



## Planned Parenthood honors the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by helping community members in need.

This year marked the third year that Planned Parenthood health centers all across Michigan honored Dr. King's legacy of peaceful community building and non-violence by holding drives for health, beauty, and feminine products for 15 domestic violence and homeless shelters across the state. Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan's staff organized the drive because domestic violence and homeless shelters usually have a lack of feminine products, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and other hygiene products for those in need. We also know that women who seek refuge in a domestic violence shelter have to leave their homes and personal belongings behind; we hope that these items can help them through a hard time.

Health Center staff and community members eagerly gave back to the community and collected an overwhelming amount of products to help those in need. In total we managed to donate 1,650 total items. At the Ann Arbor West health clinic, the staff collected over 200 travel size containers of personal hygiene products. Planned Parenthood of Western and Northern Michigan managed to collect over 1,500 items to donate to shelters in Grand Rapids, Marquette, and Traverse City. Dani Vilella, the Public Affairs Specialist for Planned Parenthood of Western and Northern Michigan, said: "We are so happy with the outcome of this year's MLK Day Project. Staff, volunteers, and our teen advocacy groups did a wonderful job and collected more than 1,500 items for the YWCA domestic violence shelter! Everyone was so enthusiastic, and we are proud of what we accomplished as a team."

In addition to collecting items in our clinics, we had community partners that joined us in this endeavor by collecting donations or hanging flyers. Some on our community partners included Human-

ists from Traverse City, Presto Print from Grand Rapids, and the Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids. Thanks to the help of our community partners, we were able to gather even more feminine and personal hygiene products to help those in need.



Planned Parenthood of Western and Northern Michigan also held a treasure hunt to try and collect more items; volunteers, staff, and advocacy groups gathered together and donated one item from each of 8 categories on the Desired Items List in order to be entered into a drawing to win a prize. The categories included: Comfort, Nurture, Cleanse, Soothe, Beauty, Learn, Play, and Nourish. Participants needed to bring in one item that fit each one these categories. Each entry gave the participant a chance to win one of ten gift cards. Many participants said that it was a

lot of fun and once they started, they didn't want to stop at 8 items. The Treasure Hunt resulted in the donation of more than 200 items from 19 people. Our teen groups even went door to door, despite the frigid winter weather, to collect items for their treasure hunt. Overall this year's drive to supply domestic violence and homeless shelters with feminine and personal hygiene products was a great success, and we look forward to collecting even more items next year! ■



SNAPSHOTS