

# Monthly Newsletter

MOTHER TERESA HOUSE



August 2026



## Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

Congratulations to Mother Teresa House for receiving the Lansing State Journal Community Choice Award for Hospice care! An extreme honor we share with our staff, volunteers, guests and families. Our exceptional care would not be possible without our loving and compassionate caregivers. Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and provide support for Mother Teresa House and our mission to serve the terminally ill.

### Hospice



WINNER

MOTHER TERESA HOUSE

*MTA Staff*

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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Mother Teresa  
House Updates

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Staff Spotlight

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Our Next  
Informational  
Meeting and  
Training

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Stories of Impact

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How can you  
help?

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# Mother Teresa House Updates

## Care Manager Update:

Josh LaFave's last day at Mother Teresa House was on July 8<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank Josh for his service and support in this role.



*Please welcome our new volunteers,  
**Brandon LeBlanc and Ada Johnson**  
to Mother Teresa House!*



**Zimmer Rd House**

Construction continues at the Zimmer Rd location and is progressing as planned. We look forward to sharing more updates, pictures and a grand opening date towards the end of August.

## Staff Spotlight

Help us welcome a new addition to the family of our Service Coordinator, Sophia!



Our Service Coordinator, Sophia Morales, recently welcomed a new member to her family, Peter Kolbe Morales, on 7/2/2026.

*Congratulations to the Morales family!*



**August 2026**

## Training

Invite your friends to our upcoming tour and volunteer informational meeting! We will talk about what being a caregiver entails and provide training on needed skills at our upcoming practical skills training. Here are the details:

- **Informational Meeting:**

Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-2:30p

- **Skills Training:**

Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 10a-2p

- Location: 308 N. Walnut St, Lansing
- Please fill out application on the website before attending. Training is tentative on sufficient sign

[www.motherteresahouse.org/  
how-can-i-help/volunteer/](http://www.motherteresahouse.org/how-can-i-help/volunteer/)



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## Stories of Impact:

### This month's story is about how Mother Teresa House impacted the family of our guest Ron

In January of 2026, my father (Ron) transferred, after an extended stay at Munson Healthcare Grayling Hospital, to Mother Teresa House in Lansing, Michigan. It was clear he needed end of life (comfort) care, and their hospice house was highly recommended. Mother Teresa House was a perfect place for my dad, as he was a devout Catholic. Daily, a Mother Teresa House volunteer would visit residence to pray with them, their family, and friends.



My Dad had a beautiful, calm, and private room, with a serene and welcoming view. His room provided comfortability, plenty of seating for loved ones, and seating outside of the room for privacy and reflection. Our family could feel that my dad was at peace as soon as he arrived at Mother Teresa House.

The Care Manager, Josh LaFave, and the Executive Director, Bianca Bekke, instrumentally guided our amazing experience with Mother Teresa House. Prior to admission, Josh communicated extensively with me and my family by explaining how Mother Teresa House operates. He helped set up communication with the Hospice staff.

Mother Teresa House's staff and volunteers were absolutely amazing! Everyone was kind, attentive, and willing to offer help when it was needed. Consistently, staff and volunteers followed every protocol with regards to medication, personal care, and scheduling mealtimes. Importantly, everyone at Mother Teresa House went above and beyond to help with family requests (e.g., seating, privacy, and daily records of his care). At times, it was a blessing to be able to utilize the house kitchen to prepare food while we spent time with my father.

My stepmother, Lynn, kept vigil at my dad's bedside. She was able to spend a couple nights there in his room with him, because she lived two hours away in Prudenville, Michigan. We will be forever grateful to Josh, Bianca, and everyone at Mother Teresa House for allowing Lynn to stay during my dad's time there.

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel to everyone who assisted my dad and our family during his final days. This phenomenal hospice home relies predominantly on donations. The sense of community one feels as soon as they enter the home is palpable.

Tim & Family

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# You can help us make a difference!

## Donations

These donations will be used in our daily care for our current guests. By making a donation, this will allow us to continue to provide personal, around-the-clock care to those in the greatest need at no cost. Thank you for your generosity!

We are currently in need of...

- Cooler (pull behind w/ wheels)
- Meijer gift cards for groceries
- Fitted sheets for a twin bed
- 2 crockpots
- Birdfeeder

## Donate your time!

We are always looking for hands-on caregivers to provide loving, comforting care to our guests.

For more information come to our next orientation (see page 2) or reach out to Sophia at [serving@motherteresahouse.org](mailto:serving@motherteresahouse.org)



## Join our Prayer Team!

Want to help, but don't have the time or resources? Help us through prayer! Prayer is the bedrock of our ministry. For more information about our Prayer Team or to join please

visit our website at <https://motherteresahouse.org/how-can-i-help/volunteer/> and scroll down to the "Prayer Team" section. We appreciate all prayers we receive.

*Thank you for reading!*

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| MOTHER TERESA HOUSE                                                      | 517-484-5494                        |
| <a href="http://www.motherteresahouse.org">www.motherteresahouse.org</a> | P.O. Box 13004<br>Lansing, MI 48901 |

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# August Prayer Intentions

2026

| SUNDAY                         | MONDAY                                   | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | WEDNESDAY                                       | THURSDAY            | FRIDAY                     | SATURDAY            |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
|                                |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                 |                     |                            | 1<br>Bianca Bekke   |
| 2<br>Guest Admissions          | 3<br>Patti Simon                         | 4<br>Sophia Morales                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 5<br>Michelle Sommer                            | 6<br>Gracie Gifford | 7<br>Stella Landolt        | 8<br>Current Guests |
| 9<br>Fundraising               | 10<br>Angel Bradley                      | 11<br>Phil Mondro                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 12<br>Michael MacLaren                          | 13<br>Alan Olsen    | 14<br>Ryan Timmer          | 15<br>Lauren Dunn   |
| 16<br>Household<br>Maintenance | 17<br>Alexis<br>Talamantez-<br>Alamanzar | 18<br>Stephanie<br>Applebee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 19<br>Sister Elizabeth<br>Mary<br>Przedwojewski | 20<br>Chris Bourque | 21<br>Mary Van<br>Poppelen | 22<br>Angie Moody   |
| 23<br>Financial Donors         | 24<br>Linda Pung                         | 25<br>Brooklynn Baelum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 26<br>Kasey Bandy                               | 27<br>Alyssa Benit  | 28<br>Cindy Boyton         | 29<br>Mary Brown    |
| 30<br>New Volunteers           | 31<br>Vickie Candy                       | <p>Welcome to our prayer intentions calendar. The idea of this is that every day there is either a staff member, board member, volunteer, or prayer intention for Mother Teresa House that you can join us in praying for. The prayer doesn't have to be long, you can do a personalized prayer if you know the person, or simply ask God to work in and through them.</p> |                                                 |                     |                            |                     |