



**St. Irenaeus is hosting  
HOPE Shelter Week  
February 19 – 25**

HOPE provides safe, judgement-free shelter, innovative programs, and public advocacy to end homelessness. From meeting immediate needs such as meals, beds, and showers... to identification document procurement, and medical & mental health and other supportive services... HOPE accompanies individuals on their journey to permanent housing.

## **Love and serve with us! February 19 – 25**

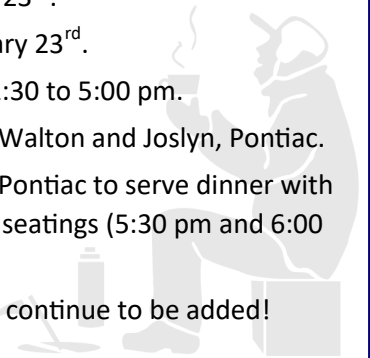
**Volunteer!** [Click here](#) **Donate!** [Click here](#)

For sign-up help, call HOPE Team member Denise (248-651-9595, ext 803).

General questions? Contact HOPE Team member Colleen (248-651-9595, ext 415).

## **You can help us bless our homeless brothers and sisters!**

- Sign up to donate food, paper products, clothing, or other needed items.
- Roll silverware from 10:00 am until noon on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Prepare desserts from 10:00 am to noon in our parish kitchen on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Help assemble gift bags for guests from 10:00 am until 11:30 am on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Prepare dinner, pack for transport, and clean up in our Parish Hall and kitchen from 1:30 to 5:00 pm.
- Arrive at our Parish Hall at 4:30 pm to transport food to Recuperative Care Center at Walton and Joslyn, Pontiac.
- Arrive at our Parish Hall at 4:30 pm to transport food and carpool to HOPE Shelter in Pontiac to serve dinner with a smile to guests, and clean up until approximately 7:30 pm. There are two separate seatings (5:30 pm and 6:00 pm) to help with traffic flow.
- Keep checking the Sign Up Genius as donation items and volunteer opportunities will continue to be added!



## **You can advocate for families who can't make ends meet!**

Learn about **Senate Bill 417!** The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can be claimed by working low-income families and offers a hand-up to those who are helping themselves. In 2011, the EITC was reduced from 20 percent of the federal credit to 6 percent. Last year, more than 750,000 Michiganders used the credit, and the average single parent with two children received \$355 at the 6 percent level. The Michigan Catholic Conference has been working for the past year to get the expanded EITC approved, increasing the EITC to 30 percent, meaning the same low-income single parent with two children could then claim \$1,776. **This policy would have a huge impact on the working poor who are struggling to make ends meet.** It helps the poor while upholding the dignity of work, and can help our state's economy by incentivizing more people to join the workforce. The EITC is already a pro-work, anti-poverty tax credit that helps workers and families meet their basic spending needs, but it can do even better—and we need your voice to help make it happen! [Click here for more info!](#)

*Love in Action...*

