

# THE WARMTH CONNECTION

**Spring is here in Michigan! Many are looking forward to warmer weather after a long winter. Unfortunately, many families still have overdue winter utility bills, and THAW is here to help. Since 1985 THAW has distributed \$216 million in assistance to almost 300,000 Michigan households.**

**In this newsletter, learn about our Summer events, a recap of the 19th Annual WWJ Winter Survival Radiothon, and about an inspiring THAW staffer.**

## THAW ESTABLISHES A NEW PROGRAM TO REACH FAMILIES IN NEED

### Total Health Care Foundation Helps Detroiters Bridge the Gap

The Total Health Care Foundation recently made a significant grant to THAW to provide utility support to Detroit families who fall outside the standard qualification guidelines. Since 1985, THAW has provided utility assistance to almost 300,000 Michigan families. However, due to multiple qualification guidelines for our existing programs, many families are ineligible for assistance because they fall into what the Michigan Association of United Ways calls the ALICE population — an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. These households are above the federal poverty level, excluding them from assistance programs, but they do not earn

enough to afford basic household necessities. In Michigan, 13% of Michigan households fall below the poverty level. Almost twice as many, 25%, are included in the ALICE population.

The grant will fund a new Bridge the Gap program to assist Detroit households that fall between 151% - 400% of the Federal Poverty Level or have utility balances that exceed existing caps. THAW hopes to decrease disparities and household stress related to costs for housing and utilities and increase the stability of households and neighborhoods through this grant.



THAW is extremely grateful to the Total Health Care Foundation for its significant support and for making this program possible.

If you or anyone you know resides in Detroit and falls into the qualification criteria, please visit [www.thawfund.org](http://www.thawfund.org) or call 800-866-8429. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2022 Program Enrollment

Household/ Family Size	100%	133%	138%	150%	200%	250%	300%	400%
1	\$12,880	\$17,130	\$17,774	\$19,320	\$25,760	\$32,200	\$38,640	\$51,520
2	\$17,420	\$23,169	\$24,040	\$26,130	\$34,840	\$43,550	\$52,260	\$69,680
3	\$21,960	\$29,207	\$30,305	\$32,940	\$43,920	\$54,900	\$65,880	\$87,840
4	\$26,500	\$35,245	\$36,570	\$39,750	\$54,000	\$66,250	\$79,500	\$106,000
5	\$31,040	\$41,283	\$42,835	\$46,560	\$62,080	\$77,600	\$93,120	\$124,160
6	\$35,580	\$47,321	\$49,100	\$53,370	\$70,160	\$88,950	\$106,740	\$142,320
7	\$40,120	\$53,360	\$55,366	\$60,180	\$80,240	\$100,300	\$120,360	\$160,480
8	\$44,660	\$59,398	\$61,631	\$66,990	\$89,320	\$133,980	\$133,980	\$178,640

## THAW's 19th Annual Winter Survival Radiothon a Success

THAW's WWJ Winter Survival Radiothon held on a snowy cold day in February demonstrated the generous spirit of so many WWJ listeners. With the help of more than 1,000 individuals and companies, the day raised \$993,278 to help thousands of Michigan families pay utility bills.

The 14-hour day featured an online auction for fabulous items like a Dan Dickerson Detroit Tigers experience, a Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix Chalet experience, trips to Hollywood and Myrtle Beach, and hourly incentives.

THAW extends enourmous thanks to Audacy and WWJ News Radio, Presenting Sponsor DTE Energy, Hero for Heat Sponsor Enbridge, Winter Survival Sponsors Ascension Southeast Michigan, Barton Malow Foundation, Ferndale Electric, Hourly Sponsors, the DTE Foundation, and the many additional contributors. This event would not be possible without their leadership and support of THAW.

Equally as inspiring are the more than 50 DTE employees and friends of THAW who volunteered to generously donate their time to staff the virtual phone bank!

As we continue to assist clients in navigating the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we aim to provide resources that empower Michigan residents to gain stability. Our work is holistic, influencing so many areas of life.

Children need access to electricity as they engage in school activities at home. They need warm, well-lit homes to enable a comfortable learning environment to focus. And as we each do our part to continue to mitigate the virus's spread, families need access to running water. Finally, our work prevents families from making hard decisions on spending limited funds, resulting in at least one need not being met. Our mission now is more vital than ever.

**Thank you to our Winter Survival Radiothon Sponsors**



### CEO LETTER

Dear friends,

While it seems like our chilly temperatures are leaving us here in Michigan, it is essential to remember our fellow Michigan families that are still overwhelmed by high utility bills from this past cold winter. At THAW, our top priority is to get utility assistance to vulnerable residents and families throughout Michigan.

THAW has funds available to help people who have fallen behind on their utility bills. We have pivoted our community assistance days (CADs) to virtual to offer more assistance to residents. We also provide help over the phone. Those in need can call THAW at 1-800-866-THAW (8429), Monday through Friday, 8:30 am — 5 pm, and a Utility Assistance Specialist can answer questions and guide clients in navigating this process. Visit the THAW website for more information at [www.thawfund.org](http://www.thawfund.org) or email [customer care@thawfund.org](mailto:customer care@thawfund.org).

We are so thankful for all those that participated in the 19th Annual WWJ Winter Survival Radiothon in February. With your assistance, we were able to raise nearly \$1 million for families in need this winter. Thank you for helping THAW prevent families from making the difficult choice between heat, food, or medicine.

Through your continued support and compassion, we can make Michigan a healthy, safe and warm place for all.

Please continue to help families coming out of this winter season. To donate, please visit our website: <https://thawfund.org/donate/donate-online/> or call (313) 963-2656.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Saunteel Jenkins'.

Saunteel Jenkins  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Heat and Warmth Fund

# Donor Honor Roll 2021

Once each year, THAW publishes this acknowledgment of our donors, whose generosity makes it possible for THAW to continue to stabilize and empower Michigan families, keeping them healthy, safe, and warm.

## Gifts made January 1 – December 31, 2021.

### CORPORATIONS

#### \$1,000,000 +

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State of Michigan  
Michigan State Housing Development Authority and Homeless Action Network Detroit

#### \$100,000 - 999,999

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# Donor Honor Roll 2021

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Community Foundation For Southeast Michigan  
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Scan for a complete list of donors or visit <https://thawfund.org/honor-roll/>

\*Please email [giving@thawfund.org](mailto:giving@thawfund.org) with any questions regarding the Donor Honor Roll.

## Staff Spotlight: Rozeta Rox – Program Service Manager

THAW welcomes a new addition to the team, Rozeta Rox. She joined THAW six months ago as a Program Service Manager and brings her wide range of experience to the team. Having worked in nonprofits for over 20 years, she is ready to ensure our clients receive a full array of services.



Rozeta has always worked in her community, including Oakland and Macomb County with their disability network. Rozeta says, “Helping people is primary to who I am and not just what I do. I care about individuals and helping them overcome the challenges they face to achieve their objectives.”

Winter is ending here in Michigan but there is still a need for people to catch up on their utility bills. Rozeta is excited to work with THAW because we service a wide range of communities. “It’s not always what we deem underserved populations, but it’s everyday people who may have come across a challenge or obstacle in their life. They just need help. Whether it is a one-time payment or organizing a payment plan, assistance is available,” says Rozeta.

Rozeta leads outreach and recruitment efforts to help promote THAW as the utility assistance leader in the state. In addition, she helps find resources and information that can better assist those in need. Her expertise has already significantly impacted THAW’s mission of serving the community with dignity, empathy, and respect to provide the basic needs of heat, water, and electricity to struggling families.

## 4th Annual Swing with Bling Golf Outing Fundraiser

Join us for the 4th Annual Swing with Bling Golf Outing fundraiser at Fox Hills Golf Club in Plymouth, MI. The outing benefits THAW’s utility assistance fund which provides critical support to low-income and vulnerable Michigan populations with their utility bills. We continue to help record numbers of families in Michigan struggling to get on their feet after stints of unemployment or underemployment, kids learning at home, and the increased reliance on electricity and water over the past two years

Whether you love to golf, want to learn to love to golf, or just want to see the hottest golf fashions of the season, this is the outing for you!

- Participate in a 9-hole outing OR a PGA professional lesson to learn or fine-tune golf fundamentals
- Enjoy lunch and a fashion show featuring the best looks for your next round
- Bid on and win fabulous “Chance Auction” packages
- Win prizes for on-course competitions
- Enter the raffle and take home some BLING

So, grab your coworkers, friends, and your BLING, and join THAW for this fun-filled day at Fox Hills. Visit [tinyurl.com/swingbling](http://tinyurl.com/swingbling) to sponsor, register a team, or make a donation.



## Save the Date for THAW's 2022 Events

Visit [thawfund.org/news-events](https://thawfund.org/news-events) for the latest on THAW's upcoming events.

### Virtual Community Assistance Day – April 14, 2022

Pre-registration is required. Please visit <https://thawfund.org/assistance/customer-assistance-days/> or call 800-866-THAW (8429)

### Swing with Bling – June 17, 2022

The 4th Annual Swing with Bling Golf Outing is scheduled for June 17 and promises to continue the tradition of highlighting the contributions that our community makes to THAW. The outing consists of a 9-hole shotgun start with on-course competitions followed by an award luncheon featuring a fashion show, a "Chance Auction" and a raffle for additional prizes!

For more information, to sponsor, register, or donate an auction item visit [tinyurl.com/swingbling](https://www.tinyurl.com/swingbling)

### SEMCO Golf outing benefitting THAW – August 19, 2022

Solitude Links Golf Course, Kimball, MI

### Week of Warmth – Monday October 31 - Friday, November 4, 2022

### Night of Warm Hearts – Friday, November 4, 2022



## THAW Leadership

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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



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