

the MESSENGER

Serving, Reaching, Teaching — *Together*

MAY 2023

LEAVING A *Legacy*

For 30 years, Mr. Jim Eastman's exemplary service and compassionate ministry in our Learning Center has left a lasting legacy in the lives of hundreds of guests at Carriage Town Ministries. He retires this year at the age of 87. Read his story inside.





A Note from Dr. Dallas Gatlin

CARRIAGE TOWN MINISTRIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Always Trusting God to Provide

Dear Friend,

Life is a succession of seasons. We enjoy some of the changes that come and dread others. If we are to succeed, we must handle the changes that come and take advantage of the opportunities while discerning God's will. "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand." (Proverbs 19:21)

This year, Mr. Jim who runs our Learning Center, retires after 30 years of faithfully serving God by equipping countless men and women to eliminate episodes of recurring homelessness from their lives. What a legacy he leaves. Please honor him by reading his story on the following pages and considering a gift in his honor.

As responsible stewards, we are praying for wisdom as we plan the succession of leadership in our Learning Center. If we bathe this need in prayer, God will provide. He already knows who will lead next. We just need to discover His choice! At the same time, we are beginning to think about succession of all leadership positions at Carriage Town Ministries. Who does God

want to be the next pastor and executive director? What kind of person? What spiritual gifts and talents? We have no announcements to make; we just know there is a season and time for every purpose under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3)

All of us at Carriage Town Ministries want to be good stewards, so we watch the seasons of change and the needs and opportunities that present themselves. You should too! It is always a good idea to trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don't lean on your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths! (From Proverbs 3:5-6)

You helped keep many people warm and healthy over the long winter. They are thankful! Together, we're all happy it's spring! Let's approach this season with joy and commit ourselves to rising each morning with thanksgiving and trust in the Lord!



Thank You for Welcoming Neighbors As They Are

Stigma. Kim has experienced it much of her life, living with anxiety, depression, and diagnosed bipolar disorder.

It even strained her relationship with her fiancé, leading Kim to walk away, even though she didn't have anywhere else to go.

Growing up in the area, Kim knew Carriage Town Ministries was a trusted place to turn. But she was scared. "I came on my own. I was nervous," she remembers.

Thankfully, after caring staff members showed her around, Kim began to feel safe and comfortable.

After settling into her room and getting acclimated to the schedule, Kim signed up for our Personal Success Plan program. In addition to taking

personal finance courses and planning for her own housing, Kim received guidance in receiving social security and disability support.

Kim has worked as a transitional employee at Carriage Town ministries

making sandwiches and saved money toward securing her very own place to live.

What surprised Kim most was how Carriage Town Ministries has helped her learn more about the role of faith in her life. "I didn't really have much of a spiritual life before I came," she shares. "I've learned a lot in devotions and chapel."

When guests walk through our doors, your generosity ensures they are met with Christ's love and an unconditional welcome — no matter what past or current challenges they face.

"It takes a lot to donate from yourself," Kim expresses with gratitude to ministry friends like you. We echo her heart of thankfulness for all you do to welcome neighbors as Jesus would — with open arms as they take steps toward greater health and stability.



*Kim's name has been changed for the protection of her privacy.

30 Years of Faithful Service

Honoring Jim Eastman

For the last 30 years, Carriage Town Ministries has changed a lot, but one constant is Jim Eastman.

Mr. Jim, as we call him, started teaching classes in our Learning Center in 1993. He was 57 years old at the time and had already enjoyed a successful career in teaching and management.

After hearing about a need for guests to learn about computers, Mr. Jim took it upon himself to implement a program and serve as the instructor. Jim started with six computers, but the program and his impact, only grew, serving guests of all backgrounds, abilities, and ages. "My greatest graduate was 88 years old," Jim shares.

"The course is composed of eight booklets," Jim adds. "We have typing, reading, vocabulary improvement and the basic computer course."

Within the reading course, Mr. Jim designed a

program for students to learn about the life of Jesus. The lessons cover Bible stories and teachings, so as they're learning to improve their reading, they're also growing in their faith!

They end the last module by typing up their resume, cover letter, and reference sheet, and put it on a flash drive to take with them. The most recent course graduates also took something else with them!

"A number of years ago, my wife, Elois, recommended that I give students a present to encourage them to continue through the course. I thought, 'What could I give them?' Well, now, when they graduate, I give them a computer and a printer."

In all, Mr. Jim has given away 457 computers to Learning Center course graduates!



If you are led, kindly consider a gift to Carriage Town Ministries in honor of Mr. Jim. Please also pray for him and Elois as they navigate this season in their life.

This year, at the young age of 87, Mr. Jim is retiring to spend more time with and care for Elois who is 91. We will have a celebration for Mr. Jim in the coming months, but we want to express our deepest, heartfelt gratitude for all he's done to serve Carriage Town Ministries and our community. He truly leaves a lasting legacy, the depth of which he will likely only see in heaven.

Memorial & In Honor Of Gifts

Gifts received January 1 to March 15, 2023

An honor or memorial gift to Carriage Town Ministries is a special way to offer hope to the needy in the name of a friend or family member. Our deepest sympathies are with friends who have lost loved ones.

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or in honor of a special occasion, please mail your gift and the name of the person(s) being remembered or honored to:

Carriage Town Ministries
P.O. Box 318
Flint, MI 48501

We will let your honoree or the family of the deceased know of your gift with a special note.

Thank You!

MEMORIAL

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Dr. Benjamin Sorscher

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3 Ways To Leave A Legacy



GIVE THROUGH YOUR WILL

Include a bequest in your will to Carriage Town Ministries to help us serve our community not just today or tomorrow but for years to come. Setting up a will is easy through FreeWill.



GIVE THROUGH YOUR STOCK

When you donate your appreciated stock directly to Carriage Town Ministries, there's no capital gains tax to pay. Your generosity goes even further to serve each person who walks through our doors.



GIVE THROUGH YOUR IRA

If you are 70.5 or older, IRA gifts are a powerful way to reduce your future tax burden. If you are subject to Required Minimum Distributions, making a QCD allows you to do so without increasing your taxable income!

LEARN MORE: www.carriagetown.org/donate

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Our Mission

is to provide help, hope and the Good News to our community through the skills and means of God's people and the transforming power of Christ's love.



P.O. Box 318

Flint, MI 48501-0318

(810) 233-8787

www.carriagetown.org



Box Lunch Fundraiser

June 4th

Your support provides:

A Place to Stay * A Place to Eat *

A Place to Heal * A Place to Worship

Chicken salad on fresh buns * Broccoli Slaw *

Fresh Fruit * Chips * **Blueline Donut Holes**

(freshly made in our kitchen)

Preorder online at

www.carriagetown.org/events by May 29th

pick up at 605 Garland St. Flint / June 4/10:30-1:30

810-233-8787