



Micah 6 Community
32 Newberry St
Pontiac, MI 48341

November 10, 2023

Dear Community Partner,

My name is Coleman Yoakum and I am the founder and Executive Director at Micah 6 Community, a 501(c)3 community development nonprofit organization serving Pontiac, Michigan. You have supported our in the past through donating, attending a fundraiser or volunteering and we are so grateful. None of this work happens without the great crowd of supporters who believe in our work, support our events and put in the time to make out neighborhood a little better. Thank you.

We have been living and working in the Pontiac community since 2012. We started with food initiatives and community gardens, then added kids programs, then started helping with basic home repair work. Today, we are preparing to renovate a vacant school building to turn into a community center, pulling together the predevelopment funds to begin a tiny home project aimed at getting Pontiac renters into practical, affordable homes that they own.

We wanted to take the time to send you a quick letter with updates on some of the great things that have happened here this year. All of this good only happens with the support of amazing friends like you! Please consider supporting through year-end giving, partnering with us in 2024 as a volunteer, or just telling folks about our work here. Together, we are making a real difference in our community.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Coleman Yoakum", is written over the typed name and title.

Coleman Yoakum
Executive Director of Micah 6 Community



MICAH 6 COMMUNITY



2023 END OF YEAR UPDATE

BUILDING THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT PONTIAC DESERVES

Micah 6 Community Mission Statement

We tell people all the time that at some point, this thing started rolling down the hill and we have been running to try to catch up with it. This year is no exception.

Here, we'll tell you a bit about the things that we are most proud of from 2023, and we hope that if you're a supporter, you see yourself in those success stories. If you aren't a donor yet or haven't supported in a while, we hope that you see a cause you want to get behind and support! Consider joining our story.



2023 makes our 11th year since Micah 6 Community started. We get asked all the time, "is this what you imagined when you started?" The answer is always "no."

We imagined being good neighbors, probably playing with some kids, lots of conversations on the porch. But because we were faithful at those things, we've been given the opportunity to do so much more. This year, we saw exciting growth: expanding our garden operations, the addition of the Summer Youth Employment Program, and the end of fundraising for Webster Community Center.

A PLACE WHERE NEIGHBORS ARE KNOWN, SERVICES ARE ACCESSIBLE AND FAMILIES ARE RESOURCED

Micah 6 Community Vision Statement

GOOD FOOD WORK!

NEW GREENHOUSE

In 2020, during COVID, Micah 6 Community was awarded the Impact 100 Metro Detroit grant for \$100,000. This funding helped to expand our food work, build a four-season greenhouse, and take our food growing work to the next level. Because of COVID delays, cost increases, and scarcity of supplies, we had a significant delay, but in the fall of 2022, with additional help from the Americana Foundation, we completed construction on our new four-season greenhouse.

COPS AND CROPS

This summer we partnered with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and Home Depot to have a gardening day with our local officers and neighborhood kids. More than twenty neighbors came to participate!



We were eager to get the seeds started in early 2023. However, we realized very quickly that there was way more room in this greenhouse than we needed, a great problem to have. Naturally, we asked our friends to move in! We reached out to our friends at Growing Pontiac and the Farm at Trinity Health in Pontiac to share space with us and this year, between our three organizations, we started more than 10,000 seedlings. These seedlings went on to our garden, the hospital farm at Trinity Health and into neighbors gardens around the city of Pontiac.

MORE FOOD PARTNERSHIPS!

This year Sprout Fresh Food Store partnered with the Pontiac Community Foundation and Community Housing Network to deliver produce to more than 60 Pontiac households a week.

We also saw many of our pop-up sites that had been closed or under COVID restrictions open back up and welcome us back to offer affordable produce. These include our senior centers, OLHSA Head Start, and a new location at The Village of Oakland Woods (formerly Presbyterian Village).





SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM!

This summer we hired eight Pontiac high school students for their first jobs ever! This was a partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is aimed at getting youth to experience job opportunities in the outdoors. Our students participated in watershed clean ups, planted trees, did bird counts, learned about pond biome management, and became skilled in canoeing and kayaking. They also earned certifications in first aid, Narcan, and CPR. They learned finance management and bank account skills from Genisys Credit Union.

As of the writing of this newsletter, they have all gone on to apply, interview, and are working jobs of their own!



FUNDRAISING FOR WEBSTER, COMPLETE!

Fundraising for Webster Community Center wrapped up in August with a final commitment of funds from several foundation and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

We are currently in closing calls with our tax credit partners, banks, interested parties, lawyers, accountants, and building professionals. These Zoom calls are sometimes 40+ people deep. It is a slog, but we are getting through.

This project, all in, is a \$31 million dollar investment in our community.

It appears that we'll be all wrapped up and building by January. Stay tuned for updates!

OTHER EXCITING WINS IN 2023!



We gave away 700 pairs of back-to-school shoes at our annual Summer Slam event



More than forty kids in our neighborhood participated in summer programs including field trips, summer camps, and learning opportunities.



Partnered with DTE Energy to give away more than 250 cases of energy efficient light bulbs in our neighborhood.



Put two Narcan distribution and information boxes in our community at our main house and at Sprout Fresh Food Store.



Hired our first Housing and Special Project Coordinator to begin the predevelopment work on a tiny home development



Partnered with Habitat for Humanity on our seventh Earth Day Clean Up on the Huron Corridor.