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**Celebrate winter at the library**

By Rachel Church

Everyone who visited any MADL library branch between November 30 and December 19 was able to enter their name in a drawing for a special prize. One entry per day was allowed. There was one prize each for adults, teens, and kids from ages 3 to 12 years.

The winners for the Fruitport contest were Lora Brown who won the adult prize mug full of goodies and a Wesco gift card; Travis Palmer, who won the teen prize of a Wesco popcorn bucket filled with snacks; and Isabelle Brower, who won the kids' basket filled with toys, treats, and a Subway gift card.

Thank you to the Muskegon Area District Library system for providing the great prizes and for encouraging everyone to visit our library branch during the winter.

Just a reminder that spring cleaning is just around the corner and your donations for the annual OFD book sale (books, audio books and videos) may be dropped off at the library during open hours.

Library hours are Monday through Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

**Muskegon County needs you to make a difference**

(Submitted by Muskegon Opportunity)

Milwaukee has roughly twice the percent of college grads and half the high school dropout rate that we do. If we are to be seen as an attractive place to begin a business, large or small, that data has to change. We simply have to become a culture of learning. Schools cannot do it alone with such a huge financial crisis. Our adult population simply must step to the plate and get involved in the lives of our young people. So many families need support for their children in creating dreams and career goals. This is where mentoring comes in.

Mentors are dream makers. They are cheerleaders. They are often a safety net for kids who need to be needed and told they are important. Mentors often only see their charges a few times a month. But they can help students navigate through K-12 education and then into successful higher education because success is dependent upon a realistic goal for a career and for a quality of life.

The following mentoring organizations will train and guide you:

- **Muskegon Opportunity High School Mentoring Program** (for juniors and seniors) Contact 2-1-1 or call Marissa Higgs at (231) 766-3001.
- **Goodwill Industries Good Guides** (mentoring ages 12-17) Call Kelly Adler, coordinator at (231) 722-7871, extension 307.
- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters** (Mentors for ages 5-12) Stephanie Gibbs, coordinator at (231) 798-1391, extension 223.
- **Journey 4H Mentoring Program of MSU Extension** (for ages 8 - 17) Call Frank Cox at (231) 724-4738.
- **CASA** (Mentors for the Child Abuse Council) Kyleen Gee, coordinator, at (231) 728-6410.
- **Webster House Youth Services**. (Mentors for youth ages 8 to 18) Blake Martinez, coordinator. 759-7909.

Be a mentor. Make a real difference. Lives will change.

**Foundation scholarship applications being accepted**

(Submitted by Community Foundation for Muskegon County)

The Community Foundation for Muskegon County announces that the Foundation Scholarship Program for Muskegon, Oceana, Mason, and Manistee counties is currently accepting applications for the 2010/2011 school year. Applications are available to be submitted electronically at the Community Foundation website, [www.cffmc.org](http://www.cffmc.org). The application process has been streamlined to four easy steps for students and families.

The online application deadline is  
 March 1, 2010.



**Stoney needs a home**

By Mary Modderman and Mary Weimer

The name "Stoney" fits this survivor of life's sudden changes. A sweet, couch potato of a golden retriever, he is just 8 years old. Due to his owner's disabilities, his life has been a quiet one. His "mom" was a full-time caregiver for both her husband, legally blind and on dialysis; and his elderly mother. Unfortunately, she died suddenly two weeks ago of a massive heart attack.

Unable to live alone or care for his mother, her husband gave up his house and put his mother in a nursing home. He made plans to move to Texas, taking Stoney to live with his stepson. With the help of a caring friend, Lauren Feasel, he tried to find homes for the rest of the pets before he left.

Change is hard on people; and last Tuesday, Lauren got a phone call — he had died. Change is even harder on pets with no way to communicate what is happening to their home. Good boys like Stoney end up not only grieving the loss of familiar voices and touch — they go into strange surroundings with new words and voices. Unlike people, pets have the pluck and courage to adapt quicker. Shown patience and love, they can brighten a new home with gentle love and companionship.

Stoney is blessed with good people skills and adaptability. At first, explains his temporary foster mom, he had a hard time getting up and down. Now, benefiting from exercise and encouragement to play, he is doing great. Stoney is very well behaved around both her cats and her children. Stoney does have a thyroid condition, hypothyroidism, which is easily controlled with medication. Older pets come with a whole lot of positive qualities — they are quieter, trained, and with time to cuddle instead of rowdy play — good reasons to consider when looking for a pet to add just the right shade of gold to your life!

Stoney's new home is a special project added to the busy list of animals that need help through the Pound Buddies Rescue. Call (616) 884-9381 to leave a message, or email [doggiebarb@verizon.net](mailto:doggiebarb@verizon.net). If you really want a head start at making Stoney part of your family, fill out an application on the Pound Buddies' website, [www.petfinder.com/shelters.poundbuddies.html](http://www.petfinder.com/shelters.poundbuddies.html). You can also contact Lauren by calling (231) 830-6500.

Lauren also has an adoptable ten-year-old yellow laborador retriever named Brandy.

There are many, many pets available for loving homes. You can check them out on the pound buddies website.

The Community Foundation for Muskegon County administers over 260 scholarship funds and grants hundreds of awards each year to both graduating high school seniors and current college students. The Foundation's "General Scholarship Application" is used to support scholarship applications for students in the Muskegon area as well as those in Oceana, Mason and Manistee counties.

The Community Foundation does not make awards solely on the basis of need. Academic achievement, community involvement, extra curricular activities and financial need are all taken into consideration. All Community Foundation scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis.

**New Tastefully Simple representatives announced**

(Submitted by Tastefully Simple, Inc.)

Tastefully Simple is the original national home taste-testing company featuring easy-to-prepare foods and gifts. The company's unique, high-quality products are offered through independent consultants across the United States.

The newest Tastefully Simple consultants are Jennifer Babcock of Coopersville, who can be reached at [jenniferbabcock@charter.net](mailto:jenniferbabcock@charter.net); and Nancy Thomas of Muskegon, who can be reached at [myfaithisinjc@aol.com](mailto:myfaithisinjc@aol.com).

These independent business owners offer delicious food samples at home taste-testing parties, along with easy ideas for everyday meals, recipes, serving suggestions and fun. All of Tastefully Simple's products are open-and-enjoy or can be prepared by adding only one or two ingredients.

"In today's world, 'staying in' has become the new 'going out!' You don't have to leave home to enjoy wonderful food, fun and laughter with your family and friends," says Jill Blashack Strahan, Tastefully Simple, Inc. founder and CEO. "That's why we're proud to offer great experiences, easy-to-prepare products, and an exciting business opportunity for people who are looking for something more."

For more information about Tastefully Simple products, taste-testing parties, or starting your own Tastefully Simple business, visit [www.tastefullysimple.com](http://www.tastefullysimple.com), or contact one of the new consultants.