

Other Programs offered at St. Alphonsus through our partnering agencies

■ **Calvin University** nursing students work with our community offering free blood sugar screening, blood pressure testing, and health education resources.

■ **Humane Society** of West Michigan works with our Pantry to provide low-income families with pet food for their pets. There is an application process to enroll in the Kibble Konnection.

■ **Kids Food Basket** helps provide fresh produce and educational classes.

■ **North End Community Ministry** provides weekly meals through the Supper House program.

■ **YMCA** offers a free Zumba class in our gymnasium once a week on Tuesday evenings.

■ **Catherine's Health Center** provides healthcare as well as educational classes and support groups.



MISSION STATEMENT

Mindful of Jesus' command to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, SAFCC provides a non-judgmental, welcoming environment where each person's needs are respectfully met without regard to race, religion, ethnic background or lifestyle.



Saint Alphonsus
Social Concerns Programs



Michelle Hatfield
Social Concern Director
mhatfield@stalphonsusgr.org
616.913.4415

Saint Alphonsus Social Concerns Programs



224 Carrier
Street NE
Grand Rapids,
Michigan 49505

616.913.4415

Food and Clothing Center

Open Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 1:00pm. We offer a client food pantry for our NE side Grand Rapids neighbors, which can be used one time per month. We are part of the ACCESS Food Pantry System and VCM Database allowing us to help our customers make their own shopping choices for basic needs. An ID must be provided at each visit, and clients will be given enough food for a few days along with two outfits per person in their household and necessary household items.



Thanksgiving Meals

Every Thanksgiving our volunteers cook a hot meal, with all the fixings, and deliver them to our low-income seniors and families.

Baby Layette Program

This program helps our new or struggling moms with basic essentials for their newborn.



Northeast Christmas Store

During the second week of December, the Christmas Store is held for three days. The store is designed to help low-income families, living in Kent county. All of the Christmas gifts are brand new and priced 10% of their retail value. Each family gets a certain amount to spend, depending on the size of the family.

Mobile Food Trucks

The first Tuesday of every month between April ~ November, we offer the opportunity for people/families to receive free produce, bread, and dairy items from our Feeding America Mobile Food Truck.

Blood Drives

Our parish Knights of Columbus partners with our local blood center VERSITI to host a blood drive. This program is certified with proper and professional equipment from VERSITI.

Back to School Program

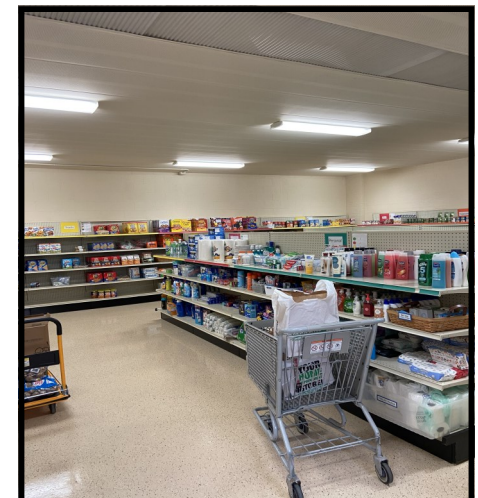
This program will serve our Northeast pantry clients by providing new backpacks, school supplies, socks, and underwear. The program will be held at the beginning of August and will serve Kindergarten through High school level.

On Their Journey Ministry

We are proud to offer this program to our homeless neighbors to help with their basic essentials. They receive a drawstring bag with personal care items, socks, and underwear. They are served with dignity.

VITA Tax Program

Between January ~ April, VITA offers a free tax service open to low-income families throughout Kent County. Our volunteers are trained and approved by the IRS.





St. Alphonsus Catholic Church

224 Carrier St. NE * Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505 * (616) 451-3043

August 14th, 2023

St. Alphonsus has been serving the community well for over 40 years. Each year our programs continue to grow as the need is higher than ever. We have seen a 25% increase since the beginning of 2023 and continue rise each month. In the month of July, we served almost 1200 people which is over 400 families in a month. Our donations have dropped significantly as we know many people are feeling the financial pressure.

We are reaching out to schools, businesses, and churches to see if you would be willing to help us serve our neighbors in need? The St. Alphonsus Food and Clothing Center is open four days a week and serves anyone living on the Northeast side of Grand Rapids and is 200% or less of the federal poverty guidelines. Clients are allowed to use our pantry one time a month and are checked into a database that is linked with all of the pantries. Our pantry is a client choice food pantry and is set up like a grocery store. This model allows our clients to choose which items are best for their household and gives a dignified shopping experience. We are also one of the unique pantries in Kent County that has a clothing store. We allow our neighbors in need to select two outfits per person in their house one time a month. All items at our food and clothing pantry are given to the neighbors, free of charge.

Since, we are serving more people and the need continues to rise, we are putting a plea of help. Would you be willing to host a food or clothing drive for us? Would you be able to spread the word to simply help us get more donations in for our programs? Any donations are appreciated and welcomed. However, there are some items that are in higher demand and they are as follow: FOOD: canned meats (tuna, chicken), canned fruits(all), canned soup (chunky soups, cream soups, broths), cereal/oatmeal, snack items, juice. NON-FOOD: Cleaning items, Paper & Supplies (paper plates, towels, napkins, storage bags, foil/saran wrap). PERSONAL CARE: deodorant, toothpaste, body wash, shampoo. CLOTHING: Any clothing infant-plus size. We also always need towels, sheets, blankets/comforters, shoes, socks and underwear for the family. We ask that items are washed, free of holes, stains, and odors, and working condition. We can also accept smaller household items. For more information, please contact Michelle Hatfield at mhatfield@stalphonsusgr.org or (616)913.4415. Thank you for any support you may be able to offer and helping us continue to serve our neighbors well.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hatfield

Michelle Hatfield

St. Alphonsus Parish
Social Concerns Director
(616)913-4415