



OUR MISSION

Y Service Clubs International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together based on Christian teachings, in partnership with and supporting the YMCA. Its mission is to strive through active service to develop, encourage and provide leadership to build a better world for all humankind.

CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Wally Andersen & Tom Lawrence

Pres. Elect: Jon Hess

Secretary: Martha Beals

Treasurer: Ken Haines

Asst. Treas: Tom Johnson

Past Pres: Ethan Ray

BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Bartling '18

John Carruthers '17

John Duiven '16

Chuck Marks '17

Bob Smith '16

Keith VanderPol '18

ACTIVITY CHAIRS

Chaplin: Gary Davis

Run Thru the Rapids:

Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie

Santa Claus Girls:

Bob Smith

White Elephant Sale:

Bill Streeter/ Greg Winer

Historian: Don McWatters

Sparks Editor:

Neil Topliffe

[Sparks Editor](#)

Grand Rapids Y Service Club

Y Service Clubs International - Mid East Region

May 20, 2016

Co-President **Wally Andersen** called the meeting to order at the downtown David D. Hunting Y followed by prayer (**Loyd Winer**) and reciting of the pledge of allegiance.

Guests: Anya Miller (Baxter), Mike Painter (Topliffe), Dave Bouyer [sic!] (Bartling), and Jerry Fennell. **Grateful Dollars** were received and **Birthdays** recognized.

Club News

- **John Duiven**, with the approval of the club Board, gave details of a Palmer School Student that we and Camp Manitou-Lin will sponsor this year. A basket was passed and \$578 contributed by members present, making possible as second scholarship. John will work with the school to select the second child.
- **STEAK FRY** will be at Camp Manitou-Lin for all members and WES sale volunteers and families, June 15. 5:00 pm. Refreshments on deck, 6:00 pm Dinner. New officers will be installed. **RSVP to bhinton@grymca.org**
- **Next Board meeting** (3rd Wednesday) – 6/15/16, Camp Manitou-Lin, 4 pm prior to the Steak Fry.

MEETING THIS WEEK – FRIDAY June 3

12:00 PM @ David D Hunting YMCA

Election of Officers & Directors

Installation of New Members

This will be our last meeting before summer break. Our meeting will give us the opportunity to elect new officers and board and install new members. Time will be given to highlighting our achievements also.

Our Motto

*To acknowledge the duty
that accompanies every
right*

Happy
Birthday

Ken Haines (7/8)
John Duiven (7/9)
Bill Streeter (7/18)



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[-White Elephant Sale](#)
[-Run Thru the Rapids](#)

Grand Rapids Y Service Club
475 Lake Michigan Dr NW
Grand Rapids MI 49505
www.gryserviceclub.org
www.runthrurapids.com
is a member of
Y Service Clubs International.
www.yservice.org
YServiceClubsUSA.org web



05/20/2016

Heartside Ministry gives heart to its neighbors

Syd Baxter, a board member at Heartside Ministry, introduced our speaker, Jamie Rykse, GED and Literacy Program Director, as one who knew first-hand what Heartside can mean to a person. “Jamie was homeless at 14, faced physical abuse, drug addiction, spent four years in prison, found Heartside and its neighbors and is here today not just to tell her story but to show what is possible,” said Baxter. “This amazing young woman is passionate about education and getting others to be as passionate.”

Jamie, shared her story, what it means to be homeless and on the street. She talked with candor about being 14 with nowhere to go, ending up being used and abused, maintaining and sliding down on drugs, physical abuse, being shot, knifed; sleeping in a van and on the street. By 21 she found Heartside while on the street, going for coffee, using the bathroom but seemingly with no place to get out. “I had a felony and no one would hire me. I got my GED in prison and knew that was my future but ...”

It took the news that her best friend in the “neighborhood” was found dead in a nearby shelter to shock Jamie into action. It was 2007. “If it hadn’t been for Heartside Ministry, I’d be dead today,” she told the audience.

Instead, she walked into Heartside determined to live a new life and with their programs and support it worked. Her passion for education for her friends on the street directed her to volunteer with the GED and literacy program. She also enrolled in school, graduating from Grand Rapids Community College. “They helped me get my first housing,” she shared. “I actually had a key to my own apartment!”

But all that is a precursor to the success Rykse has had with the GED and Literacy program she now heads up as the staff coordinator. In 2014 there were 17 GED graduates. In 2015 there were 37 and 2016 it was 47, the highest success rate in the state. Half of those students have gone on to college and 70% now are employed, she said. [Read news story here.](#)

She explained why Heartside Ministry and the other ministries on South Division talk about the neighbors they serve. “None of us can possibly know about you or your past. The same is true for our neighbors, what they may have had to deal with. Every neighbor has a story – abused, comprised by a junky, caught in prostitution, hooked early on drugs/drink. It’s our job as God’s children to help others,” Jamie noted.

Heartside Ministry, 54 S. Division, provides an “Urban Plunge” program for non-street folks like us. It allows us a few hours or an overnight stay on the street and/or at Heartside. Contact Heartside or visit the web heartside.org.