please call Renee at 517-999-2894 or email [renee@nwlansing.org](mailto:renee@nwlansing.org).

# Northwest Neighborhood Happenings—

## First Presbyterian Church (FPC)-Activities

### Food Pantry

The FPC Food Pantry is open to everyone who lives in the 48933 and part of the 48915 zip codes. The Food Pantry is open Monday-Thursday from 11:30am-3pm. You must call 517-574-5124 between 9am-11am to register for this Food Pantry.

### Lansing Children's Choir

The Lansing Children's Choir is a *free* choir for children ages 8-19 in the greater Lansing area. Registrations are now being accepted for new and returning singers—no auditions are required. Rehearsals are Wednesdays in Molly Grove Chapel (510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI 48933) as follows:

4:15-5:15pm—Ages 8 to 13  
5:30-6:30pm—Ages 13-18

Register today at [lansingchildrenschoir@gmail.com](mailto:lansingchildrenschoir@gmail.com).

### Yoga

Yoga is offered on the following days and times and is donation-based. Come and join the fun!!

**Tuesday—12:10pm**  
**Wednesday—6:00pm**  
**Thursdays—5:30pm**  
**Fridays—6:00pm**

## Holiday Food Basket?

Christian Services will once again be offering Thanksgiving Food Baskets for low income families with minor children living permanently in the home. You must call and schedule an In-take. **The In-Take Hours will start on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 and will run through Friday, October 25th from 9:15am—3:30pm or until all food slots are filled. Call 517-394-5411 to schedule your in-take starting October 15th!**

## Seeking Coalition Members—

### For A Sugar Reduction Campaign in the Greater Lansing Community

NorthWest Initiative is looking for individuals who are concerned about the amount of sugars/sweeteners that are hidden inside many of our processed foods, as well as food we recognize as sugary. Americans are consuming more sugar than any other country in the world, and it's causing many health risks for both adults and children.

For more information, or if you are interested in serving on this coalition, please contact Jane at [jane@nwlansing.org](mailto:jane@nwlansing.org) or Peggy at [peggy@nwlansing.org](mailto:peggy@nwlansing.org) or call us at 517-999-2894.

## Guide to Michigan Grown Fruits and Vegetables!!

Michigan farmers should have plenty of fresh foods available during October and November! Be sure to visit some of our awesome farmers markets located all over the greater Lansing area! Here's a quick guide for what's in season — apples, cranberries, grapes, raspberries, strawberries, beets, greens, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, kohlrabi, leeks, mushrooms, potatoes, pumpkins, rutabaga, spinach, squash/winter, and turnips. For the complete guide, visit [www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhs/Season\\_Avail\\_Guide\\_547807.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhs/Season_Avail_Guide_547807.pdf)

## Thank You!!

We wish to thank all of our grant funders, corporate donors, sponsors, partner organizations, volunteers, family and friends, who have allowed NorthWest Initiative to continue providing valuable emergency and basic needs services and empowerment programming to help lift our low income residents out of poverty! We couldn't offer these services without your support!!

--Sincerely, the NWI TEAM



# Northwest Neighborhood Happenings—

## City of Lansing's Mobile Food Pantry

The City of Lansing offers a monthly **Mobile Food Pantry** that is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am-11am or until the food runs out. Bring identification and a box/bags to carry food. For exact location of each month's mobile food pantry, call the City's Human Relations & Community Services Department at 517-483-4347.

## City of Lansing— Offering Home Repair Grants & Loans

Did you know that the City of Lansing offers grants and loans to improve your home? If your home is in need of repairs, you may qualify for a grant (free funding) and/or a very low interest deferred loan for code related home repairs through the City's Planning & Neighborhood Development Office. Income restrictions apply and you must be current with your property taxes and mortgage.

Call 517-483-4040 for more information.

You can also visit <http://www.lansingmi.gov/rehabilitation> to find out more information and to see if you qualify!

## NWI TEAM UPDATES!

Join us in welcoming **Madison "Maddy" Knott** as our new **Outreach Coordinator**. Maddy is a 2018 MSU graduate with a BA degree in Social Relations & Policy with a minor in Science Policy. Her specialty is education, environment, and race.

Also, joining us is **Ebony Thomas** who is our newest **FSP's Education Coordinator**. Ebony is studying early childhood education at Kellogg Community College; and has an LPN certification.

In mid-October, **Erin Paskus** will be joining us as our new **AmeriCorps Food Access Coordinator**. Erin served as an AmeriCorps member last year at another site and decided that they would like to have more interactions with community members. Erin will serve at both NWI and FPC!

We also want to say good-bye and thanks to the following staff/team members for their years of service at NWI: **Quinton Sawyer**, who spent a year as our AmeriCorps member and two years with our Food Systems Program, has relocated to Baltimore, MD to pursue other opportunities; **Allie Maldonado** who completed two AmeriCorps terms of service with NWI & FPC, has left to complete her Dietetic Internship; and, **Kevin Kortas** accepted a position with the State of Michigan. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors!!!

## Neighborhood Meetings

(in zip codes: 48906, 48915, 48917-east of Waverly Rd. and 48933)

**NorthWest Initiative Board Meetings** ([www.nwlansing.org](http://www.nwlansing.org))-2nd Thursday of the month; 5:30pm at NorthWest Initiative office.

**Cherry Hill Neighborhood Association**; For more information, contact Mary Toshach; [mtoshach@gmail.com](mailto:mtoshach@gmail.com)

**Downtown Neighborhood** ([dnalansing.org](http://dnalansing.org))-4th Thursday of the month; 6-8pm at the CADL-downtown Lansing—[dnalansing@gmail.com](mailto:dnalansing@gmail.com)

**Edmore Park Neighborhood**—No longer meeting. More information will be shared in our next newsletter.

**Genesee Neighborhood**—No meetings now, for more information, contact Hazel at [Bethealdy0843@aol.com](mailto:Bethealdy0843@aol.com)

**Knollwood/Willow Neighborhood**—3rd Thursday of the month; 5:30pm at Willow Elementary School Library; Walter Brown, [knollwoodwillow@comcast.net](mailto:knollwoodwillow@comcast.net)

**Lansing Neighborhood Roundtables**—Last Thursday of the month at 6pm & last Friday of the month at 8am. For more information, contact Andi Crawford @ [andi.crawford@lansingmi.gov](mailto:andi.crawford@lansingmi.gov)

**Old Oakland Neighborhood**—1st Monday of each month at 6:30pm at Dunneback Park; contact [oldoaklandlansing@gmail.com](mailto:oldoaklandlansing@gmail.com)

**Walnut Neighborhood**—No meetings until January 2020. For more information, contact Dale Schradler—517-749-7292.

**Westside Neighborhood**—4th Wednesday of the month; 6-8pm at Letts Community Center; email [board@wnalansing.com](mailto:board@wnalansing.com).



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Lansing, MI 48933-8017

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October–December 2019  
NorthWest Initiative Newsletter

## About NorthWest Initiative

### The Mission

NorthWest Initiative is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community development organization working to strengthen and sustain healthy communities in the northwest quadrant of Lansing and Lansing Township, bounded by Sheridan Road to the north, Cedar/Larch to the east, Waverly Rd. to the west; and the Grand River on the south. Ingham County, Michigan Fitness Foundation/Michigan Nutrition Network, Capital Area United Way, and the City of Lansing are major sponsors of NorthWest Initiative. Program partners include residents, neighborhood organizations, local nonprofit organizations, human service agencies, AARP Foundation's SSCEP Program, and departments of Michigan State University, Lansing Community College, and Spring Arbor University.

### Board of Directors

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We're on Facebook!  
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Contact Renee at 999-2894 or  
[renee@nwlansing.org](mailto:renee@nwlansing.org) to submit articles.