

40 Years
of Service
Excellence

STATE REPRESENTATIVE SEAN McCANN

THE DSO CONNECTION

Joddy—Nearly a Year Later

the
60th **DSO**

60th District Service Office
315 N Burdick St., Ste 100, Kalamazoo MI 49007 * 269-382-4676

Joddy clearly remembers the alarm in the middle of the night of November 18, 2012, when he awoke to the scary sounds and smells of a fire in his apartment complex, Northwinds on Douglas Avenue in Kalamazoo.

A resident since 2002, he would soon face the realization that he would be living elsewhere while repairs took shape at his home of ten years. It took until December 28th before residents were allowed to return. He recalls the immediate kind assistance that the residents were given to deal with the tragedy. In addition to the Kalamazoo Public Safety Officers and the American Red Cross who came to their rescue that night, Joddy spent the first several hours overnight at the Christian Life Center at the corner of Douglas and Pater-son. He was moved to a group home for a week or so before moving to the Gospel Mission. "I now have renter's insurance," he says with a smile.

Joddy is a disabled gentleman who is very able to manage his medical conditions with the



ral was made to the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) Coordinator, Lisa

Fuller, at Senior Services. Indeed, Lisa was able to help him make the right adjustments. I also recall that his

Photo by Creed Stegall

DHS Caseworker was very helpful in his time of need.

In the meantime, the DSO approached the manufacturer of the test strips to see if they might be willing to philanthropically assist Joddy with a few months' supply until the switch was made. They did!

Lisa states "Joddy's a great guy. He has become an ongoing client in our office. We recently helped him make the choice of a new medical provider who would take his case. We are now working on a new motorized wheelchair for him. He surely does get around!"

~ by Edie Trent

Overhauling **WWW.60thDSO.com**

The Website for the District Service (DSO) & its 501(c)(3) partner, the Community Services Charity (CSC) is undergoing a major overhaul. At first, the changes will be more "backdoor" functionality in scope. This will include an ability to process your donations to either the DSO or the CSC electronically. In time, new colors, new design and new information will also emerge. Eric Ulmer is doing the design / creative work on this technology upgrade for your convenience.

assistance of his home healthcare aide and his medical providers. But, in the middle of the night, unexpectedly, he was unable to grab all his prescriptions and medical supplies and make it out safely. "We had to move fast!"

Although the American Red Cross provided emergency prescription services, he quickly realized that the expected co-pays for his diabetic test strips were very expensive. He called us for help with his Medicaid. I couldn't help but wonder if there might not be a different health plan available to Joddy to better assist him. A refer-



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Sarah Edwards & Russell Hall both Return to School



Rep. McCann with both Sarah & Russell respectively, as they each received their service tributes, as well as our thanks and well wishes.



Seema Mohiuddin—In Her Own Words:

“I am a native of Kalamazoo who has spent much of my life in the area, earning my bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University: **“Go Broncos!”** I've also had the privilege to volunteer with the American Red Cross which sparked my lifelong love for volunteering and community service, whether serving juice at an ARC blood drive or tutoring a struggling student in math at Arcadia Elementary, or serving a hot lunch at Ministry With Community daytime homeless shelter. These experiences have strengthened my roots in this community and my love for the people in it. Kalamazoo is so unique in the way that it has flourished despite difficult times. While other cities have filed for bankruptcy, Kalamazoo has shown its resilience by continuing to grow and even inspired others with ideas such as the Kalamazoo Promise. In this way, I'm honored to be a citizen of Kalamazoo and am eager to be a part of its lifelong legacy.

Lunes? Miércoles?

Hola, mi nombre es **Wendy Medrano**, y soy el interno hispanohablante aquí por el representante Sean McCann. ¡Me gustaría ayudarle! Estoy aquí los Lunes desde 10-12:30 y Miércoles a las 10-12:30.

Wendy Medrano, our DSO Spanish-speaking intern from WMU, is generally here each Monday and Wednesday morning to assist our Hispanic constituents.

“Service Learning & “Experiential Education” are common buzzwords used to describe volunteer work that students seek out to gain practical experiences in their chosen fields of study. We are very pleased to work both here in Kalamazoo at the DSO and in Lansing at our Legislative office to provide these kinds of opportunities, oftentimes for college credit. Sarah Edwards is working on her MBA / Public Health Administration at Xavier University, and Russell is a senior at Beloit College, majoring in political science.

Through Our Door In the Fall 2013 Who are we serving?

Conveniently located in Downtown Kalamazoo, at 315 N. Burdick near the bus / train station, we welcome drop-in visitors, as well as phone calls and emails. We serve “face-to-face.” Here are a few examples of our recent constituent service work:

- We assisted a local non-profit organization understand the state regulations for running a BINGO game, and helped another NPO to get a raffle license for a recent fundraiser.
- We assisted a homeless couple think through their options of returning to Muskegon be closer to the children who are in Foster Care.
- We assisted four different retirees from state government or local school systems seeking help to understand decisions the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) had made regarding their earned benefits. Time in service, date and age of retirement, and returning to work after retirement all have very complex regulations. The DSO assisted in facilitating communications and in a couple cases, shared the process for appeals.
- We assisted a couple in the Vine neighborhood with a troublesome Landlord/Tenant matter involving a neighbor who was harassing them. Our referrals to the neighborhood association and their Kalamazoo Public Safety liaison officer helped them discuss the matter, although ultimately they decided to move to a new apartment.

78 Years Young & Counting!!

A Happy Birthday Salute to Mary Brown to benefit the District Service Office & the Community Services Charity

We had a marvelous time. Always do. Ice Cream, Cake, Tarts & Pastries. A Birthday Serenade by a Judge, no less! Great friends & community partners, all out on a beautiful summer evening. All in support of maintaining access for the residents of the 60th House District to personal service.



Mayor Hopewell & Mary; Mary & Judge Williams; Sheriff Fuller

Cheri Bell



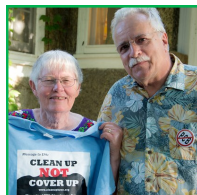
Mark Totten



Laurie Terlesky



Don & Mary Brown



Rondale Nichols-Templeton; Carolyn Alford; Mary with Gary Wager, the Rev. E. Allen Hayes



Irene & Stephen Trivers

Photo Credits to Fran Dwight



Staff: Julie Vogel & Edie Trent; Prosecutor Jeff Getting, State Rep. Sean McCann

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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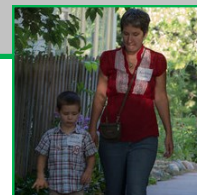
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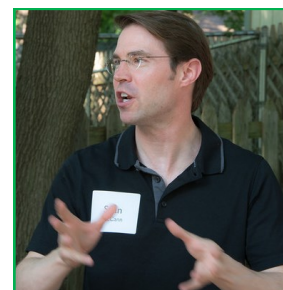
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Nina Wolpe
Kevin Wordelman, Andrea Smalley
& Wally



Wally Wordelman & Mom, Andrea Smalley



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State Representative

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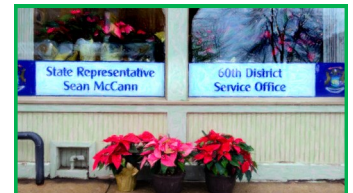
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4 Decades Serving Others

Established in 1973, the 60th District Service Office is a non-profit corporate entity established for the purpose of providing Kalamazoo area residents with direct access to their government and increasing the responsiveness of the government to their needs and concerns. Services are provided without fee on an entirely non-partisan basis. While the staff for the 60th DSO is provided by the State Representative, it relies on the contributions of supporters to fund the daily operations.



Poinsettias this year? You bet!



Our special distribution date is **Saturday, December 7th** at the **Pavilion at Prairie Gardens**. Please see the enclosed flier for ordering information. Want yours earlier? Arrangements available through our new "voucher / gift card" plan.

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