

THE WARMTH CONNECTION

GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH TO KEEP FAMILIES SAFE AND WARM

Meet Vanessa, a single mom with three children under the age of 4. Vanessa lives in a Downriver community with her children. Caring for her children and providing a home that is healthy, safe and warm can be challenging at times. But like most parents, it is her number one priority.

Vanessa knows the best way to provide long-term economic stability for her children is to establish long-term economic stability for herself. She began her journey toward stability with a job training program in the medical field. The training was unpaid, but Vanessa knew it was a great opportunity, and this temporary sacrifice would lead to a better life for her and her children.

Vanessa said, "I'm in training and will have a good job when I'm done... Things are coming together slowly, but surely." However, during this period she hit a rough patch and fell behind on her utility bills. Someone told her about THAW and she attended one of THAW's Customer Assistance Days. There she worked with a THAW team member to get the help she so desperately needed. Vanessa left our Customer



Assistance Day with the comfort of knowing her and her children would not have to sleep in a home without heat or electricity. When asked about THAW, she said, "They are there to help!"

Without you, THAW would not be able to help families like Vanessa and her beautiful children. Each year, thousands of families find themselves in a situation where they just need a helping hand to get through the tough times—that's where you come in. Donors like you made it possible for THAW to help over 20,000 children last year.

No child should have to come home from school to a house without heat, electricity or water. Children should not have to live in a home where they can't take a warm shower, sleep in a warm bed or have a warm meal.

Your gift can make the difference between a temporary setback, and a life altering crisis for families throughout Michigan. Please support THAW's efforts to help the families who need it most. Together, we can ensure that no family has to choose between heating their homes or feeding their families.



CEO LETTER

What a winter!

For years to come this will be the winter remembered for the Polar Vortex – a term many have heard in passing, but never fully experienced until this year!

This year the extreme cold of the vortex came to Michigan and broke records around the State. Flint reached its coldest since 1963, at 14 degrees below zero. Lansing also reached 14 below zero, the coldest its been there since 1899! Detroit broke a nearly 100-year-old record when it hit 13 below zero, and Kalamazoo was the coldest it has been in 120 years at 18 below zero!

Imagine living in a home without heat during the polar vortex. Imagine the inside of your home being 18 degrees below zero. That was the reality for many struggling families all over Michigan. Across the state there were children sleeping in their coats, and seniors using unsafe heating methods just trying to survive the winter. That's why the work THAW does is so important—it can literally be a matter of life or death.

During the Polar Vortex many businesses and government agencies closed, and understandably, their employees stayed home in the dangerous cold temperatures. I am proud and grateful that THAW employees showed up during those record cold days. They knew many families would need assistance and wanted to be here to answer the call. They knew that over 70 percent of the 18,000 households we served last year were families with children, seniors or disabled persons in the home. THAW employees wanted to be here to assist and advocate for our most vulnerable citizens during those dangerous winter days. Your support makes it possible for us to be advocates and champions for vulnerable Michigan families.

Fortunately, spring is here. Unfortunately, many families will still struggle to afford utilities. Increased winter bills hit hardest in early spring and families need help. Please give today.

We are proud to say that 92 cents of every dollar you give goes to direct services and programs for those in need. Please donate and help us keep Michigan families healthy, safe and warm.

Warm Regards,

Saunteel Jenkins
Chief Executive Officer
The Heat and Warmth Fund

Ways to Support



Visit **thawfund.org** to donate online.



Call **(313) 963-2681** 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) 963-2681**.

Follow us online:



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THAW Receives \$500,000 Grant

THAW is excited to announce that we have received a \$500,000 grant from the DTE Foundation! This grant will provide administrative support. It also supports our statewide water assistance program, which provides relief to families throughout the state of Michigan struggling with increasing water rates.

We are incredibly grateful to the DTE Foundation for their continued support to the families we serve.

DTE
Foundation

THAW Raises \$1.5 million

THAW's WWJ Winter Survival Radiothon held on February 8th raised over \$1.5 Million to keep Michigan families safe and warm this winter. A BIG thank you to all the donors, sponsors and volunteers who helped make this event such a success.



Michigan Parade Company President & CEO Tony Michaels stopped by to donate a fireworks package to THAW CEO Saunteel Jenkins.



WDIV's Ben Bailey stopped by to work the THAW Radiothon phones.



FOX2 and WWJ Reporter Charlie Langton spoke with THAW Board Member Debbie Kenyon of Entercom after the total was revealed.

Save LIHEAP because LIHEAP Saves Lives

THAW joined the National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) for the annual LIHEAP Action Day on February 28th. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides critical home heating and cooling to help approximately 6 million vulnerable households across the country. LIHEAP is currently eliminated from the President's proposed 2020 budget. THAW and our colleagues from around Michigan, met with Michigan legislators to encourage their bipartisan support to continue LIHEAP funding. THAW will work to save LIHEAP because LIHEAP saves lives.



The Coalition team met with Representative Tim Walberg



Representative Rashida Tlaib of the 13th District learned about LIHEAP on Feb. 28.



Senator Gary Peters was glad to meet with the Coalition delegation.

Cocktails for A Cause

In February, THAW hosted our annual Cocktails for a Cause event. Friends and supporters joined us at the London Chop House with our friends from the Detroit Lions Alumni.

Our team of celebrity bartenders (pictured below), lead by THAW Board Member Robert Porcher, teammates Larry Tharpe, Scott Kowalkowski, Corey Schlesinger, and Kerlin Blaise were joined by FOX 2 and WWJ 950's Charlie Langton to support THAW.

A huge thank you to our Host Committee Members Carl Bentley, Strategic Staffing Solutions, Dan Brudzynski, DTE Energy, Krista Capp, Beanstalk Real Estate Solutions, Paul Corvino, I Heart Media Detroit, Chuck Nolen, Cutters Bar and Tony Saunders, Rock Ventures.



Save the Date

- June 21:** Swing with Bling –
Inaugural Women's Golf Scramble
Inn at St. John's, Plymouth
- Aug. 16:** SEMCO Energy Drive Golf Outing
Solitude Links Golf Course, Kimball
- Aug. 23:** Birdie Fore Warmth
Stonebridge Golf Course, Ann Arbor
- Nov. 2-9:** 10th Annual Week of Warmth
- Nov. 9:** Night of Warm Hearts
MGM Grand Detroit

For more information visit our website at www.thawfund.org.

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