Momentum Center adds services, hours

Krystle Wagner
Jul 16, 2018

The Momentum Center for Social Engagement reached its $80,000 crowdfunding goal. In reaching the goal, the center is adding teen programming, will be open seven days a week and purchased a bus for outings. Extended Grace Executive Director Barbara Lee Van Horssen stands next to the center’s new bus.

More programming will soon be offered at the Momentum Center for Social Engagement.

The center, located at 714 Columbus Ave. in Grand Haven’s Centertown, recently hired Jessica
The center’s Just Goods Gifts and Café is now open seven days a week, and adult programming hours will expand in August.

The additions to services come after reaching an $80,000 crowdfunding campaign goal, which was launched in November 2017.

In addition to receiving donations from individuals, a donation from the Tri-Cities Women Who Care helped the campaign surpass its goal, Extended Grace Executive Director Barbara Lee Van Horssen said. The Spring Lake Rotary and JSJ Corp. also made donations, Van Horssen noted.

Van Horssen said the community’s response the campaign has been “fantastic.”

“I feel grateful for our community that truly cares about the most vulnerable and excited to be part of the community response to those needs,” she said.

With the funding, a wheelchair accessible bus was also purchased. It will provide all Momentum Center members the ability to participate in outings and events. Some of the group’s previous outings have included Tulip Time, John Ball Zoo, Meijer Garden and Country Fresh Dairy.

In May, more than 150 people participated in Extended Grace’s annual Prom with a Purpose fundraiser. The event raised $12,000, which went toward the fundraising goal. Van Horssen said the event was “successful by every measure.”

Since opening in April 2017, the center has provided recreational and social opportunities to adults age 18 and older with disabilities, mental illness and/or addiction. Currently, there are more than 150 members and a 95 percent participation rate. If they haven’t seen a member for 30 days, Van Horssen said they call to check in.

Teen programming will begin next month. It will be guided by a youth advisory council comprised of Grand Haven and Spring Lake teens.

The center will also take over the adjacent space previously occupied by Rosebud Taxi. Van Horssen said they plan to use the new space for storage, to provide another entrance for support staff, and to expand the services offered at the center.
Looking ahead, Van Horssen said they are considering replicating town hall meetings and Inspire! events in other parts of Ottawa County as a way to address some of the needs highlighted in the Ottawa County Health Needs Assessment.

The center continues to look for volunteers and donations. Anyone interested in volunteering can call 616-414-9111.