

Bates Chronicles



BATES PLACE MINISTRIES

September 2014

Mission Statement

Compelled by God's amazing love, Bates Place Ministries seeks to bring hope to our neighbors by reconnecting them to society and family, and empowering them toward a sustainable future.

-Adopted July 2012

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"Coffee with the Captain" and GRPD's "Top Cop"



David M. Rahinsky, Grand Rapids Police Department's new Police Chief.

We had the most unique "Coffee with the Captain" meeting this August. Typically, this meeting takes place the first Tuesday of the month; this month we met on the first Wednesday of the month. Then, in addition to Captain Payne's faithful attendance, we were honored to have our new "top cop" Chief David Rahinsky. Finally, we met in the fellowship hall of First Christian Reformed Church instead of our usual meeting taking place at Bates Place Ministries.

All of these changes were positive and resulted in a fantastic time together. We met in the fellowship hall to accommodate a larger crowd. We had over

50 people attend this meeting; there were three commissioners, many business owners, First Church members and local residents from the Bates Place area.

Our meeting began with Rev. Bryan Blakely opening with prayer and a sincere thank you for all who attended this important meeting. Bryan introduced Chief Rahinsky who then shared his career path. He began his police career in Philadelphia after graduating from the police academy. In 1989 he moved to Fort Lauderdale. He spent 18 years there before moving to Nashville where he was the police chief for the city of Franklin, Tennessee before coming to Grand Rapids.

Chief Rahinsky was at ease while he introduced himself and while he moved into the question and answer portion of the meeting. He announced that 10 recruits were being sworn in the next day, which brought out the bigger question of diversity recruiting. This is a

recurring concern at each "Coffee with the Captain" meetings. Both Captain Payne and Chief Rahinsky desire more diversity in their police force. Both men are committed to make this a reality; they realize that this might mean alternative recruitment methods.

When asked what his 60 day plan was, Chief Rahinsky said he didn't have a 60 day plan but rather a 100 day plan! His main goal during this time is to watch and listen; he wants familiarize himself with the programs and people around him. In saying that, he has definite opinions about programs that are already in place. He is very supportive of the monthly "Coffee with the Captain". He is also very supportive of the CLEAR program for returning citizens that meets weekly at Bates Place Ministries. He is in favor of the Citizens Police Academy and wants to look into starting an Alumni Citizen's Police Academy.

(CWTC/Top Cop cont. p.2)

CWTC/Top Cop (cont.)



**Bryan Blakely-left;
Chief Rahinsky-center;
Captain Payne-right**

Community policing at it's simplest form is "the police and the citizens working together," stated Chief Rahinsky.

One question from the audience was on the proper procedure for individuals to turn themselves in; maybe a better way to say it would be the safe way for both the police and the individual. Captain Payne is a member of the negotiating team and provided this answer: call GRPD's non-emergency number, (616) 456-3400, during business hours and a detective will be assigned to the case and provide the instructions for the surrender.

Another audience member asked Chief Rahinsky what his opinion was on community policing. He said in its simplest terms, "It's the police department and the citizens working together." The chief is very interested in having more bicycle patrols and is going to look into the possibility

of getting a couple of Segways.

There was also a very lively discussion on various party store practices. The complaint concerned most stores plastering their windows with beer ads. Both policemen acknowledged there is an ordinance that states the windows need to be 75% free of signs so that police, for one, are able to see in. Audience members said they know the signs come down but they go right back up again. Others in the audience challenged all of us in the community to take responsibility for our own neighborhoods. Captain Payne gave the example of members of the Bates area community and church members who protested unfair practices of Fannie's Corner and the BP gas station. Many good conversations came out of

this action, different policies are now in place and a continuing relationship with those owners exists yet today!

Chief Rahinsky has already responded to our note of thanks for his attendance by stating he would like to come to our November or December "Coffee with the Captain". We sure enjoyed his time with us and look forward to spending more time with him.

For those of you who desire to have a voice in this community, you are encouraged to attend "Coffee with the Captain". We meet at 5:30 the first Tuesday of each month at Bates Place Ministries; great things continue to happen!

~ Marlene Cook &

Dain Gates, Community member



What Do These Two Cars Have in Common?

If you were trying to figure this out like those visual puzzles in some magazines, you can stop now! What these two cars do have in common is they were donated to Bates Place Ministries last year. This was such an unexpected and welcomed blessing; in large part because these donations helped us meet our operating goals for last year. Both cars were older models with many miles but still in good condition according to the Kelly Blue Book rating scale. Both sold within the month that we received them.

Here's how it works: your part is signing your name to the title; that's it. We do the rest! We clean it up, pay the fee when we get the title transferred, get the value estimate from Kelly Blue Book, fill out the form you will need for income tax purposes, take a couple of pictures, list the cars on Craig's List, show the cars to prospective buyers and settle on a fair price.

Bates Place Ministries would love to have this scenario play out again this year. If you have a

car that you are thinking of selling, consider donating your car to Bates Place Ministries instead.

It is a rare occurrence in life to experience a win, win, win situation; you get a tax write off, we get monies for operational needs, and someone gets reliable affordable transportation!

~Marlene Cook

Communications
Manager



1997 Toyota



2002 Honda CR-V

Many Thanks to Many Givers

As was mentioned in the previous article, we at Bates were blessed with the car donations. You will also notice the picture of our completed kitchen with coffee maker and cappuccino machine; made possible through a grant received this spring from Community Christian Ministries Foundation. Bates was also gifted two computers, bringing our computer count to 5; thank you non-profit

agency *Where God Wills*. We were also blessed with a donated lap top, router and printer; you know who you are- thank you. We have also been gifted with colored print paper, bags of pens, memory sticks and file folders.

In addition, there are too many of you to thank for your financial gifts and your prayer support! But you are the folks that

keep the doors of Bates Place open and you are the ones whose prayers for wisdom, guidance and strength sustain the staff at Bates Place as we re-connect and empower our neighbors to a sustainable future.

To ALL of you, the staff and volunteers say thank you, thank you, and thank you!



Completed kitchen!



BATES PLACE MINISTRIES

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Ministry Center Hours:

- Monday: 10:00 - 4:00
- Tuesday: 10:00 - 4:00
- Wednesday: 10:00 - 4:00
- Thursday: CLOSED
(C.L.E.A.R.)
- Friday: 10:00 - 4:00

Your Tax-Deductible Gift to Bates Place is Appreciated!

Bates Place Ministries receives a generous grant from First Christian Reformed Church but we still need to raise funds to support our annual operating budget. The Bates Place Board has set a fund raising goal of \$21,300 for 2014.

Your gift to Bates Place supports its important ministry and outreach to challenging part of the city. Gifts to Bates Place are tax-deductible.

Mail to:

Bates Place Ministries
650 Bates Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

You can also make a gift on-line through our website at:

www.batesplacegr.org

Bates Place Board

Joel Ruiter, President

Marlene Iwema, Treasurer

William De Vries

Dave Jacobs

Klasien Vaalburg

Cliff Washington

Mark Zietse



The Bates Place neighborhood or service area is bounded by:

- Division Avenue (west)
- Fuller Avenue (east)
- Wealthy Street (north)
- Hall Street (south)

Visitors who reside outside this area are still offered advice and direction, but to be considered for financial assistance, a visitor must live within our defined neighborhood.

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