The answer to their prayer for relief and assistance came by way of The Max & Marjorie Fisher Foundation.

In February of 2009 The Max & Marjorie Fisher Foundation in partnership with Gleaners Food Bank, generously and graciously gifted the Brightmoor community with a grant to better address the food shortage issues which run rapid throughout our community. The Brightmoor neighborhood has inadequate sources of nutritious food to meet the needs of its residents, qualifying it as a “food desert” community.

As a result of The Fisher Foundation’s Grant and with significant assistance from the Brightmoor Alliance and Gleaners Food Bank, a coalition of 12 food service providers met in May of 2009 to discuss how each member could build their capacity to be more effective in addressing the food insecurity issues in the community. After a few months of meetings, they decided to name themselves the Brightmoor Food Pantry Alliance.

In this Issue: TCDC’s Summer Youth Program

The Brightmoor Alliance: Celebrating 10 Years of Renewal, Restoration and Rejuvenation!
Burt Elementary School receives a Good Neighbourhoods Community Connections Grant

As a volunteer, Ms. Tina Nelson, started the Bobcats Corner Newsletter and applied and won a grant to start an after-school journalism program. The Bobcats Corner Newsletter is a project that will consist of 4th – 6th grade Thomas Burt Elementary students. The students will create a theme for each monthly news edition. They will create the stories through both written work and pictures. They will meet twice a week for two hours after school during the months of February – June of 2010. The final product will be a well organized newspaper distributed to the entire school body and electronically distributed to school board members and community leaders within the Brightmoor community.

Again, last school year working as a volunteer, Ms. Nelson successfully completed Burt’s Journalism program with 15 students. Each month, they wrote and submitted assigned articles to be published. Students met all monthly deadline requirements. Due to an overwhelming request, we also published a memory book at the end of the school year. Although, this was Ms. Nelson’s first time working on this type of project, her experience from her own graphics company is her strength with layout, organization and graphics.

This year’s goal is to get students more involved with the technical aspects of journalism and what it’s like to be part of a newsroom. This is what sparked her to apply for the grant. The entire school is excited about the new after-school program and is ready to participate. Starting with a small group of 18, Ms. Nelson is looking forward to how this program will progress. She hopes this program will be an inspiration to start other J-School programs throughout other DPS Elementary schools.

Thank you to the SKILLMAN FOUNDATION for their tremendous investment in the Brightmoor Community.

It’s Brightmoor Alliance's 10 Year Anniversary!
Save the Dates
May Day Parade and Celebration is May 15th
Brightmoor Week is May 16th -22nd
Unity in the Community Event is May 20th , place TBD

Making a Difference... Pistons Care Telethon & Feed the Children along with the Brightmoor Alliance serve the Brightmoor Community

As the sun came over the horizon, you could see the anticipation of the volunteers as the Feed the Children trucks came down the highway for all to see...cars had already started to form... the day got off to a fast start and never slowed down. No one could be prouder of the Brightmoor Community than the residents themselves that day, everyone worked together in a cohesive spirit that could only speak to what Detroit is all about reaching out and helping someone, the Hope of a brighter tomorrow.

Through the generosity of the Pistons Care Telethon & Feed the Children,
2000 families from northwest Detroit and the Brightmoor Community were provided with food, personal care items and Avon products donated so graciously from the Avon Company during the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Over 150 volunteers made up of the residents, churches, community organizations and staff from the Pistons Care Telethon and Feed the Children came together in an historic gathering to provide support for this tremendous undertaking. During these trying economic times, Detroit has been hit hard, but through it all, the strength, hope, heart and soul of the citizens of Metro Detroit seems to always rise above it all. We have seen more than most but we remain committed to our city and a better tomorrow.

What a beautiful site it was to see people from all walks of life working shoulder to shoulder, side by side in a show of humility for their brothers and sisters in need. We’d like to take the time to thank Pistons Care Telethon, Feed the Children, God Land Unity at 22450 Schoolcraft Rd in Detroit, for hosting the event, and all of the residents, volunteers, churches and organizations that gave so generously of their time.

TCDC Gives Brightmoor Youth Employment Opportunities

The 2008 youth joblessness rate in Detroit was estimated to be 82%. There are over 70,000 young people ages 14-18 enrolled in the Detroit Public school system. The lack of employment opportunities is devastating to high-school age youth in Detroit as it decreases opportunities to learn skills, develop work ethics, learn team work, and explore options for future careers. Without the possibility of a bright future, many Detroit young people, particularly boys, are dropping out of school and going down a hopeless path.

Trinity Community Development’s “Learn and Earn Fellowship program” was established to equip young people (ages 14 - 24) with critical skills in four key learning areas: Green Technology, Math, Leadership Training and Media Technology.

TCDC enrolled sixty-two (62) youth, hired four (4) instructors, four (4) instructor assistants, one (1) lead assistant, one (1) coordinator and one (1) director to carry out this endeavor.

Green Technology- Youth learned the basics of Green Technology from Mr. Jeffrey Smiley an awarding winning science teacher in the Detroit Public School System. Among many things, using sunlight verses micro waves, students learned to prepare soil by testing, use soil-less plant growing techniques and modify conditions to be able to detect soil or water contamination based upon observation.

Leadership Curriculum - Youth learned about conflict resolution, Peer Pressure, Community Responsibility, Dress and Appearance, Interpersonal Communication, and Banking through a computer interactive leadership curriculum. Their end of class project consisted of creating a homework blog: comefreeyourmind.blogspot.com.

Math- Youth learned practical approach to math in a non-threatening, intimate environment. They were instructed how to grasp the four basic operations on decimals, fractions and signed numbers.

Media- Youth participated in a summer long media project where they were instructed in an advanced media class by an award winning videographer Montez Miller. Students learned the technical aspects of editing, camera, lighting sound and production.

Each class instructor preformed a pre and post test to establish a baseline of knowledge in the various subjects thought. I am pleased to report that the students increased their knowledge in all subject matter by at least 75%!

In addition, the students received instruction from the staff of Bank of America as it relates to the important of saving and money investment. They were also instructed from the staff of DTE energy as it relates to energy savings and weatherization techniques.

As a result, an emerging Scholars program was formed which encourages students to develop good study skills and the tutors assist the youth with the homework and special class assignments. In an effort to ensure success, the tutors have made contact with all of the teachers of the youth and have received weekly progress reports from the teachers for each student enrolled in the program.
The Fisher Foundation Grant has been instrumental in building the capacity of the food providers to serve their clients by: purchasing equipment for their pantry spaces ranging from shelving to humidifiers to freezers to ovens to office equipment; buying additional food in the form of PantryPaks, and allowing the providers to purchase personal care products and KidSnack bags.

The twelve members collaborative consists of Leland Community Affairs, Inc (Leland Baptist Church), Detroit Community School, City Mission, Detroit Northwest Seventh Day Adventist, Detroit Northwest Baptist Church, St. Christine, Christ Church Redford, Citadel of Praise, Salvation Army, The Urban Link (Rosedale Park Baptist Church and Family Life Center), Brightmoor Community Center, and Trinity CDC (Mt. Vernon Baptist Church).