Over the past three decades, Jelanie Bush has volunteered more than 13,000 hours of service to TrueNorth and Camp Newaygo. Such selfless efforts make her a very deserving recipient as Senior Volunteer of the Year for the 2019 Governor’s Service Awards. She is being honored September 5 in Detroit.

Jelanie first got involved with TrueNorth through the Camp Confidence summer program as a new elementary school teacher in Newaygo. That began her long and mutually fulfilling relationship with our organization, including 27 years on the TrueNorth Board of Directors.

“Even then, it was obvious that a lot of good things were being done in the right way by people you wanted to spend time with,” Jelanie says of her early impressions of TrueNorth.

With Camp Newaygo’s 1996 donation by its alumni to TrueNorth, she became Camp’s liaison for the TrueNorth Board and started volunteering there.

To date, Jelanie has contributed her time and talents to 52 TrueNorth programs, including Children’s Christmas Programs, the Camp Newaygo Advisory Board, Mud Bowl Mania, and working in the kitchen for events from The Shindig fundraising to the Senior Thanksgiving Luncheons.

Approaching 70 years old, the retiree volunteers now more than ever with TrueNorth at over 400 hours annually.

“My mantra lately has just become: ‘The world is a great place, but there’s still a lot that needs to be done.’” Jelanie says. “Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something.”

TrueNorth Supporter Jelanie Bush Wins Governor’s Service Award

How to Contact TrueNorth

6308 S. Warner Avenue
Fremont, MI 49412

phone: 231.924.0641
fax: 231.924.5594
www.truenorthservices.org

Office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Many programs and services occur after hours, on weekends and off site.

Cómo contactar TrueNorth

Su bienestar es principal interés de TrueNorth, y por eso nos esforzamos por ofrecer programas y servicios que afectan su calidad de vida en general. Los empleados y los voluntarios de TrueNorth a ofrecer soluciones en las áreas del abrigo, hambre, autosuficiencia de la familia, y el desarrollo de la juventud.

Llama 231.924.0641 para obtener más información con respecto a un programa o un servicio.

The Shout Out Corner!

TrueNorth Food Programs received $4,580 in hunger relief through Meijer’s Simply Give food pantry donation program. Customers of the new Fremont Meijer store bought $10 Simply Give donation cards during the spring campaign through June 22, with proceeds going to the TrueNorth Food Pantry for clients to use for food-only purchases at Meijer. Most of the Simply Give contribution came through other Meijer fundraising efforts, including the 2019 Meijer LPGA Classic in mid-June in Grand Rapids.
Summer Review

It was a summer of glorious adventures, friendships, and growth for campers attending Camp Newaygo’s Girls’ Resident Camp and Co-Ed Day Camp. The Girls’ Resident Camp drew 731 campers for its season, which ended August 3. The Co-Ed Day Camp hosted 236 boys and girls for the summer, which ran through August 16.

Parks in Focus took 14 Newaygo County middle and high schoolers — accompanied by four adult volunteers — on a six-day August trip to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. Parks in Focus is offered through a partnership between TrueMentors and The Udall Foundation’s Parks in Focus program; and is funded, in part, by a grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

We partnered with Nestlé Gerber for the Nestlé Cares Day of Service. In working with us to help communities fight hunger, 11 Nestlé Gerber volunteers pitched in with the Feeding America West Michigan Mobile Food Pantry’s visit to the TrueNorth Service Center in Fremont on July 31.

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Month

No one should have to worry about whether they will have food on their plate or a roof over their head. But the reality is hunger and homelessness are problems that affect far too many people in our community.

To raise public consciousness, TrueNorth is taking part in Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Month in November. National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week is November 16 to 24. You can help by volunteering, donating, and supporting our efforts to end hunger and homelessness. Help us fight food insecurity, provide everyone a place to call home, and end poverty.

There were 18,881 assists of adults and children in 2018 by TrueNorth Food Programs, which helped provide nourishment and nutrition to their households.

As the Michigan State Housing Development Authority-designated housing resource agency for Newaygo, Lake, and Mason counties, TrueNorth Community Services worked with 1,214 adults and children from 457 households in 2018. They needed our help finding shelter, food, resources, comfort and support.

Coats for Kids (& Adults)
The Coats for Kids (& Adults) distribution is Saturday, November 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at the TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue in Fremont. The Coats for Kids (& Adults) coats collection is October 1-28 at sites across Newaygo County. Any child or adult living or attending school in Newaygo County is eligible.

There is no registration, but parents and guardians must show identification and each person in a household must be present at the November 2 distribution event for a coat.

For more details, call 231.924.0641, ext. 119, or e-mail at mvoyt@truenorthservices.org.

Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon
Senior citizens from Newaygo County can enjoy a community Thanksgiving meal and program on Wednesday, November 13, at the TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue in Fremont. The Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon has seatings at 11 a.m. (reserved for the Newaygo County Commission on Aging) and 1 p.m. (open to the public). Please RSVP to attend by November 1.

To RSVP or for more details, contact Jennifer Zimmerman at jzimmerman@truenorthservices.org or 231.924.0641, ext. 151.

Senior Harvest Baskets
Friday, November 15, brings delivery of Senior Harvest Baskets to homes across Newaygo County. The baskets include donated food and personal care items for senior citizens in need. The baskets are sponsored, in part, by Community Home Health Care and CommunityPACE.

Donations can be dropped off at the TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue in Fremont, from October 1 through November 1. Applications for the program are available October 1 and are due by November 1. For more details, call 231.924.0641, ext. 151, or e-mail at jzimmerman@truenorthservices.org.
TrueNorth Community Services believes every individual in Newaygo County should have food, heat, safe and affordable housing and other basic necessities.

With Seniors in Mind

TrueNorth offers programs and services tailored to fit the needs of area senior adults:

- LifeLink (personal emergency-response system)
- MedReady (medication-dispensing system)
- Senior Harvest Baskets
- Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon

For more information, visit truenorthservices.org or call 231.924.0641.

LifeLink

The LifeLink personal emergency response system is a service for people subject to sudden, life-threatening changes in their medical condition. The program provides an easy-to-use system that allows its subscribers to summon professional, medical help in the event of an emergency.

The LifeLink program also offers the MedReady medication dispensing system, which helps individuals with medication management. For more information, contact Jennifer Zimmerman at 231.924.0641, ext. 151, or e-mail at jzimmerman@truenorthservices.org.

Housing Crisis and Homeless Prevention Services

TrueNorth’s Housing Crisis and Homeless Prevention Services mean shelter and rental assistance and support for households experiencing or at risk of homelessness:

- Emergency shelter for individuals and families
- Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) application assistance
- Landlord/tenant advocacy
- Pathways to Achieving Self-Sufficiency (PASS) rent assistance and support for young adults
- Permanent housing through project-based vouchers at eight family housing units
- Rental assistance and supportive services for households experiencing homelessness
- Eviction prevention and short-term rental assistance to help low-income households obtain or maintain rental housing

For more information, visit truenorthservices.org or call 231.924.0641.

Food Programs

TrueNorth Community Services’ food programs include:

- TrueNorth Food Pantry
- Food staples program
- Feeding America West Michigan mobile food pantry
- Double Up Food Bucks

For more information, visit us online at www.truenorthservices.org/Assistance/Food-Medical-Programs/ or call 231.924.0641.

Feeding America West Michigan Mobile Food Pantry

What: Food distribution for anyone in need, sponsored by the Fremont Area Community Foundation

Where: TrueNorth Service Center parking lot, 6308 S. Warner Avenue, Fremont, MI 49412

When: 10 a.m. last Wednesday of the month — September 25, October 31, and November 27

Other info: Registration is at 9 a.m.; bring a container holding up to 50 pounds; contact Jennifer Zimmerman at 231.924.0641, ext. 151, or e-mail at jzimmerman@truenorthservices.org.

Empty Bowls

Eliminating food insecurity in Newaygo County is what’s targeted by the 20th annual TrueNorth Empty Bowls Soup Luncheons.

What: Annual fundraising event to raise money for TrueNorth Food Programs

When: October 3 and 4, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Where: October 3 at TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue, Fremont, MI 49412; October 4 at Newaygo County Commission on Aging, 93 S. Gibbs Street, White Cloud, MI 49349

Other info: Tickets are $20 apiece or $50 for a table of eight, and are available in advance at TrueNorth; online at www.truenorthservices.org/Donate-Now/Donate/emptybowls; at the door at the event; or by calling Donna Hren at 231.924.0641, ext. 144. Event sponsorships are $250, $500 and $1,000; for details, contact Mark Kraus at 231.924.0641, ext. 161. For other event information, contact Jennifer Zimmerman at 231.924.0641, ext. 151, or e-mail her at jzimmerman@truenorthservices.org.

Services for Children

TrueNorth Community Services’ services for children include:

- Children’s car seats
- Children’s Christmas Programs & Toys for Tots
- Coats for Kids (& Adults)
- Tools for School

For more information, visit truenorthservices.org or call 231.924.0641, ext. 119.

Family Services

TrueNorth Community Services’ programs and services for families include:

- Circles Newaygo County
- Client advocacy, counseling and referral
- Family emergency needs
- Life skills and self-sufficiency
- Parenting education

For more information, visit truenorthservices.org or call 231.924.0641.

Circles Newaygo County is a program needing the help of many volunteers. Circles transforms entire communities by mobilizing volunteers, community leaders, and organizations to partner with families in need. Circles meetings are held at Church of the Living Christ, 605 Hemlock Street, Fremont, MI 49412. To volunteer or for more information, call 231.924.0641, ext. 220; e-mail at circles@truenorthservices.org; or visit online at www.truenorthservices.org/Circles-Newaygo-County/.

Center for Nonprofit Housing

The Center for Nonprofit Housing’s reach expands beyond housing, also providing free one-on-one guidance for anyone wanting to improve their financial well-being.

Programs and services

- Emergency home repairs
- Foreclosure prevention
- Home buyer education and counseling
- Senior housing

Counselors from the Center for Nonprofit Housing (CNH) can help with mortgage readiness and provide ongoing coaching and support. CNH works to help homeowners facing a crisis stay in their homes by offering resources to prevent foreclosure and make the critical repairs necessary to ensure health and safety. For details, visit http://cnhousing.org; call 231.924.0641, ext. 129; or e-mail at info@cnhousing.org.

emPower Heat and Energy Assistance

TrueNorth Community Services’ emPower heat and energy assistance program works with you, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and your utility and/or fuel provider(s) to help pay your heat-related energy bills while you strive to become self-sufficient.

For more information, visit https://tnempower.org or call 231.355.5880.

Ridge Specialties

Ridge Specialties is “catering for a cause” for businesses, parties, anniversaries, weddings, graduations and more, offering full-service catering prepared by our executive chef, Whitney Saylor, at Camp Newaygo in Newaygo and off-site.

Get options for your special event. For pricing and menus, visit online at https://campnewaygo.org/ridge-catering/; call 231.652.1184; or e-mail at csmalligan@campnewaygo.org.
TrueNorth Youth Development programs ensure that youth thrive. Through youth leadership development, family engagement, enhanced social/educational outcomes, and support of positive developmental assets, we enable our youth to reach their full potential.

In other words, that means empowering youth to:
- Grow up (life-shaping character assets)
- Reach out (healthy relationships)
- Give back (societally-responsible civic involvement)

**TrueMentors**

TrueMentors believes that providing kids with supportive adult role models as well as a safe place, emotional support, and new experiences will empower them to grow into their best selves.

**Programs and services**
- TrueMentors: Community-based, one-on-one mentoring; after-school mentoring
- TrueBlue Academy: After-school small group mentoring in Newaygo Public Schools
- Parks in Focus: A group-based, outdoors education mentoring program

**TrueBlue Academy**
TrueBlue Academy is a mentoring program for middle school and high school students in Newaygo Public Schools. TrueBlue helps young people discover who they are, cultivate abilities to shape their own lives and learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them. Matches start in September, meet after school from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday at Newaygo Middle School, with a guided mentoring program. Fill out a mentor application today to start the process of making a difference in a young person’s life. The program is a partnership with the Newaygo Police Department and Newaygo Public Schools.

**Become a TrueMentor**
What: Share everyday activities as well as exciting new adventures with a child Who: Individuals or couples who enjoy working with children When: As your schedule allows; meeting about eight hours a month Why: To provide a child with a role model and emotional support so their self-confidence can flourish.
How: Contact TrueMentors at 231.924.0641, ext. 109, e-mail at truementors@truementors.org; or visit online truenorthservices.org/Youth-Programs/TrueMentors

**Featured Child**
Rilie is a fun-loving 12-year-old who enjoys playing sports, as well as joking around and hanging out with her friends. Rilie is very sweet and caring. Her grandmother would like Rilie to have a mentor because Rilie needs another person she can open up to about her feelings. She would like a mentor who will believe in her and encourage her to succeed.

If you think you might be a good fit for Rilie or if you are interested in learning more about TrueMentors, contact us at 231.924.0641, ext. 109, or e-mail at truementors@truementors.org.

**Krop for Kids**
What: An all-day scrapbooking event to benefit TrueMentors. If you register by October 31, the cost is $30 per person; registration is $35 after that date. Lunch, dinner, and snacks are provided. Professional massages, vendors, and raffle prizes are available for an additional cost.
When: November 9, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Where: Camp Newaygo, 5333 S. Centerline Road, Newaygo
How: Register at www.truenorthservices.org/kropforkids; for more information, contact Lisa Daniell at 231.924.0641, ext. 110, or e-mail at ldaniell@truementors.org

**Camp Newaygo**
Camp Newaygo is a year-round lodges, conference and retreat center — a genuine destination that is someplace special. Our 93-year-old, 104-acre camp rests on Pickerel Lake, which is snuggled in the Manistee National Forest near Newaygo.

**Programs and services**
- Girls’ Resident Camp
- Co-ed Day Camp
- Adventure-based programs
- Community events
- Family camp programs
- G3 — Get outside! Get environmental! Go green!
- Private parties

- School camp programs
- Speak Up! (Eighth grade philanthropy)
- Team-building and challenge initiatives
- Weddings, conferences, meetings, parties and retreats
- Wetlands education
- Women’s challenge and adventure programs
- Youth leadership development

For more details, visit https://campnewaygo.org/; call 231.652.1184; or e-mail at campbiz@campnewaygo.org

**Outdoor and Environmental Education**
What: Learn in the outdoors with Camp Newaygo
When: Schools, youth groups, and adult organizations
Where: Camp Newaygo, 5333 S. Centerline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337
Cost: Starting as low as $13 per student
Other info: Camp Newaygo is a great place to learn and enjoy the outdoors with a spaghnum bog, woods on the edge of the Manistee National Forest, and the surroundings of a chain of four lakes. Our program team works with your group to create a great outing and can tailor your experience to meet grade-level science standards. Contact Maddi Green at 231.652.1184 or e-mail at her amgreen@campnewaygo.org for more information.

**Family Programs**
Our family programs continue our strong commitment to strengthening the bond of families. The activities and camps are designed to bring family members together and create memorable experiences. We provide activities, including water skiing, archery, canoeing, evening programs and a wetland trail for leisurely strolls. Adults can relax because all meals are home-cooked by Ridge Specialties staff. For more details, visit campnewaygo.org or call 231.652.1184

**Community Events**
Embrace autumn with these fun and varied events at Camp Newaygo, which is located at 5333 S. Centerline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337

**Fall Girlfriends’ Getaway**
What: A fantastic, all-inclusive women’s weekend on the shores of Pickerel Lake
When: October 4-6
Where: Camp Newaygo, 5333 S. Centerline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337
Cost: $205 for all programs, meals and lodging.
Other info: Registration includes all programs, meals, and dorm-style lodging. Additional add-ons include pampering services, the zipline canopy tour, and private lodging. A guided fly-fishing excursion on the Muskegon River is also being offered for an additional charge. Visit campnewaygo.org/girlfriends-get-a-way/ or call 231.652.1184 for more information.

**Halloween weekend**
What: All of your Halloween and fall favorites in one place!
When: October 25, 4-7 p.m.; October 26-27, 1-5 p.m.
Where: Camp Newaygo, 5333 S. Centerline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337
Cost: $9 per person, 5/$25 for a family of four
Other info: Activities include pumpkin painting, cider pressing, build-your-own scarecrow, trolley rides, and much more! No registration required; more information at: https://campnewaygo.org/halloweenweekend

**Thanksgiving Bake Sale**
What: Bring something unique from Ridge Specialties to your holiday gathering
When: A flyer of this year’s offerings will be posted at the beginning of November at https://campnewaygo.org/community-events/
Where: Camp Newaygo, 5333 S. Centerline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337
Cost: Items start at $1
Other info: Orders can be made by calling 231.652.1184 or e-mail at campbiz@campnewaygo.org

**Fall Volunteer Day**
What: Get outside and enjoy camp while helping get things ready for the winter
When: November 9, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Camp Newaygo, 5333 S. Centerline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337
Other info: Lunch included; contact Scott at slakin@campnewaygo.org to RSVP
Cultural Enrichment

The arts play a central role in the quality of life for people of all ages and backgrounds. TrueNorth’s Cultural Enrichment programs enhance local schools’ arts programs and provide Newaygo County families with affordable, accessible arts opportunities they would not otherwise experience.

A.R.T.S. (Artists Reaching & Teaching Students) coordinates the Art-In
Hesperia Middle/High School cafeteria, 96 S. Division Street, Hesperia, MI
Call 231.924.0641, ext. 115 or ext. 120
Contact Site Manager at 231.689.2181, ext. 3328
Patricia St. Clair Elementary School, 96 S. Division Street, Hesperia, MI
g
Contact Site Manager at 231.854.6615, ext. 8623
White Cloud Junior/Senior High School, Room 123, 555 E. Wilcox Avenue,
Contact Site Manager at 231.689.2306
The cost to attend is $20 for the school year.
in partnership with the
Call 231.924.0641, ext. 115 or ext. 120
White Cloud Elementary School, 585 E. Pine Hill Avenue, White Cloud, MI
Baldwin Jr/Sr High School, 525 W. Fourth Street, Baldwin, MI 49304
is
TrueNorth Service Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 6308 S. Warner Avenue,
The program is offered free of charge to students
from qualifying low-income households.

PROJECT FOCUS

Baldwin Community Schools
Baldwin Elementary School
Who: First- through fourth-grade students
Where: Baldwin Elementary School, 525 W. Fourth Street, Baldwin, MI 49304
When: Monday-Thursday afternoons; times to be determined
More info: Call 231.924.0641, ext. 115 or ext. 120

Baldwin Junior/Senior High School
Who: Fifth- through eighth-grade students
Where: Baldwin Jr/Sr High School, 525 W. Fourth Street, Baldwin, MI 49304
When: Monday-Thursday afternoons; times to be determined
More info: Call 231.924.0641, ext. 115 or ext. 120

Holton Public Schools
Holton Elementary School
Who: First- through fourth-grade students
Where: Holton Elementary School, 6245 Syers Road, Holton, MI 49425
When: Monday-Thursday afternoons; times to be determined
More info: Call 231.924.0641, ext. 115 or ext. 120

Holton Middle School
Who: Fifth- through eighth-grade students
Where: Holton Middle School, 6477 Syers Road, Holton, MI 49425
When: Monday-Thursday afternoons; times to be determined
More info: Call 231.924.0641, ext. 115 or ext. 120

Thank You to the Faith Community

TrueNorth Community Services would like to thank the following churches for their support from February 2019 through April 2019:

Bramon
Amazing Grace Acres Church
Fremont
All Saints Catholic Church
Church of the Living Christ
First Congregational Church
First Reformed Church
Fremont Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Fremont United Methodist Church
Fremont Wesleyan Church
Fremont Young Life
Reederer Lutheran Church
Reeman Christian Reformed Church
Saint Michael Catholic Church
Second Christian Reformed Church
Trinity Christian Reformed Church
Newaygo
Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ
Newaygo United Methodist Church
Resonate Church
White Cloud
Glory of The Latter House Ministries

“And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase.”
—Psalm 107:37
Make a Difference

The Volunteer Resource Center of Newaygo County enhances the quality of life in Newaygo County by promoting and supporting volunteerism. We are conveners for the community, catalysts for social action, and key local resources for volunteer involvement. We have a varied list of volunteer opportunities available, and matching your interests and skills is a service that we are pleased to provide.

The Volunteer Resource Center of Newaygo County works to help local organizations with their volunteer needs. Local volunteer opportunities are posted online at www.newaygovolunteer.org. If your agency needs volunteers or if you would like to join the Newaygo County Volunteer Coordinators’ Committee, contact Lisa Daniell at 231.924.0641, ext. 110, or e-mail ldaniell@truenorthservices.org.

To volunteer for any opportunities at TrueNorth, contact Mike Voyt at 231.924.0641, ext. 119, or e-mail mvoyt@truenorthservices.org

TrueNorth Food Programs

Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon
What: Cook and/or serve a homemade Thanksgiving meal for senior citizens
Where: TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue, Fremont MI 49412
When: Cook on November 12 or serve a meal on November 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue, Fremont MI 49412

Senior Harvest Baskets
What: Deliver harvest baskets to seniors in their homes, with routes provided and personal vehicles used; and assemble harvest baskets
When: Morning of November 15 for deliveries; and/or November 14 for baskets’ assembly
Where: TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue, Fremont MI 49412; and deliveries across Newaygo County

Camp Newaygo
If you are interested in any opportunities listed, have a skill to offer, or would like to arrange a volunteering outing for your organization, contact Scott at 231.652.1184, slakin@campnewaygo.org or visit campnewaygo.org/ volunteer. Camp Newaygo is located at 5333 S. Centerline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337.

Outdoor Education Instructors
What: Learn about all of the great natural resources around Camp Newaygo and help young people love the great outdoors; receive comprehensive training from our Outdoor Education Program Director and assist with teaching school groups this fall
When: Flexible schedule, various weekdays in September and October

Fall Volunteer Day
What: After a summer and fall full of fun, it will be time to get Camp ready for programs and events all winter; volunteers are needed to help rake leaves, deep clean indoors, and help close seasonal buildings
When: November 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; lunch is provided

Halloweekend
What: If you love Halloween, then this volunteer opportunity is for you! Help local families enjoy this not-too-spooky fall festival by assisting with pumpkin painting, spooky cabin tours, and much more
When: October 25-27

Ropes Course
What: You can help run our zipline, rockwall, and high ropes elements; training on operation of our ropes course is provided
When: Public zipline weekends and community groups throughout the fall

Gardening
What: Help maintain Camp Newaygo’s beautiful landscape and rain gardens
When: Throughout the fall to prepare flower beds for winter

Ridge Specialties Events
What: Organizations and individuals are invited to serve as wait staff for catered events and support our “catering with for a cause;” all catering volunteers are trained and supported by our great staff, with no experience required
When: Weekend and weekday groups throughout the fall

Circles Newaygo County
Circles Newaygo County needs the help of many volunteers. Circles transforms entire communities by mobilizing volunteers, community leaders, and organizations to partner with families in need. Circles meetings are held at Church of the Living Christ, 605 Hemlock Street, Fremont, MI 49412. To volunteer or for more information, call 231.924.0641, ext. 220, or e-mail circles@truenorthservices.org.

Circles Ally
What: Are you looking to impact others? Are you eager to share your network? Would you like to join an uplifting community? Join us as we seek to improve lives; apply to become a program volunteer who shares life experiences, provides emotional support, and is a friend to those in need. This is a five-month flexible commitment.

Childcare volunteers
What: If the presence of children makes you smile, come volunteer with the childcare program at Circles. Volunteers are actively involved with youth at the weekly meetings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:10 p.m., hosting programming with provided curriculum. This is a flexible commitment that can fit your schedule.

TrueMentors
TrueMentors
What: Share everyday activities as well as exciting new adventures with a child
Who: Individuals or couples who enjoy working with children
When: As your schedule allows, meeting about 8 hours a month
Why: To provide a child with a role model and emotional support so their self-confidence can flourish
How: To enroll or for more information, contact TrueMentors at 231.924.0641, ext. 109; e-mail at truementors@truenorthservices.com; or visit online www.truenorthservices.org/Youth-Programs/TrueMentors

Other Opportunities
TrueNorth Power Packs
What: Make sure children have enough to eat on weekends by delivering TrueNorth Power Packs to area schools. Drivers come to TrueNorth on Thursdays during the school year, load vehicles with Power Packs, and make deliveries to schools.
When: Thursdays during the school year
Where: TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue, Fremont, MI 49412; and at Newaygo County schools

Coats for Kids (& Adults)
What: Coats for Kids (& Adults) provides children and adults in Newaygo County from low-income households with coats to wear for winter. Volunteers are needed for collection box drop-offs; coats inventory and/or washing; set up of racks; sorting and hanging coats; and for distribution the day of with checking in families and helping them choose coats.
When: Collection takes place from October 1 to 28. Set-up volunteers are needed Friday, November 1, from 9 a.m. to noon. Distribution is Saturday, November 2, from 9 a.m. to noon, with volunteers needed from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: Various dropoff and pickup locations for coats, event set up, and coats distribution is at the TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue, Fremont MI 49412

Children’s Christmas Programs
What: Since 1952, our Children’s Christmas Programs have been providing Newaygo County families from low-income households with assistance during the holiday season. Volunteer duties include picking up, sorting, and organizing gifts beforehand; helping parents and guardians carry gifts; passing out gifts on the days of the event; and assisting with storage and inventory after the event.
When: Toy collection runs November 4 –December 2. Toy distribution runs December 9-12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and December 13 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteers are needed for three- to four-hour shifts (with lunch provided).
Where: Various drop-off and pickup locations for toys; toy distribution takes place at the TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S. Warner Avenue, Fremont MI 49412
Tools for School has delivered backpacks filled with school essentials this fall for more than 1,000-plus kindergarteners through 12th graders from Newaygo County.

Our 16th annual Tools for School Expo drew 735 students — plus parents and guardians — to the TrueNorth Service Center on August 13. The students received new backpacks with school supplies; Family Health Care vision tests and dental exams; haircuts; access to local agencies and programs; and activities that included Camp Newaygo’s Rock Wall, the Fremont Police Department’s bounce house and face painting.

We are thankful to our more than 40 volunteers who helped with the Expo and everyone who volunteered to get us prepared. We appreciate everyone who worked with us, including Family Health Care, the Fremont Police Department, and the 20 local agencies and programs that took part. And a huge thanks to our sponsors: The Gerber Foundation and the Fremont Area Community Foundation.
20th annual
Empty Bowls
Soup Luncheons

October 3 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
TrueNorth Service Center, 6308 S.
Warner Avenue, Fremont

October 4 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Newaygo County Commission on Aging,
93 S. Gibbs Street, White Cloud

Tickets:
$20 each; $150 for table of eight

Call 231.924.0641, ext. 144; or e-mail
dhren@truenorthservices.org; or online
at www.truenorthservices.org; or at
the door

Event sponsorships:
Contact Mark Kraus at
mkraus@truenorthservices.org or
231.924.0641, ext. 161