

Community of Christ Church offers help to those in need

By Meg Peters

Review Staff Writer

Every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to almost 6 p.m., the Community of Christ Church in Lake Orion is open for business.

The attention is in the basement where the Remnant Project Ministries is taking appointments, walk-ins and serving shoppers.

They serve 25-30 families a week, many of them seniors with medical is-

sues. Many have a type of cancer or life-threatening illness.

Reverend Patty Olsen said for many families like these, medical issues ate away their financial capabilities. So, the Remnant Project Ministries was started to address the issues.

The Rev. Olsen and her husband Rev. Dale Olsen began the Remnant Project Ministries about four years ago in the Community of Christ Church basement after Glen Gibson, a member, asked the church

for the space.

The services first began overseas, donating goods to countries such as Haiti, the Philippines and India, and then became more of a local thing, donating wheelchairs, shower chairs and commodes to the elderly in the area. It then grew into a clothing closet as well.

"I just remember one day people needed clothes and we started giving out clothes," Patty said.

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The same people needed to eat, so it became a food pantry. Walking downstairs you see the clothing, hanging on department store racks. Turn right, the non-perishable food pantry awaits, many of the items from Gleaners. Turn right again, the medical and personal supplies room appears.

"Everyone is allotted 15 minute time

slots. They get to go shopping," Rev. Patty said. "They get to go to the drug store first," and browse shampoo, cream rinse, depends, first aid items and more—and then they go to the pantry and get to shop in there. And then afterwards they get to go clothes shopping, and they can pick anything out they want for free."

She has ample volunteers who work

for the cause, but not an ample supply of food. During the winter and holiday season, they move 2,000 to 2,500 lbs of food a week. The summer for many charities, including this one, is the difficult season.

Every June she organizes a rummage sale—this year

on June 8—at the United Methodist Church on Seymour Lake Rd. to get any donations she can. They also have a soup fundraiser for the winter season.

She is reaching out to the community, to any group, be it church groups, youth groups, boy scouts, willing to help her organize a food drive, or any monetary support from local businesses.

If you would like to make a contribution or volunteer, email Rev. Patty Olsen at remnantproject@aol.com.



Volunteers for Pastor Olson.