

Our Summer Interns have Arrived!

By *Edie Trent*, DSO Director & Legislative Aide to State Rep *Jon Hoadley*



Jack Marsden

Marah Bell

Drake Collins

Zack Isaacs

We've been invaded by an amazing cohort of interns for the summer. Grateful for a philanthropic gift from the Sally Appleyard Trust, the Community Services Charity is host this summer to four young people.

Their opportunities are two-fold. First, each will be exposed to how our local office serves residents of the 60th House District, and how the legacy of Howard Wolpe's vision of "face-to-face," problem resolution increases access to state and local government for constituent service.

Secondly, each intern has selected an area of social justice / community outreach in which to engage, meet with agencies, join with coalitions and individuals, and governmental oversight groups who share their passion.

Jack Marsden is a sophomore at Western studying sociology and creative writing. Jack is exploring careers in the public sector. For his civic engagement project, he has dug into the issue of how our community has taken leaps to feed our most vulnerable members of society, as well as to provide innovative and cooperative avenues for all of us to eat well.

Marah Bell is a sophomore at Mattawan High School. She hopes to become an international business advisor, and attend MSU. She is working to learn more about Early Childhood Development—Pre-K in Kalamazoo County. So important for all our children to be Kindergarten Ready!

You may recognize **Drake Collins**, who has actually returned to the office for "Internship 2.0." Drake is a graduating senior in political science at WMU and will earn his degree in December. He was first with the DSO this past winter. He is working this summer to increase voter registration on campus, proposing a new system of voter rights awareness and signup with the appropriate municipalities.

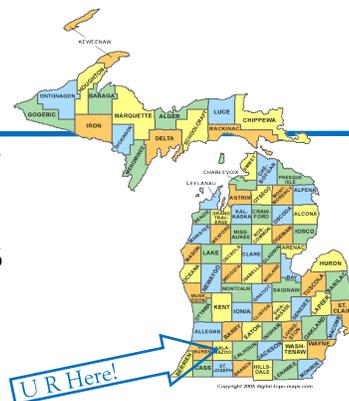
Zack Isaacs is off to Aquinas College this fall, having just graduated from Hackett Catholic Prep. He will continue to deepen his exposure to programs and organizations in the community **which** work to assist the homeless population.

Near the end of their experiences with us, they will each present some kind of "capstone" presentation as to what they have learned, who they have met and what the impacts they have experienced have been.

Need a new map of Michigan for your summer travels?

Yes, some folks still like a real paper one to spread out on the dining room table to plan. If so, please give the DSO a call at (269) 382-4676 and we can set one aside for you!

We also have Voter Registration forms!





Constituent Service:

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:

- Continuing to encourage an ex-offender as he works to gain appropriate access to his SSI funds, which were frozen by the Child Support State Disbursement Office, per the local Friend of the Court. His official driver's license renewal is also tied into the legal matters he is handling, but we have been able to gain information for him.

- A constituent wants to take the local coursework to become a Substance Abuse Peer Specialist. Helping him see if he can gain funding support from Michigan Rehabilitation Services.
- A constituent, very concerned about traffic on East Michigan Avenue, wants to see a traffic light study done for the corner of Portage Road and E. Michigan. Rep Hoadley sent a letter of support for the study to the local Transportation Service Center.
- We made several referrals to other State Representatives' offices, as well as to the local office of the US Congressman for help on federal issues.
- We arranged for a homeless woman to transfer from the Gospel Mission to the Oakland House, due to her fear of stalking / abuse.
- We helped a constituent get her 2013 tax refund processed. It had been held up.
- A different constituent asked about past taxes owed for 2011 that were being billed. The constituent received direction on what she needed to do to appeal.
- A driver's license for an older gentleman with special glasses was not renewed. We helped him appeal and get a new Drivers' Assessment Reexamination. He passed both the vision and the written tests and has a restricted license for three weeks until he will return for a second on-the-road driving test.
- Edie Trent is now a fully registered Notary Public and provides this service on a no cost, walk-in basis. Since hanging out her shingle, numerous new constituents have been served by the DSO in this manner.

Your donations make these face-to-face interactions possible.

We Thank You!

Our Annual Spring Brunch was held on May 17th

Once again, we heralded in the Spring season in great style with omelets & waffles, fruit & pastries, laughter & good friendly supporters. Held at the homes of Katie Eaton (with co-hosts Don & Kathy Cooney and Ed & Ann LaForge) and at Zach Bauer & Doug Pearce (with co-hosts Martha Cohen and Bob Cinabro & Natalie White). Thank you so much for the hospitality. The weather was lovely, and the chefs worked their magic.

This important friend & fundraiser helps us continue to provide local access to state government through our 60th District Service Office, conveniently located in Downtown Kalamazoo. Brunch supporters make it happen. Special Kudos to our chair, Tracy Hall.



Photography by
Fran Dwight



May 1st was a Grand Night for the Annual 60th DSO Art Hop Stop Old-Fashioned Block Party—Open House!

It was just a phenomenal night together with our neighbors as the entire 300 block of N. Burdick street was closed down and several of our neighboring businesses joined us.

The list included **Viridis Landscape Design, the Rickman House, Mr. President Restaurant, Trident Realty & the Reverence Home Health & Hospice, a service of Borgess Hospital.**

We were also registered as an **ART HOP** stop, with the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo. Our featured artists were members of the **AP Studio Art Program at Loy Norrix High School.** These very talented artists

are students of LNHS instructor, **Cindy Vanlieu.**

Providing the neighborhood with musical entertainment for the evening were **Lorraine Caron & Tom Duffield** who were the featured musicians at the **Rickman House & DJ Aron Michael @aronmichealkzoo**, with street sounds.

A special, special thanks to **Barb Miller** who delighted us with her personal catering services! Such yummy treats.

What a great night!



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Dedicated to 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.

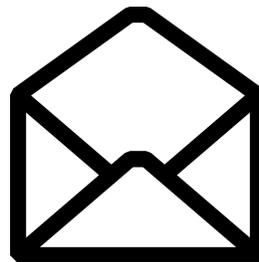
Aug 14th is Mary Brown's 80th Birthday Party

@ 5-7 pm @ 1624 Grand Avenue

Please see the registration insert for all the details.



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