

*TACKLING HOMELESSNESS IN
ISABELLA COUNTY*

PRESENTED TO:

MOUNT PLEASANT HOUSING COMMISSION

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INTRODUCTION

Isabella County is often thought to be one of the most economically stable counties within the central Michigan area if not throughout Michigan. The community itself showed to have a **population of 16,065 in 2010** and forecasts **15,975 in the year 2015**, according to the U.S. Bureau of Census. The number of households shows a consistency of **5068 households to 5076 households respectively**.

The median household income for **2010 was reported at \$34, 592**, with the **average at \$43,554**, and the **per capita income at \$17,698**.

The median household income **for 2015 is projected to be \$39,260**, with the **average household income at \$49, 217**, and the **per capita income to be at \$20,138**.

The majority of the population is White Alone, followed by Black Alone, American Indian alone, Asian Alone, followed by four other categories.

Population, income, and all other data can be found within this report that correlate and are relative to the population increase and the population total during the Central Michigan University School year. However, for the purpose of our research we will base our findings on those that are directly related to the data associated to the year round or local population as it found as empirical data from:

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing Esri forecasts for 2010 and 2015.

We have provided this report with a full packet containing all data, compiling not only our results from this data, but of equal importance, the additional data that will not only support our research and conclusion, moreover, to reinforce the need for additional funding for the homeless within Isabella County. Equally important is the need for additional housing facilities and necessities that these individuals need. Additional support services to be followed up in the proposal to the community and Veterans Administration.

MISSION & OBJECTIVE

Our team has engaged in the task of generating funds outside of those that are already a part of the Mount Pleasant Housing Commissions yearly budget. Our Plan of Action (POA) will be as follows:

1. Purchase, create, and put in to action a new Domain Name, and Web Link associated to the Mount Pleasant Housing Commission. One that is monitored by and run by the Mount Pleasant Housing Commission as well donors.
2. Give Donors the ability to donate both anonymously or by organization or personal preference .
3. Currently these donations are tax deductible: Questions in regards to donations to Not-For-Profit organizations can be found on the www.mi.gov site.
4. Keep Donors informed through social media and the organizations web-site of where, what , and how these funds and donations are being allocated.
5. Group this agency with other local agencies as a means to network and communicate via the DOMAIN NAME.
6. Propose the building of a Transitional Housing development within the Isabella County area to be no more than a mile out and no less than a ¼ mile in toward downtown Mount Pleasant and other surrounding schools and associated organizations.
7. Additionally, this building would facilitate both the local homeless and homeless Veterans.

PLAN OF ACTION (POA)

1. The domain name and web design are complete and awaiting approval from Kim Carrion the Director of The Mount Pleasant Housing and Commission .
2. Upon approval and implementation, this site will allow Donors to allocate funds at their discretion, with the ability to follow the distribution and allocation of how these funds are being distributed within the Isabella County.
3. Donors will also be able to communicate via the website, link current social media sites (such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and personal e-mails), as a means of not only keeping on track with the organization but linking donations and progress of such a socially reasonable organizations. Furthermore, **ROI ” Return of Investment”** that the community will gain from such an endeavor will pay for itself not only monetarily , but more importantly, socially.
4. Propose to Isabella County and the Veterans Administration that through our preliminary findings that 2 acre parcel of land would be required for the development of a Transitional Housing facility .
 - a. This facility would house both the over-flow from the local community (reducing loitering, crimes, local drug and alcohol abuse-to an extent) and Veterans.
5. Upon approval through both the Isabella County Community and Veterans Administration, the long awaited and crucially needed facility could break ground within the next two years.

PLEASE SEE MEDIA PORTION OF REPORT

Length: 30 Minutes

Location 1: Isabella County Soup Kitchen (Misc. Individuals)

Location 2: Personal Interview with: Local Politician John Barker, Union Twn.

Location 3: Central Michigan University Campus

We strongly encourage all citizens to watch the video in its entirety . It not only addresses the homelessness issues in its entirety, all of the footage was shot locally and it is a product of our community. Equally as important, the video serves as a tool, one that puts each and every one of us face to face with those that are in our community. These individuals are just like you and me. They don't fit the typical stereotype that is so often given to the homeless, "a label" one that deems them as "hopeless", "lazy" and just not "normal" like the rest of us.

CONCLUSION

Homelessness does not mean "hopeless" and has many different definitions and levels within the name itself. Furthermore, it is our belief that many communities throughout the nation view homelessness as a choice. The homeless population, although not always visibility present from a physical standpoint does exist. It is difficult to put an exact number on the amount of homeless individuals in Isabella County, however, the Soup Kitchen often serves up to and beyond 100 meals per day. On any given day you can see those that you would consider homeless by definition; around parks, under bridges, huddling for warmth, and even being good citizens while collecting cans. These are just the ones that are physically visible.

As the United States embarks on the longest war in history, advances in psychology are evident in the diagnosis of psychological and physiological mental health issues, it has presented society with the evidence supporting the correlation between the above. Our team has embarked on this mission to create awareness to this problem while offering a solution to end homelessness. With the proper funding in place and development of a single facility, as a start, we can begin the road to help integrate both those of the civilian and veteran community back into society. Not only will this enhance the humanity of our race, it will allow individuals to become productive members of society. This payback to society is immeasurable in humanitarian measures; however, it will serve as to reintegrate these individuals back into a

productive society that still holds what is true to all of our hearts, “The American Dream”. Finally, by the reintegration of “homeless” individuals, society will begin to see the financial burden begin to reverse itself as these individuals become educated, involved in the work community, and ultimately function as members of the work force paying taxes, spending money within small business and so forth. Proof of this is already taking place and statistics through the Veterans Administration have shown a decrease in homelessness by almost 12% in the last two years.