



April 2023 | Events and Updates



Stay in the loop! Follow and like our pages for the latest updates and to help us raise awareness for our mission

As we enter the spring season, we have exciting events and updates to share with you in our April newsletter! Learn about more about Almost Home, the 40th anniversary, discover valuable insights from the Washtenaw Housing Alliance, and read about our new laptop move-out program, among other important news.

Almost Home 2023

June 26th, Monday | Barton Hills Country Club

Featuring keynote speaker [Austin Hatch](#) and client guest speakers. The venue at Barton Hills will include a cocktail reception, dinner, and celebration benefiting SAWC Clients. Community advocates, donors & partners are recognized for the crucial role they play in our work. "Drive for a Difference" at our Golf Outing prior to the reception. Tee up for an afternoon of 9 holes followed by Almost Home Reception. Tickets are now available for purchase! For more information on the event, click [here!](#)

This year's event features a silent auction, an ante up raffle, and a wine pull. You won't want to miss out on the chance to bid on incredible items like **4 tickets to Cedar Point**, all while supporting a great cause!

[Register for Almost Home](#)



Our 40th Anniversary!

September | The Delonis Center

Join us as we celebrate 40 years of ending homelessness with a 20 year Delonis Center building rededication ceremony & concert celebration featuring rhythm & blues artists. As we approach this event, more information will become available. Be sure to check here for more information:

<https://www.annarborshelter.org/40th-anniversary>



Move-Out Laptop Program

Thanks to the donation of nearly 200 laptops from Homepoint, we have been able to provide a laptop to every resident that has moved out. For our clients, a laptop is more than a piece of technology. It is a tool that connects them to the rest of the world. With a brand new laptop in hand, our clients are able to pursue their goals and dreams. That could be applying for jobs, keeping in touch with loved ones, or continuing their education.

Winter Warming Center comes to a close...

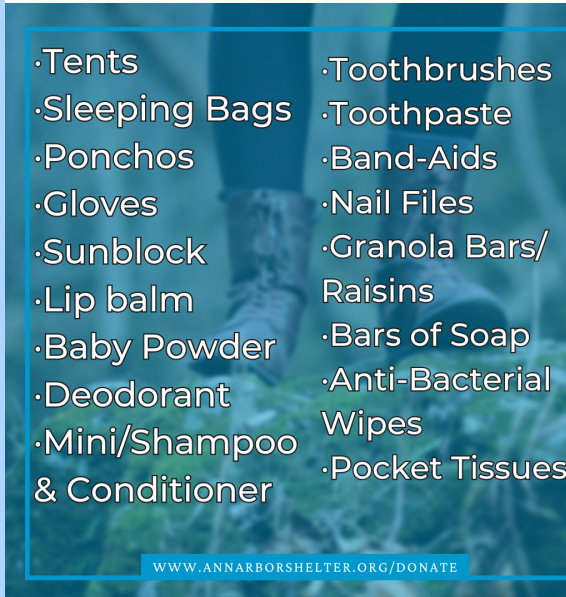


Our winter warming center has successfully provided shelter, warmth, and support to hundreds of individuals experiencing homelessness during the coldest months of the year. This season, we saw a 30% increase in the number of individuals seeking our services, showcasing the continued necessity for support for those experiencing homelessness.

COVID-19 has also presented challenges for our community, with many struggling to access basic resources and maintain stable living situations.

Thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and community partners, we were able to offer a safe and welcoming space for those in need, with warm meals, clothing, and access to medical care and social services.

As the winter warming center comes to a close, we are asking for your help in preparing for the upcoming months. We are in need of donations to create outdoor survival kits for those experiencing homelessness. Here are some items you can donate:



Join us in welcoming...



As we enter April, we are thrilled to introduce you to the newest member of our team, **Keith Johnson**, who will be joining us as our new Finance Director.

Keith brings over 3 decades of experience in finance and accounting, having previously worked at several organizations in Detroit. His passion for serving the community and his expertise in financial management make him an excellent addition to our organization.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Volunteer Here!

Volunteering at the Shelter can be a fulfilling and rewarding experience. Not only do volunteers provide essential support to the homeless community, but they also get to meet and interact with a diverse group of people. We have many volunteer opportunities, to learn more, click [here!](#)

Opportunities include:

- Drivers
- Prime
- Trash
- Organization
- General Assistance
- Service Center/ Operations Assistance
- Haircuts

You can also contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Dawn Gemler at gemlerd@washtenaw.org!



Thanks to the generous donation of shoes from the Michigan Health Department, we were able to hold a shoe drive for our clients at the homeless shelter. Our dedicated volunteer Lisa helped distribute the shoes, ensuring that each person received a comfortable and well-fitting pair.

If you would like to continue to make a difference in the lives of our clients, please click [here](#) to visit our website to learn more about how you can donate to our in-kind program.

[Donate](#)

Important Information from the



Eviction Filings Returning to Concerning Pre-Pandemic Rate

Support Winter Sheltering in Ypsi & A2

Right before all of us were upended by a global pandemic, many in our county were already experiencing a shift into an unknown reality – being evicted from their homes. Then COVID-19 happened. Staying safe from the pandemic for ourselves and others meant staying housed.

The rate of eviction filings in our state are once again on the rise and reaching pre-pandemic levels. Many have feared this rise in evictions as early back as when the state's eviction moratorium ended in 2021 and federal pandemic emergency rental assistance programs closed their application portals in 2022. By the end of 2022 hundreds of eviction cases were being handled through the courts without the significant amount of alternative funding needed and in place to help someone stay housed.

[Read more...](#)

Highlights from Recent Fair Housing Training

On February 16th, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and the Housing Coordinators Network presented a Fair Housing Training for Tenants and Housing Advocates. The training webinar was facilitated by the [Fair Housing Center of Southeast and Mid-Michigan](#) who explained why statements like the ones above are indeed false and fall under the Fair Housing Act as discrimination.

For those interested, the **Fair Housing Center is hosting its Housing Advocates Training (HAT) on March 14th and March 21st**. The HAT is a two-day training designed to help social service professionals and advocates gain a working knowledge of fair housing law, landlord/tenant law, and housing subsidy programs. Trainers include staff and attorneys from the Fair Housing Center, the [Michigan Poverty Law Program](#), and [Legal Services of South Central Michigan](#). Click the button below to register.

[Register for HAT Fair Housing Resources](#)

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