COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Baldwin Center has been serving clients and building community as we “Feed, Clothe, Educate, and Empower.” Despite the pandemic and the incredible shifts in volunteer availability and health-related protocols, our mission continues.

Throughout 2020, we’ve found new ways to continue services. The Family Soup Kitchen has always provided meals without questions or cost. Since March, we’ve repurposed our dining room into a donation and production hub, altered our parking lot, and changed our food service model while continuing to provide at least 3 meals per week. The Clothes Closet has always stocked gently used clothing and other basic items, but now we’re meeting critical needs by appointment. Youth Center programs have always supported school-age children, and we now offer online tutoring and STEM projects, as well as family-based activities and fun. Prior to COVID-19, Baldwin Center shared its laundry and shower facilities with clients, and we look forward to offering these services again when it’s safe. We continue to find ways to distribute commodity food to seniors. We were able to continue offering holiday food baskets, as well as gift cards replacing our 2020 Holiday Store.

We’ve also pursued new service opportunities. We are part of the COVID-19 Response team, accepting donated diapers, wipes, formula, pullups, and cloth masks. We pursued experts, creating health protocols we’ve made available to other agencies and the public. We collaborate with Hazon Detroit, HOPE Shelter, Lighthouse, and others to best care for our neighbors in this time.

FEED

Family Soup Kitchen—15,000 breakfast and lunches served
Food Recovery—Over 25,000 pounds of produce distributed to the community as well as 37,000 pounds of rice & pasta donated
Focus: HOPE Distribution—Monthly volunteers distributed thousands of food boxes to seniors
During COVID-19—over 4,000 lunches provided to HOPE Shelter and more than 7,500 bagged lunches distributed

CLOTHE

Clothes Closet— Prior to COVID-19 we had over 2,000 visits to the Clothes Closet. Individuals received clothing and small household items. We also offered Family Saturday Shopping Days.
Since COVID, we remained open for emergency services for our clients and referrals from other agencies.
Over 200 hats, gloves and scarves distributed along with personal products
Baby Needs—Over 6,100 diapers and $3,500 worth of formula distributed
Household Needs—2,000 rolls of toilet paper and 600 rolls of paper towel distributed
EDUCATE

After School Program—Four evenings per week, K-8 kids came for a healthy meal, enrichment, and recreation. OU students, interns, and other volunteers provided tutoring, literacy intervention, and assistance with activities. Jump Start worked with K-5 students. KidNetic provided STEM and Life Skills training for cohorts of teens in grades six through ten.

After COVID-19, these became Baldwin After School and Summer Camp At Home. Grade K-12 students overcame the barrier of online learning while engaging in virtual STEM, literacy, life skills, arts & crafts, family engagement, and mentorship activities.

EMPOWER

Showers—Over 80 private showers were taken prior to COVID-19
Health Visits—Oakland County Health Department administered flu shots
During COVID-19—100 holiday food baskets and 112 gift cards were distributed to families for Christmas

VOLUNTEERS

Over 640 volunteers provided nearly 5,000 hours of service.

Unpaid staff members, including interns and volunteers, are integral to every program. Without the support of local churches, schools, universities, service clubs and corporations, the very core of our operations could not be as successful.

Additional hours were contributed by groups who worked off site on behalf of Baldwin programs to gather donations such as food, clothes, holiday gift cards, and supplies.

LOOKING BACK AT A SEASON OF LOVE AND FORWARD TO A YEAR OF GRATITUDE

This was an extraordinary year. Our community and nation reeled, and we have no interest in minimizing what we have been through and are going through even now. But Baldwin Center also witnessed an extraordinary outpouring of donations, people meeting the rising tide of need with compassion and care. We’ve never asked for money to hire out-of-work food service professionals. This year we asked, and our donors responded, allowing us to serve clients safely. We’ve never asked for a steady stream of bottled water, snacks, lunchmeat, and baby supplies. Our donors kept these items coming, feeding our neighbors. We would post a request on Facebook and you would respond within a day: individual donors, business donors, old friends, new partners. We witnessed community care, and it is humbling to be the recipients of your gifts and your trust. It was truly a season of love.

Thanks to our generous donor and volunteer community, we are moving forward. In December 2020, we began working with Lighthouse and HOPE Shelter, and we are now, as of January 2021, providing over 200 meals a day, seven days a week. We look at 2021 as being a year of gratitude.