



1260 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 ▪ Phone 616-248-2848

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February 2006

Dear Friend,

All of us occasionally need a cup of cold water or a mug of hot coffee as we travel the road of life. Sometimes that thirst is literal. Oakdale Neighbors tries to keep a pot of coffee on the burner. Neighborhood residents walking past our gathering place on Kalamazoo Avenue are welcomed to stop for a cup.

Some of us are experiencing a crisis—an overdue water bill, a gas shutoff notice, an empty kitchen cupboard, a landlord threatening an eviction, a job that barely pays for the childcare we need. Oakdale Neighbors offers occasional financial help in times like these. We typically limit our assistance to \$50. This means that we become part of a group of contributors that can include the Department of Human Services, the Salvation Army, or a local church.



Larrine helps neighborhood residents negotiate the twists and turns of life.

Oakdale Neighbors makes suggestions when we can. We refer neighbors to other resources and relief. Larrine Reinhart is a merciful helper. She knows the social service processes in Grand Rapids well. When appropriate she will make telephone calls on behalf of residents to resolve their problems.

Oakdale Neighbors is committed to nurturing lives of service. Larrine challenges neighborhood residents to make smart choices. She coaches individuals when spending has exceeded income. Earlier this week a neighbor was

delighted to discover that Larrine will help her apply for a nursing home job. We hope this woman will come to Job Club next week. We want to help her find a job that she will love.

Larrine and I thank you for your interest in Oakdale Neighbors. We look forward to watching and participating in God’s ongoing work in the Oakdale neighborhood.

On the journey,

Tom Bulten, Director
Oakdale Neighbors

*Discovering, Developing, and Connecting Skills and Resources
for a Neighborhood of Vitality and Grace*

www.oakdaleneighbors.org