



Hello Friends,

It is *THAT* time of year. It is the time of year where every nonprofit organization, church, support organization is doing all that they can to encourage you to donate before January first. It is also the time of year when people are most generous. Maybe because of the holiday spirit, maybe because the cold blast of air that greets us as we walk out the door reminds us that we have neighbors who don't have doors. Or, maybe it is for the tax write off.

Whatever the case, it is *that* time of year and Micah 6 isn't immune from it and we don't shy away from it. I wanted to share a few thoughts with you about how we approach this season. Then, as we always do, I want to share some stories with you about the people who make all of this happen. Finally, I hope to give you a heads up about what to expect from us this season.

~~Giving~~ Thanking Tuesday

- The Tuesday after Thanksgiving is Giving Tuesday, when many organizations make a big push to get donations. When we started Micah 6 Community, some fundraising "expert" said that we needed to get attention on Giving Tuesday. They encouraged us to spend a lot of money to compete with organizations to get people's dollars on that day. Well, we'll never be able to compete with the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity or so many others to get in front of people. So, what we've always done on Giving Tuesday is just call our donors from the past year to thank them for their contribution. That's all.

So, if you've donated this past year, and you've shared your phone number, expect a call on the evening of Tuesday November 28 from someone at Micah 6 Community. Please take a moment to talk, hear what all is happening here, and how your contribution has helped this year.

Santa's Workshop

- Many fundraising professionals will tell you to set yourself up well for the following year, and to have the best looking end-of-year balance sheet, you should focus on bringing in as many donations as possible in the last quarter while trying your best to cut down on as many expenses as possible. Again, not us.

Santa's workshop is our annual toy drive in the neighborhood. We share toys with over 1,000 children every year. This is no small undertaking and requires many

volunteers and dollars. It is one of our largest annual events at Micah 6 Community. Please keep your eyes out for ways to support our kiddos.

Mail

- Like many organizations, we do send a mailer at the end of the year. This goes to current donors, previous donors and people in our universe who, maybe, we haven't done a great job of asking for support. We use a local printer for printing and we don't put a return envelope inside. We do this to reduce costs and spend whatever costs we do have locally.

Additionally, you'll see that mailer is mostly just great stories about all that has happened here in 2023 and how you were a big part of that work.

Donor Stories!

Let Me Tell You About Ken

I met Ken in 2008. He attended the 45th Year Reunion for our fraternity, which I had helped plan and we became good friends. Ken often worked nights at various jobs and because I was often driving from one end of Arkansas to another overnight, we had lots of phone calls.

He was always up-to-date as Micah 6 was being formed--moving to Michigan, finding Pontiac, starting the work, and expanding. Ken always said, "One day, when I get into a better financial position, I want to become a donor." I told him encouragers were as good as donors. I stand by that. But a few years ago, Ken got a pretty good job and it allowed him the flexibility to become a monthly donor.

Every month or so, when Ken and I would touch base, he'd be delighted. "I read that newsletter and, now that I am a donor, I feel like I am a part of the work!"

This summer, Ken called, "I want to come see the work!" And he came for a week this summer to meet the neighbors, hang out with our kiddos, see the cities of Pontiac and Detroit.

I tell people all the time that I wish every donor was as excited about being a donor as Ken. He is eager to give, stays updated, sees his gift in all of our work, and wants to know more about it and continues to be more involved.



Ken and Coleman at a Tiger's game this summer.



Jeff and Lea Kingzett have been encouragers and supporters of ours for a long time. Jeff's sage advice for how to navigate personalities in the city has always been welcome and Lea's extensive history fundraising for great organizations leaves every conversation on the topic feeling like a master class.

This September, they got married and chose Micah 6 Community as a recipient organization for their "in lieu of gifts." We were so honored to be a part of their special day.

These are the stories of people who find ways to elevate others, even on their special days



Support Santa's Workshop!

Every year since 2015, Micah 6 Community has hosted our [Santa's Workshop](#) event in the community. This is a no-barrier toy drive to help parents with gifts at the holidays. Last year, we gave away toys for 1,069 children in just a few hours. These families came from Pontiac, Hazel Park, Flint and Detroit for just a little bit of holiday help.

Please consider supporting by [donating here](#) or by buying directly off of our [amazon wishlist](#) and sending it to:

Micah 6 Community
32 Newberry
Pontiac, MI 48341

Be sure to leave your name so that we can thank you directly.

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