



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Members Join Public Board To Give Back To Community

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners has appointed four new members to the Community Action Agency Advisory Board: Joyce Barkel, Zeeland; Renee Cross, Holland; Dan VanOmmem, Zeeland; Maureen VanHoven, Jenison.

The CAA Advisory Board is comprised of members of the Public, Private and Consumer Sectors. The Board helps provide direction for the Community Action Agency, the Ottawa County agency dedicated to helping people and families in poverty, and helps oversee the implementation of grants related to housing needs. These new members represent the Private Sector.

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Renee Cross from Holland joined the Board from a sense of public duty. "I'm a full-time mom of two small children. I felt the need to do something for the greater good. I think it's the responsibility of each of us to give back in some way, to make the planet, or the community we live in, better. When I saw in the paper that there was an opening I knew I wanted to join the Board," Renee says.

Dan VanOmmen lives in Zeeland. He currently volunteers many hours at His Harvest Stand at the City On A Hill in Zeeland. He's been very active in the Zeeland/Holland area for many years. "I feel a strong connection with the community. I've been on a number of different committees and boards over the years and I enjoy putting that experience towards making a difference in peoples' lives."

Joyce Barkel, also from Zeeland and new on the board, says, "I knew how instrumental the CAA is at providing essential needs for people in the community. After retiring as Volunteer Program Coordinator with the City of Holland for over 18 years, I wanted to remain actively involved in community service by donating my time and talent as a volunteer. Among the many County boards with vacancies, I found that CAA was providing emergency assistance to those experiencing the effects of a broken economy - hunger, homelessness, and poverty. I wanted

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to help CAA make a difference.”

Maureen VanHoven is a mother of special-needs children from Jenison, is married and works full-time. “I know how difficult it can be to maneuver through a complex system. I wanted to join the CAA Board to help people get what they need with as little frustration as possible.”

These new members have gone through an interviewing process after having submitted an application. Ottawa County and the Community Action Advisory Board welcomes these new appointees.

From time to time openings occur in many of the Ottawa County public boards, and the county welcomes applications from anyone who has interest in board membership and serving their community.

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