Faces of THAW: Artiss & Robert Jackson

Mrs. Artiss Jackson and her husband, Robert, have always been there for others when they needed help.

When Mrs. Jackson’s four kids were young, she often cooked extra food at dinner time, in case any neighborhood kids wanted or needed to stay for a hot meal.

Even after her kids were adults, her home was open to grandchildren and kids from their community or church who needed a safe place to stay.

“They rely on us for help.”

Mrs. Jackson explains why they give so much: “My mother told me, ‘never take for granted what you have, because in the blink of an eye, you can have nothing.’ So, whenever someone says they’re in trouble and need some help, why say no?”

When Robert lost his job, he went back to school to get his GED.

They worked hard to keep up with their bills while raising their grandchildren on just one income.

They did the best they could, but it became difficult. They found themselves in the position of needing help.

“Sometimes, you’re making ends meet. And sometimes you’re not making anything meet; you’re just running around in circles.”

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson attended THAW’s Customer Assistance Day at Eastern Market in Detroit. They worked with THAW staff and received help with their high gas bill. It was a huge relief to them.

“All I could do was cry, because we didn’t know what bill we weren’t going to pay. We are just grateful.”

Because of THAW, the Jacksons can now focus on raising their grandchildren in their safe, warm and welcoming home.
CEO LETTER

Join our team

It warms my heart when I hear about the selfless actions of everyday people. People who are stepping up to help their neighbors, friends, and community when needed. The Jacksons step up by giving children a hot meal and a roof over their heads. Pastor Glass steps up as a runner and board member whose efforts help keep families warm in the winter. Our donors step up by generously supporting our programs that stabilize and empower families to keep them healthy, safe and warm.

Coming to work every day warms my heart because I am fortunate to work with a team of people that truly champions our mission. Whether THAW staff members are onsite in our office, a school or a community event they work not only to warm the home, they work to strengthen the home.

Robert and Artiss Jackson, Pastor Glass, our generous donors, and our committed staff are all on the same team. I am proud to be part of this team that helps move struggling families to stability and makes homes safe places for children to learn and grow up in.

Please be a part of our team this summer. We need YOU, because better weather doesn’t always mean better circumstances for our families. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an average of 600 people die every year from heat-related illnesses.

People suffering from certain heart and respiratory conditions, or people who need medical equipment to survive are especially vulnerable in extremely warm temperatures and they still need our help during the warm summer months. Together we can continue to make a difference.

Will YOU join our team this summer? Help us keep Michigan families healthy, safe and warm. Please support THAW by donating today.

Warm regards,

Saunteel Jenkins
Chief Executive Officer,
The Heat and Warmth Fund

Consider a grant to THAW from your donor advised fund

Your donor advised fund, also known as a giving account, makes it easy to stabilize and empower Michigan families. Consider making a grant to THAW from your account.

It’s easy to do and you’ll have a greater impact on the thousands of families we serve each year.

Join our team and Race for Warmth

Longtime THAW Board Member, Rev. Dr. Lawrence C. Glass loves to help others and he loves to run. So each year he laces up his running shoes and joins THAW’s Race for Warmth Team for the Detroit Free Press Chemical Bank Marathon.

In the months leading up to the race, he raises awareness and funds to help families stay healthy, safe and warm in their homes.

He literally brings his message all the way from the finish line to his church, El Bethel Baptist Church. After he crosses the finish line, he continues to run straight to the pulpit to preach at morning service! Amazing!

Pastor Glass explains why he runs for THAW:

“I’m doing it for THAW and for those folks that don’t have a warm place to live in the winter time. I hope you can help.”

You can join our team of runners, walkers, and volunteers at the 41st Detroit Free Press Chemical Bank Marathon the weekend of October 20-21. Here’s how you can be a part of the team:

- You can register for one of the six race events and select THAW as your charity freemarathon.com/runner
- You can donate to a runner’s campaign CrowdRise.com/thawdet2018
- You can volunteer on race day: freemarathon.com/volunteer

Want to learn more about participating? Contact Nishaat Killeen at THAW: nkilleen@thawfund.org, (313) 300-1875.

In the Field: Need remains high at April Customer Assistance Day

THAW Board Member Pastor Glass at the starting line of the 2017 Detroit Marathon, getting ready to Race for Warmth to keep Michigan families warm.

The highest turnout for a single Customer Assistance Day this year was not in the middle of winter, it was at the end of April. Families are still struggling to pay their their utilities, and over 700 came through the doors of Eastern Market’s Shed 5 in Detroit.

Throughout the day, customers worked with THAW utility specialists, learned about energy efficiency, met with service organizations and local elected officials.

Customers received an energy efficiency toolkit that includes tools to help them save energy and water at home. But the most important thing they left with was a huge sense of relief – knowing they were no longer in danger of having utilities shut off.

“We always get tears,” Sheri McAboy, THAW’s Outreach Director, said about the event, “Especially from those who have been without power for months.”

Sheri attributed the event’s success to its central location, well-trained staff, community partners, and to YOU. You gave THAW the ability to give so many families that relief.

“When the cold weather goes away, the need doesn’t go away with it. Families still need utilities in the summer, especially the medically vulnerable, many of whom will need electricity to run medical equipment at home.”

THAW continues to assist families throughout the summer, and we need your help. Please make a gift today to keep families healthy, safe, and warm.
Upcoming Events

10th Annual Energy Drive Heating Heroes Golf Outing
Friday, August 10, 2018
Solitude Links Golf Course
For information, contact Roxann: (810) 887-3084, or roxann.zmolik@semcoenergy.com

21st Annual Birdie Fore Warmth Golf Outing
Friday, August 24, 2018
Stonebridge Golf Club
Register online at: thawfund.org/events

Night of Warm Hearts
Friday, November 9, 2018
Save the date!

Ways to Support

Visit thawfund.org to donate online.

Call (313) 963-2656 to donate by phone.

Mail your gift to:
The Heat and Warmth Fund
Department Number 77650
P.O. Box 77000
Detroit, MI 48277-9901

We welcome your gift of appreciated stock. Please ask your broker to transfer the stock to The Heat and Warmth Fund’s account with Charles Schwab. Or call (313) 963-2656.

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