



br@projectstarburst.org

For over 52 years Project Starburst has worked diligently to serve families and individuals throughout Mecosta and Osceola Counties. Offering nutritious food, basic personal needs items as well as emergency services are the core goals of our mission and have been our priority since the beginning and will remain so as we move towards the future.

From October 2022 to September 2023, Project Starburst has touched the lives of 14,350 individuals, which includes 5,200 children. Meals distributed were 573,900. We have offered 13,000 personal hygiene products such as toilet paper, cleaning products and soap and diapers. The referrals made to our partnering organizations and agencies such as the Lion's Club Optical Programs of Big Rapids, The Department of Health & Human Services, The Salvation Army, Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency, Angels of Action, Our Brothers Keeper and WISE helps to provide necessary community resources to many more families. Our pantry supplements the food fed to the homeless at Our Brothers Keeper homeless shelter. Working together closely in collaborative efforts with these caring partners has been beneficial to the people we serve as well as offering concrete supports, compassion and comfort to each and every family that comes to Project Starburst.

As the economy, unemployment, and heating costs escalate the importance of assisting families with basic needs becomes greater. It is hard for children to feel loved when they are hungry. We know that growing strong and healthy families not only strengthens our community today but in the future. Helping our children grow up well fed, well educated, warm and safe will positively affect our community and prosperity for generations to come. With these goals in mind Project Starburst continually seeks to fill the needs of our most vulnerable of clients. New this year was the addition of a diaper pantry for area residents.

The generosity of The United Church, its members and donations are the core of the positive difference we can make for individuals and families. Our agency is always in need of generous donations, large or small, of time, money, talent or food. Every little bit matters, just as every hungry child matters. Working together we can brighten our neighbors' futures.

Peace and Blessings,

Diane Long, Executive Director

