Down Syndrome Association announces campaign, new location

Leadership of the Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan Foundation Thursday announced the Connecting Communities campaign, an \$850,000 fundraising effort to move its headquarters to the new Special Olympics facility in Cutlerville, expand staff and programming services, and build sustainability through an en-

hanced endowment fund.

DSAWMF was established in 2012 to ensure the financial sustainability of its sister organization, the Down Syndrome Association of

West Michigan. Founded in 1985 by six couples who had children with Down syndrome, the DSAWM's original aim was to provide support and share knowledge with other families.

Through the years, the goals of the organization have broadened to include regular programming for children, teens and adults with Down syndrome. DSAWM also serves as an advocacy group, raises public awareness about Down syndrome, and provides for distribution of information relevant to Down syndrome.

The DSAWM serves hundreds of local families by providing enriching recreational, social and skill-building activities for area residents with special needs and their families. These activities help build a network of support for the families and their children, leading to life-long friendships and a connected community that provides support for families raising children with disabilities.

Launched last year, the Connecting Communities campaign has raised more than \$800,000 over the past several months, 95 percent of the overall campaign goal. More than 75 community donors, local businesses and area foundations have supported the campaign, to date.

DSAWMF and DSAWM leaders already have relocated their offices to the Special Olympics campus at 160 68th St. SW. The facility, formerly South Christian High School, has been transformed into the largest Special Olympics training and inclusion center in the world. The new facility provides significantly more space for Special Olympics and DSAWM program staff, volunteers and area youth and adults.

Jim Leach, president of Hobart Sales and Service, and Rich Kloeckner, product and operations manager at Rapidparts Inc., invite the public to join in the fundraising effort which will continue through the end of

The invitation to join the Special Olympics at this new campus was a once-ina-lifetime opportunity," Leach said. "As we work to provide the very best in programming for children and adults with Down syndrome, I am pleased to be part of an effort that truly gives area families a strong support network, provides children with a place where they feel like they belong, and builds partnerships with likeminded organizations."

"Demand for our programs is increasing," Kloeckner said. "Currently, we are providing support to nearly 350 people with Down syndrome in the counties we serve, and we anticipate serving many more families over the next several years as West Michi-

Bob Boylen, DSAWMF board chair, announced that the campaign has received support from local and regional foundations, area businesses and community donors.

"We have been so fortunate to receive gifts to this important campaign. Our campaign cabinet joins me in thanking the community for their meaningful gifts," Boylen said. "We now invite the broader community to help us complete this campaign effort. We welcome gifts of all sizes."

The announcement marks the beginning of the public phase of the \$850,000 campaign.

"This is an exceptional opportunity for our community to help build a strong network of support for children and adults that sometimes struggle to find activities and opportunities that meet their abilities," Leach said. "If we can provide the venue, we know we can reach more families."

More information campaign can be found at dsawmfoundation.org/connecting-communities.



Search for woman leads to complaint See Story on Page 3

The cost of freedom See Editorial on Page 4

Freshman on top at **Wayland Invitational** See Story on Page 12

HASTINGS D

Devoted to the Interests of Barry County Since 1856



The Accidentals playing here tomorrow

Three self-desembed orchestra union orc docks," and an ensemble of celectic natrumentalists will wrap up the regular and of Hantings Live, the free sum-

The Accidentals will return tomorrow ght, Aug. 20, for the Friday Nigh

Back to school

Hastings church

hosting blood drive Tuesday

ment to give blood.

New Life Assembly Church east of Hastings is hosting a blood drive Tuesday, and appointment slots are still available the drive will be Aug. 24 from noon to 5.45 p.m. The chive his at 1490 F. State Ponet.

Some stick up for the sheriff

Census shows what's driving development

The county's population increase reflected a larger overall migration of people to the west side of the state.

Of the four fastest-growing counties in the



Inhotson of Rutland Charter Township, Gary Munson of Delton, Rod Romeyn of Hastings,

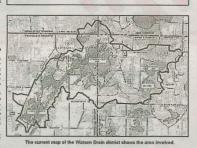
See SHERIFF, page 2

	2010	2020	percent
Thornapple Township	7,884	9,331	+18.4
City of Hastings	7,350	7,514	+ 2.2
Yankee Springs Township	4,065	5,322	+30.9
Village of Middleville	3,319	4.295	+29.4
Rutland Township	3,987	4,136	+ 3.7
Irving Township	3,250	3,734	+14.9
Barry Township	3,378	3,417	. + 1.2
Orangeville Township	3,311	3,398	+ 2.6
Prairieville Township	3,404	3,334	- 2.1
Castleton Township	3,471	3,329	- 4.1
Hope Township	3,239	3,154	- 2.6
Hastings Township	2,948	3,013	+22
Johnstown Township	3,008	2,841	- 5.6
Carlton Township	2,391	2,368	- 1.0
Woodland Township	2,047	1,994	- 2.6
Assyria Township	1,986	1,992	+ 0.3
Baltimore Township	1,861	1,947	+ 4.6
Maple Grove Township	1,593	1,599	+ 0.4
Village of Nashville	1,628	1,537	- 5.6
Village of Freeport	483	542	+12.2
Village of Woodland	425	391	- 8.0

No mask mandate in Hastings schools when new year begins

Barry County's on the grow

zoning administrator to Township, "We've done a lot of place



\$5.5 million Watson Drain project is one for the history books

Get your own copy each week on the newstand or subscribe TODAY!

Area Locations to purchase the Hastings Banner!

Hastings:

One Stop Shop (Marathon) (M-43 North)

Superette Family Fare Tom's Market

Hastings Johnny's The General Store Marathon

Mega Bev Hastings Pharmacy Marathon Gas Station (M-37 West)

Marathon Gas Station (M-37 South) Family Fare Gas Station Walgreens

Middleville:

Speedway Harding's Greg's Get-It-N-Go Middleville Johnny's

Gun Lake:

Sam's Gourmet Foods

Orangeville Fast Stop

Orangeville:

Pine Lake: Doster Country Store

Prairieville:

Prairieville Fast Stop

Cloverdale:

Cloverdale General

Brown's Cedar Creek Grocery Shelbyville:

Town & Country

Delton:

Family Fare Delton Johnny's Banfield:

Banfield General Store Dowling: Goldsworthys

Woodland:

Woodland Express Nashville:

Trading Post Little's Country Store Nashville Johnny's MV Pharmacy Nashville C Store Carl's

Lake Odessa:

Lake-O-Express Lake-O-Mart Lake Odessa Johnny's Carl's

Freeport:

L&J's



Barry County

Since 1945

WOOD PELLET SPECIAL

FREE DELIVERY in September

(See store for details)



269-945-3431 or 888-945-3431

225 N. Industrial Park Dr., Hastings www.barrycountylumber.com Mon. - Fri. 7-5; Sat. 8-4; Sun. Closed





