

RESOURCE GUIDE 2024



Mecosta County Commission on Aging

231-972-2884

12945 80th Avenue
Mecosta, MI 49332

www.mecostacounty.org/mcco

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Mecosta County Commission on Aging & Activity Center

12954 80th Avenue Mecosta, MI 49332 P: (231) 972-2884 F: (231) 972-4735
Cynthia Mallory, Director

The agency's purpose is to provide quality assistance to Mecosta County Seniors 60 years of age or older. The agency's goal is to support seniors in their effort to remain in their own homes, maintaining independence, health, dignity and self-respect.

The goal of the Activity Center is to help area residents of any age to remain healthy and active through participation in recreational, educational and leisure activities.

OUTREACH & ASSISTANCE: Outreach Workers assess the needs of seniors and initiate available services in coordination with other agencies.

SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM: Homebound seniors are offered a noon meal, delivered to their home weekdays. Frozen meals for holidays and weekends are also available. In addition to home delivered meals, there are two meal sites in the County. They are located in Barryton and Mecosta.

TRANSPORTATION: Qualifying seniors are transported to and from medical appointments, dialysis, chemotherapy and other medical needs with trained volunteer and/or handicapped-equipped lift vans. Seniors are picked up at their homes and transported back to their homes for each appointment.

HOMEMAKER AIDE: Services such as light housekeeping, errands and grocery shopping are provided to eligible seniors on a priority basis.

IN-HOME RESPITE CARE: A trained respite aide provides in-home companionship and supervision for the frail elderly, as needed, to give the primary caregiver a break from care.

HOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAM: Membership entitles individuals 55+ years of age to reduced cost of skilled home repair maintenance services. Job opportunities of individuals 55+ years of age who possess repair skills. (Seniors helping seniors at reduced rates).

EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET: Donated wheelchairs, walkers, canes and other medical equipment are available for use through the loan closet, free of charge, to Mecosta County seniors.

MEDICARE/MEDICAID ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MMAP): Trained volunteers help with insurance questions and billing problems.

TRIPS: Recreational trips are planned throughout the year using Charter busses and, when available, the COA Senior vans. Our COA vans may also be able to assist Seniors, age 60 & older who no longer drive, get involved at the Activity Center.

ADVOCACY: The COA is continuously updated on Senior related issues and concerns. COA staff will make every effort to act on their behalf, making referrals as needed to appropriate agencies and community resources.

NEWSLETTER: The Keyhole is mailed out monthly to area residents and contains a calendar of events, information, programs and menu for meals offered at the Senior Center.

Activity Center: Activities such as- classes, exercise, health clinics, line dancing, card recycling, card games, bingo, library, walking trail and much more.

Volunteer Opportunities: Activity Center Greeter, educational instructors, craft instructors, gift shop attendants, card recyclers, kitchen crew, grounds maintenance, decorating, medical drivers, meal delivery, insurance counseling, special committees and many other opportunities.

Government

City

BIG RAPIDS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

435 N. Michigan Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: EMERGENCY 911

Office: (231) 527-0005

Purpose: To conduct accident investigation, traffic enforcement, criminal investigations and to give general assistance to the needs of the citizens within the city limits.

Townships

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Barryton Library:

198 Northern Ave., Barryton, MI 49305

Phone: (989) 382-5288

Big Rapids Library:

426 S. Michigan, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: (231) 796-5234

Morley-Stanwood Library

4808 Northland Dr., Morley, MI 49336

Phone: (231) 856-4298

Morton Township Library

110 S. James St., Mecosta, MI 49332

Phone: (231) 972-8315

Tamarack Library

832 S. Lincoln St., Lakeview, MI 48858

Phone: (989) 352-6274

Wheatland Township Library

207 Michigan Ave., Remus, MI 49340

Phone: (989) 967-8271

Mecosta County

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

127 S. State Street Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

Phone: (231) 796-7649

Email: info@mecostacounty.com

Web Site: www.mecostacounty.com

Program: Economic Growth - The economic wellbeing of Mecosta County is of major importance to the Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce. Therefore, a primary goal is to protect, assist and stimulate the growth of the business community.

MECOSTA COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Mecosta County Court House

400 Elm Street, Big Rapids:

Adult Prob. & Parole Office	(231) 592-0140
Agricultural Agent	(231) 592-0792
Circuit Court	(231) 592-0780
Clerks	(231) 592-0783
District Court	(231) 592-0799
Equalization Department	(231) 592-0108
Friend of the Court	(231) 592-0115
Juvenile Officer	(231) 592-0131
Probate Court	(231) 592-0135
Prosecuting Attorney	(231) 592-0141
Register of Deeds	(231) 592-0145
Treasurer	(231) 592-0169

Mecosta County Services Building

14485 Northland Drive, Big Rapids:

Ambulance Service	911 Emergency
Cooperative Ext. Service	(231) 592-0792
Drain Commission	(231) 592-0103
4-H Youth Agent	(231) 592-0792
Junk Enforcement	(231) 592-0105
Planning and Zoning Comm.	(231) 592-0105
Public Health Department	(231) 592-0130

Mecosta County Sheriff's Department

225 S Stewart, Big Rapids:

Animal Control Officer	(231) 796-2221
Marine Division	(231) 592-0150
Sheriff's Department	(231) 592-0150
EMERGENCY	911

All departments located as designated below:

Animal Shelter Rescue Coalition:

18400 220th Avenue, Big Rapids

(231) 796-2683

Commission on Aging: 12954 80th, Mecosta

(231) 972-2884

Parks Commission: 22250 Northland Drive, Paris

(231) 832-3246

Road Commission: 120 DeKraft, Big Rapids

(231) 796-2611

Fire Departments:

911 Non-emergency (231) 796-2626

Mecosta County Emergency Management

14485 Northland Drive, Big Rapids

(231) 592-9484

State of Michigan

Information Center: 517-373-1837

Governor of Michigan: Gretchen Whitmer

Phone: (517) 373-3400

State Capitol, P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909

Email: migov@mail.state.mi.us

State Senator 33th District: Rick Outman

Phone: (517) 373-3760

4400 Binsfeld Bldg., Lansing, MI 49307

State Representative 102th District:

Michele Hoyenga

Phone: (517) 373-1747

P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909

State Lt. Governor: Garlin Gilchrist II

Phone: (517) 373-6800

Secretary of State: Jocelyn Benson

Phone: (888) 767-6424

Attorney General: Dana Nessel

Phone: (517) 373-1110

Department of Natural Resources:

Paris Field Office (231) 832-5520

Michigan State Police:

Lakeview, MI (989) 352-8444

Federal

(800) 998-0180 Senior Flash Hotline

President of the United States: Joe Biden

Vice President of the United States: Kamala Harris

U.S. Senators:

Gary Peters

724 Hart, Senate Office Building,
Washington DC 20510

Web: Peters.senate.gov/contact

Phone: (202) 224-6221

Grand Rapids office: (616) 233-9150

Debbie Stabenow

731 Hart, Senate Office Building,
Washington DC 20510

Phone: (202) 224-4822

U.S. House of Representatives 4th District:

John Moolenaar

117 Cannon House Office Bld.,
Washington DC 20515.

Phone: (202) 225-3561

Midland office: (989) 631-2552

United States Post Offices

Barryton Post Office	(989) 382-5520
Big Rapids Post Office	(231) 796-7955
Big Rapids-Annex	(231) 592-1498
Chippewa Lake Post Office	(231) 867-3323
Mecosta Post Office	(231) 972-8206
Morley Post Office	(231) 856-4500
Paris Post Office	(231) 796-5264
Remus Post Office	(989) 967-3332
Rodney Post Office	(231) 972-7708
Stanwood Post Office	(231) 823-2411

Healthcare

Associations

*AARP-

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS

Phone: 888-OUR-AARP (888-687-2277)

Website: www.aarp.org

*ALZHEIMERS ASSOCIATION

Help line: 800- 272-3900 24 hours a day

Website: www.alz.org

*AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Phone: 800-227-2345

Website: www.cancer.org

*AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

Phone: 800-DIABETES (800-342-2383)

Website: www.diabetes.org

*AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Phone: 800-AHA-USA-1 (800-242-8721)

Website: www.heart.org

*AMERICAN STROKE ASSOCIATION

Phone: 888-4-STROKE (888-478-7653)

Website: www.strokeassociation.org

*AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

Phone: 800-LUNG-USA (800-586-4872)

Website: www.lungusa.org

*AMERICAN SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING ASSOCIATION

Phone: 800-638-8255

Website: www.asha.org

**ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION*

Phone: 844-571-4357

Website: www.arthritis.org

**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN*

Phone: 800-444-6443

Website: www.biami.org

**AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND*

Phone: 800-424-8666

Website: www.acb.org

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED*

Phone: 800-466-8084

Website: www.abrimichigan.org

**MICHIGAN BUREAU OF SERVICES FOR BLIND PERSONS*

Phone: 800-292-4200 Local: 616-356-0180

Website: www.michigan.gov/bsbp

**EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF MI*

Phone: 800-377-6226

Website: www.epilepsymichigan.org

**NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN*

Phone: 800-482-1455

**NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS FOUNDATION*

Phone: 800-231-4222

Website: www.nof.org

**UNITED OSTOMY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA*

Phone: 800-826-0826

Website: www.ostomy.org

Dental Resources

**FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY CLINICS (PUBLIC)*

Phone: 231-591-2260

Dental Clinic- Teeth cleaning, fluoride treatment, dental x-rays, Pit & Fissure Sealants

**MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DENTAL*

14435 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-3617

Discounted dental services to non-Medicaid, low income individuals and families.

Emergency Services

FOOD PANTRIES

- American Legion Food Pantry, Morley

Phone: 231-856-4229

- Crossroads Worship Center, Howard City

Phone: 231-735-7000

- God's Helping Hands, Remus

Phone: 989-967-8581

- Lord's Table

Phone: 231-796-8389

- Manna Food Pantry, St. Andrews Church, Big Rapids Phone: 231-408-2940

- Project Starburst

Phone: 231-796-5342

- Salvation Army, Big Rapids

Phone: 231-796-5597

**AMERICAN RED CROSS*

218 S. Warren, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-6562 (24 hour information line)

** FAMILY HEALTH CARE*

730 Water Tower Road, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-527-7150

Provides affordable and accessible medical, dental, health care regardless of the ability to pay.

**HOPE HOUSE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC*

405 South Third Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-598-9500

Provides free medical coverage for those with **no** insurance.

**GOD'S HELPING HANDS OF MECOSTA COUNTY*

50th Avenue, Remus, MI 49340

Phone: 989-967-8581 Open: Tues. and Fri.

Provide, food, clothing, heat, electric, and other necessities to people in need.

**OUR BROTHERS KEEPER HOMELESS SHELTER*

405 S. Third St., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-629-8033

Provides a meal each day and a place to sleep for those in need in the greater Big Rapids Area.

**POISON CONTROL CENTER*

Phone: 800-222-1222

Website: www.dmc.org

**PROJECT STARBURST*

120 S. State St., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-5342

Helps the rural poor find ways to meet their emergency food needs.

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Hearing Resources

**AUDIBEL HEARING CENTER*

115 W. Grand Traverse, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-4658 or 800-645-0054

**BELTONE HEARING CENTER*

400 N. State St., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-4606 or 800-522-9588

**HEARING LIFE*

120 N. Michigan Ave., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-4143

**MICHIGAN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN FUND*

Phone: 800-828-2714

Website: www.ucpmichigan.org/matlf

Program: Low-interest loans which may be used to purchase hearing/other assistive devices.

**MIRACLE EAR*

724 Perry Ave., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-638-4862

Home Health Care/Hospice

**ACE HOME HEALTH CARE*

Phone: 231-937-4514

Website: www.acehomehealthcareservices.com

Provides skilled nursing, therapies, medical social work, home health aide, private duty nursing and other specialized health care services. Does provide **Private Duty**.

**BELLA HOME CARE*

Phone: 989-424-6500

Website: www.bellaseniorcare.net

Provides personal care, companionship, homemaking, and medication reminders. Does provide services **Private Duty**.

**COMFORCARE HOME CARE*

Phone: 989-831-5000

Website: www.comforcare.com

Provides personal care, companionship, homemaking, respite, 24/7 Care and medication reminders. Does provide services **Private Duty**.

**COMMUNITY HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES*

Phone: 231-689-6675 or 800-689-6675

Provides skilled home care, home health aides.

**COMPASSIONATE CARE HOME HEALTH*

Phone: 877-496-1928 or 989-345-7801

Provides home health aides. **Private Duty** available.

**FAMILY HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES*

(Out of Mt. Pleasant)

Phone: 800-397-0398

Personal care, companionship, respite, homemaker services and skilled nursing.

**ELARA CARING*

Phone: 231-629-8665

Website: www.elara.com

Provides home health aides, nursing, therapy, equipment, hospice and palliative care.

**HEARTLAND HOME HEALTH CARE & HOSPICE*

Phone: 800-329-1001

Provides a variety of home health care services as well as end of life care. No private duty in Mecosta County.

**HOSPICE OF MICHIGAN*

400 Perry Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-7371

Website: www.hom.org

Provides care to terminally ill patients and their families--in their homes, nursing homes, assisted living apartments, and other settings. Palliative care, social work services, grief counseling, and support groups are also available if needed.

**INTERIM HEALTHCARE*

Phone: 616-575-0216

Health care, personal care, respite and Hospice.

**McCLAREN CENTRAL MICHIGAN HOME CARE*

501 S. Mission St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 866-323-5974

***MID MICHIGAN HOME HEALTH CARE**

Phone: 800-862-5002

Home health care and Hospice. **Private duty** available.

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***MUNSON HOME HEALTH CARE & HOSPICE**

1105 6th Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

Toll free: 800-252-2065

Provides skilled intermittent nursing, therapy and aide services in the home. **Private duty** available.

***PAPA'S PLACE**

121 W. Upton Ave., Reed City, MI 49677

Phone: 231-465-4160

Adult Day Center and In-Home Services. Personal care and light housekeeping. **Private duty** available.

***PINNACLE SENIOR CARE**

Phone: 616-956-7900

Provides skilled nursing, therapy and aide services in the home.

***SPECTRUM HEALTH AT HOME AND HOSPICE**

Phone: 231-355-5300 OR 844-702-4663

Provides skilled nursing, therapy and aide services in the home.

***WOODLAND HOSPICE HOUSE-**

2597 S. Meridian Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989-773-6137

Provides end of life care in your home or ours.

***VISITING PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION**

3260 Eagle Park Drive NE, Suite 115, Grand Rapids

Phone: 877-468-7322 OR 616-942-7400

Provides primary care physician specializing in geriatric care.

Hospitals

***McCLAREN CENTRAL MICH COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

1221 S. Drive, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989-772-6700 Toll free: 888-990-9355

Website: www.mcclaren.org

***MARY FREE BED REHAB CENTER & HOSPITAL**

235 Wealthy St., S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Toll free: 800-528-8989

Web: www.maryfreebed.com

***SPECTRUM HEALTH BIG RAPIDS HOSPITAL**

605 Oak St., Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

Phone: 231-796-8691

***SPECTRUM HEALTH KELSEY HOSPITAL AND EXTENDED CARE FACILITY**

418 Washington Avenue, Lakeview, MI 48850

Phone: 989-352-7211

Toll free: 866-861-3654

***SPECTRUM HEALTH REED CITY HOSPITAL AND REHAB/NURSING CENTER**

300 N. Patterson, Reed City, MI 49677

Phone: 231-832-7120

Hotlines

Agriculture, Michigan Dept. of	(800) 292-3939
Alzheimer's Education Center	(800) 438-4380
Alzheimer's Association	(800) 272-3900
Alzheimer's Foundation of America	(866) 232-8484
American Cancer Society	(800) 227-2345
American Council for the Blind	(800) 424-8666
American Diabetes Association	(800) 232-3472
American Speech, Language & Hearing	(800) 638-8255
Arthritis Foundation	(800) 283-7800
Better Business Bureau	(800) 684-3222
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	(888) 424-7197
Cancer Information Center	(800) 422-6237
Reeve Paralysis Foundation	(800) 539-7309
Citizens for Better Care	(800) 782-2918
Domestic Violence	(800) 799-7233
Dental Association	(800) 589-2632
Department of Mental Health	
*Office of Recipient Rights	(800) 854-9090
Department of Veteran Affairs	(800) 827-0648
Eldercare Locator	(800) 677-1116
National Assoc. for Continence	(800) 252-3337
Epilepsy Center of MI	(800) 377-6262
Hospice	(800) 331-1620
Insurance Bureau/Ins. Info.	(877) 999-6442
IRS Tax Help Line	(800) 829-1040
IRS Taxpayer Asst. Center(Mich)	(616) 365-4700
Lawyer Referral Service	(800) 968-0738
Legal Hot Line (Free legal advice to Michigan Senior Citizens)	(800) 347-5297
Medicaid Information & Appeals	(800) 633-4227

Medicare Inquiry/Part A (Hospital) (888) 312-3447
 Medicaid/Medicare Asst. Program (800) 803-7174
 Michigan Attorney General (Health Care)
 (800) 242-2873

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Michigan Attorney General Office (Consumer protection division) (877) 765-8388
 American Cancer Society (800) 227-2345
 Michigan Parkinson’s Foundation (800) 852-9781
 National Alliance for Caregiving (301) 718-8444
 National Hospice Organization (800) 658-8898
 Natural Resource Law Enforcement (800) 292-7800
 National Stroke Association (800) 787-6537
 Nursing Home/Long Term Care (800) 292-7852
 Parkinson’s Disease Foundation (800) 457-6676
 Public Service Commission (800) 292-9555
 Social Security (800) 772-1213
 Social Security -fraud or abuse (800) 269-0271
 Suicide/Crisis Lifeline 988

Life Alert Systems

Alert 1 (888) 744-9890
 Elders Helpers (616) 454-8305
 Guardian Medical Monitoring (800) 782-9688
 Life Alert (800) 360-0329
 Medical Care Alert (855) 272-1010
 Munson Medical Alert System (800) 252-2065
 Philips Lifeline (800) 380-3111

Self Help Groups

ALCOHOLICS ANONMOUS
 National Helpline (800) 662-4357
 Michigan Resource Center (800) 839-1686

Support Groups

ALZHEIMERS/DEMENTIA
Big Rapids-Spectrum Health Big Rapids Hospital,
 605 Oak Street, Big Rapids. Phone: 231-796-3185

Vision Resources

**FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY EYE CENTER*
 Phone: 231-591-2222
 Eye exams, prescription for glasses & minor adjustments.

Residential/Housing

Adult Foster Care Homes

The following adult foster care homes serve elderly residents. To find a complete list of all licenses adult foster care homes in Mecosta County see the Michigan Department of Human Services website.

Cedar Crest, Remus (989)560-6403
 Creekside Manor, Big Rapids- (231) 796-6131
 Harmony Pines, Big Rapids- (231) 796-4757
 Heights Manor, Big Rapids- (231) 629-1885
 River View, Morley- (231) 307-3087
 Tender Care Manor I, Big Rapids- (231) 598-9077
 Tender House AFC, Big Rapids- (231) 629-8099

Apartments

**APPLERIDGE APARTMENTS*
 1133 Fuller, Big Rapids, MI 49307
 Phone: 231-796-2303
 Lower income individuals, convenient housing.

**BIG RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION*
 9 Parkview Village, Big Rapids, MI 49307
 Phone: 231-796-8689
 Apartment complexes are Parkview Village, Evergreen Village, Meadow Park and the Nesbitt/Fairman Apartments. (For elderly, low income, and handicapped)

**COUNTRY PLACE APARTMENTS*
 825 Country Way, Big Rapids, MI 49307
 Phone: 800-225-7982
 Subsidized housing for elderly, low income and handicapped of any age.

**Hillcrest Oakwood Properties*
 1101 Fuller Ave, Big Rapids, MI 49307
 Phone: 231-598-4326
 6 ground floor units without step-up entry for ease of access.

**REMUS APARTMENTS*
 8890 35TH Avenue, Remus, MI 49340
 Phone: (989) 967-8121
 Section VIII housing for the elderly and low income.

**ROSEVILLE APARTMENTS*
 (Corner of 80th and M-20, Mecosta)

Phone: 231-796-7650

Provides low cost housing to seniors, handicapped and low-income individuals.

**VILLAGE GREEN APARTMENTS*

1300 Catherine Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-4590

Rent is based on income for those who qualify.

**WATER TOWER PLACE APARTMENTS*

715 Water Tower Rd., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-629-8350

Subsidized housing for elderly, low income, and handicapped. **7**

**WHITE PINE MANOR*

Senior Housing - Barryton

Phone: 989-382-7647

Subsidized housing for elderly, low income, and handicapped.

Assisted Living

**BIG RAPIDS FIELDS*

18900 16 Mile Rd., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 989-252-7532

Assisted living and memory care.

**THE BROOK OF BIG RAPIDS*

14595 215th Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-592-1000

Offer assisted living, independent living, and retirement living.

**Cedar Crest AFC*

10030 30th Ave.

Remus, MI 49340

Phone: 989-560-6403

**CURRY HOUSE (Wexford County)*

5858 S 47 Rd., Cadillac, MI 49601

Phone: 231-577-9575

Assisted living and memory care.

**COUNTRY PLACE SENIOR CARE CENTER (Isabella)*

1305 E. Jordan Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989-773-6320

Provides services for assisted living, frail elderly and Alzheimer's care.

**EVERGREEN TERRACE*

801 Fuller Avenue

Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-527-1050

Provides various levels of assistance with daily activities and personal care.

**LAKEVIEW TERRACE (Montcalm County)*

9494 Paden Rd., Lakeview, MI 48850

Phone: 989-352-5550

**REED CITY FIELDS (Osceola County)*

22109 Professional Drive, Reed City, MI 49677

Phone: 231-465-4371

**ROYAL VIEW ASSISTED LIVING*

9100 Buchanan Road

Mecosta, MI 49332

Phone: 231-972-6600

Skilled Nursing

**ALTERCARE*

805 West Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-3185

**THE LAURELS OF MT. PLEASANT (Isabella County)*

400 South Crapo Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989-773-5918

**MISSION POINT NURSING CENTER*

725 W. Fuller Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-2631

**Medilodge (Isabella County)*

1524 Portabella Trail, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48848

Phone: 989-772-2967

Other

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY*

18387 Northland Drive, Big Rapids

Phone: 231-972-2100

Mecosta County Habitat for Humanity is a dedicated to the elimination of poverty housing through the creation of well-built, low cost houses.

**MSHDA*

(Michigan State Housing Development Authority)

Phone: 855-646-7432
Section 8 Phone: 517-241-0809
Homeless Assistance Specialist: 517-335-1852
Online housing options:
www.michiganhousinglocator.com
www.seniorhousinglocator.org

Services

Energy and Utility Assistance

**MID MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY*

14330 Northland Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-660-0271

Provides help with deliverable heating fuel, heating emergencies and other household emergencies.

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**PROJECT STARBURST*

120 S. State St., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-5342

**SALVATION ARMY*

325 Linden St., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-5597

**TRUENORTH COMMUNITY SERVICES*

Heat & Energy Assistance

6308 S. Warner Ave, PO Box 149, Fremont, MI 49412

Phone: 231-924-0641 Fax: 231-924-5594

Website: www.truenorthservices.com

Provides assistance with heat/utility bills and energy conservation initiatives through the emPower Program, when funding is available.

Legal Resources

**ADULT WELLBEING SERVICES -Grand Rapids*

Phone: 616-245-9451 Toll free: 800-782-2918

Website: www.awbs.org

Purpose: A statewide consumer advocacy organization concerned with improving the quality of long-term care facilities and services.

**AGING, OFFICE OF SERVICES -Lansing*

Phone: 517-373-8230

Develops advocate legislation that will benefit the Older Americans.

**BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF WESTERN*

MICHIGAN, INC -Grand Rapids,

Phone: 616-774-8236 Toll free: 800-684-3222

Website: www.westernmichigan.bbb.org

Provides advertising review and complaint handling, mediation and arbitration, reliability reports on businesses.

**HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER OF MICHIGAN*

Phone: 866-400-9164

Provides housing counseling services that help clients resolve their issues related to home payments, foreclosure and landlord/tenant problems.

**LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MICHIGAN*

Phone: 888-783-8190

Provides legal aid to qualifying persons.

The applicant must be a resident of Mecosta, Osceola, Montcalm, or Lake Counties. Family size and income are also determining factors. When qualified you are then scheduled to speak with one of the attorneys, (no attorney fees are charged).

**LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN*

Toll free: 866-485-9393

The Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program strives to improve the quality of care and quality of life of residents who reside in licensed long term care facilities (nursing homes, homes for aged and adult foster care homes). Ombudsmen advocate for the resident guided by the wishes of the resident. The program also aims to improve the long term care system.

**MICHIGAN INSURANCE INFORMATION HOTLINE*

Phone: (517) 371-2880

Website: www.iiminfo.org

Administered by the Insurance Institute of Michigan since 1979. They provide information on all types of insurance, handle complaints; provide information about insurance company's financial condition upon request.

**MICHIGAN OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE REGULATION*

Phone: 877-999-6442

Responsible for regulating Michigan's

financial industries and protecting consumers.

**MID-AMERICAN PENSION RIGHTS PROJECTS*

Phone: 866-735-7737

Assists retirees of any age or any income with retirement benefits.

**SENIOR BRIGADE*

Phone: 800-347-5297

Provides free educational program to help elderly population avoid becoming victims of scams and fraud.

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Social Services

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WESTERN MICHIGAN*

3215 Eaglecrest Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Phone: 616-456-5664 Toll free: 888-456-5664

Website: www.aaawm.org

A Michigan nonprofit corporation designated by the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging as the planning and coordination agency for Older Americans' programs in the nine (9) counties: Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Montcalm, Osceola, Mecosta counties, and the city of Grand Rapids. This agency subcontracts with local service providers, agencies, and organizations to provide the needed supportive home help and nutrition services. AAAWM exist to help older adults and person with disabilities live in their community with independence and dignity. Programs offered: MI Choice Medicaid Waiver, Care Management, Nursing Facility Transition Program, Community Options Counseling and Choices for Independence.

**COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH FOR CENTRAL MICHIGAN*

500 S. 3rd Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-5825 (Mecosta)

Phone: 231-832-2247 (Osceola)

Website: www.cmhcm.org

Helps people prevent, remedy and improve psychological and social disorders and to support and enhance the emotional well-being and social competency of individuals and families.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES*

800 Watertower Road, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-4300

Programs:

Independent Living Services are services to individuals requiring advice or assistance to live independently. Services include case management, counseling, education, and training, employment, health related services, homemaking, housing, money management, protection, information and referral

Home Help Services (AHH) eligibility is based on need for service. The person must be MEDICAID eligible. AHH purchases assistance with activities of daily living such as taking medication, meal preparation, bathing, and dressing and other personal needs.

Adult Community Placement is a service that provides or arranges for the placement of and adult in licensed ADULT FOSTER CARE facilities, HOMES FOR THE AGED, and NURSING CARE facilities. Pre and post placement services are included. Eligibility is based on need. Any person needing placement is eligible. Payment for care is determined by income.

Adult Protective Services provide protection to vulnerable adults at risk of harm due to abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Cases are investigated within 24 hours

-The Agency also administers the FOOD STAMP/BRIDGE CARD program, MICHIGAN MEDICAID, and the STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM.

**DISABILITY ADVOCATES OF KENT COUNTY*

Phone: 616-949-1100

Provides information, referral and help with ramps and other adaptive repairs to make your home handicap accessible.

**ELDERCARE LOCATOR*

Call Center Phone: 800-677-1116

Website: www.eldercare.gov

A free public service that helps connect senior citizens, family member, and caregivers to resources within the community. Eldercare Locator provides referral service when needed.

**EXPERIENCE WORKS*

Phone: 989-773-1932

A national, nonprofit organization offering job training, job placement, and work experience in community service organizations to mature workers over age 55.

***MID MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**
14330 Northland Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307
Phone: 231-660-0271

Serves Mecosta and Osceola Counties with food and nutrition (including the U.S.D.A. commodities), weatherization, energy, housing, outreach, emergency utility assistance, as well as services to seniors. **ELIGIBILITY:** Low income families, poverty income guidelines.

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***RETIRED SENIOR AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**
14485 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Phone: 231-796-4848

A volunteer program created for those 55 years plus to utilize the expertise of senior experience.

***RILEY MACKENZIE FUND**

Web: rileymackenziefund.org

Organized specifically to prevent cruelty to animals, this assistance program is for stray and abandoned animals. The fund provides food, vetting, temporary boarding, or spay/ neuter services to pets.

***ROTARY CLUB OF BIG RAPIDS**

125 North Michigan, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Phone: 231-796-9944

Develops, establishes and operates programs and services that are necessary to the rehabilitation of needy and physically handicapped persons; to provide medical evaluation, orthopedic equipment when necessary.

***SALVATION ARMY**

325 Linden, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Phone: 231-796-5597

Offers a range of Emergency Financial Assistance to meet people's physical needs, as well as programs to serve their spiritual needs.

***SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM-FOSTER GRANDPARENT** - *EightCAP, Inc.*

Serving Mecosta, Montcalm & Ionia Counties,

904 Oak Dr., Greenville, MI 48838

Phone: 616-754-9315 Ext. 3361

Provides low-income seniors meaningful volunteer opportunities. Foster Grandparents assist children in supervised settings such as schools and day care centers. Senior Companions serve adults in their homes, nursing homes, hospitals, respite centers, and adult day care centers.

***ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

102 William Street, Big Rapids, Michigan 49307
Phone: 231-796-1571

Resale shop, other services.

***SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

LOCAL OFFICE DISTRICT OFFICE

502 N. State Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 800-772-1213

Website: www.ssa.gov

Program: Administers the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI), Social Security Retirement, Survivors and Disability Program.

***U.S.D.A. RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Phone: 616-942-4111

Purpose: To provide low interest loans and grants for home repairs. Eligibility based on income.

***WOMEN'S INFORMATION SERVICE, INC. (WISE)**

Big Rapids, MI

800-374-WISE (9473)

Phone: 231-796 - 6600 (Crisis Hotline)

231-796 -6692 (Business line)

Purpose: Any person who is in need of protection or assistance due to actual or threatened abuse or adult sexual assault.



Transportation

***DIAL A RIDE (D.A.R.T)**

201 N. Bronson St., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: 231-796-8675

Services: Demand response, curb-to-curb, public transportation with the city of Big Rapids; limited bus service is available outside the city.

**MOTA - Mecosta Osceola Transit Authority*
Phone: 231-796-4896

Provides transportation throughout the two-county area by bus. There is a charge to use this service, with a discount for seniors.

The program provides the opportunity for people age 55 and older to share their time and talent in a wide variety of volunteer activities.

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**SPECTRUM HEALTH DRIVERS ASSESSMENT SERVICES (Evaluates a patients' ability to safely drive in their natural environment)*
2750 East Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids
616-391-6249

Veterans

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS*
1200 McNamara Bldg., 477 Michigan Ave, Detroit
Phone: 313-964-6595
Purpose: Assistance to Veterans or his family, clothing, some financial assistance available to qualifying veterans.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD - MECOSTA COUNTY*
CONTACT: Veterans Affairs Officer
Phone: 231-592-0124
Services Building, 14485 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Hours: 9:00 – 3:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays
National Number for Veteran's Affairs:

**MECOSTA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES*
Contact: Paul Mackersie- Accredited Service Rep.
14330 Northland Dr, Big Rapids, MI 49307
Phone: 231-592-0124
By appointment only
Email: veterans@mecostacounty.org

**OTHER VETERANS INFORMATION*

Michigan's Veterans Hotline: 1-800-642-4838 or
Website: michiganveterans.com

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans:
Phone: 877-424-3838

Veterans Crisis Line:
Phone: 800-273-8255 (press 1)

Federal Regional V.A. Michigan Office Hotline:
Phone: 800-827-1000

Veteran Medical Centers:
Battle Creek- Phone: 888-214-1247
Saginaw- Phone: 989-497-2500

Community Based Outpatient Clinics:
Cadillac- Phone: 231-775-4401
Clare- Phone: 989-386-8113
Grand Rapids- Phone: 616-365-9575

Veterans Center:
Grand Rapids- Phone: 877-927-8387

VA Medical Foster Home Program
Phone: 269-223-5635

Scams and Frauds-

How to spot them and report them:

***IRS scam:** Victim receives a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS. Demands money. Tip: IRS never calls demanding money.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and to the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Section ([irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov))

***IRS Identity Theft:** Tax-related identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information to commit tax fraud. Your taxes can be affected if your Social Security number is used to file a fraudulent return or to claim a refund or credit.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and to the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Section ([irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov))

***Family Emergency Scam (Grandparent scam):**
Caller claims to be a family member or a friend of a family member. Caller reports that they are in jail

or at a hospital. Requests money. Tip: Call other family members to confirm.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and if monies are wired, also report to the F.B.I. (FBI Detroit field office, www.detroit.fbi.gov (313) 965-2323)

***Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam:** Scammer convinces victim that they have won a sweepstakes (money or prize). They demand money to cover taxes or to cover delivery charges. Tip: Never pay to collect a prize.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and if monies are wired, also report to the F.B.I. (FBI Detroit field office, www.detroit.fbi.gov (313) 965-2323)

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***Home Repair Scam:** Bogus contractor claims you need repairs. They collect money and never do the job or do a substandard job. Tip: Check for business license and research.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and file a report with the Michigan Attorney General (www.michigan.gov/ag (517) 373-1110).

***Love Interest/Friendship Scam:** Scammers create a fake profile on dating sites. They profess their love quickly and request money for an emergency or to travel to meet. Tip (warning signs): Scammer wants to communicate off the site, scammer wants victim to wire money to them or open a bank account for them.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and if monies are wired, also report to the F.B.I. (FBI Detroit field office, www.detroit.fbi.gov (313) 965-2323)

***Healthcare/Health Insurance Fraud Scam:** Scammers offer free medical tests or products. They then bill Medicare/Medicaid Tip: Never sign blank insurance forms. Never give blanket authorization. Know if your physician ordered equipment.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and file a report with the Michigan Attorney General (www.michigan.gov/ag (517) 373-1110).

***Identity Theft:** Scammers obtain victim's personal information and use it to obtain goods and services or to open accounts. Tip: Shred documents that have personal information. Review your social network sites and limit personal information.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department. Remember a victim of identity theft is entitled to a police report (Michigan Statute 780.754a). Also file a report with the Federal Trade Commission ftc.gov/idtheft. The Federal Trade Commission will assist with a recovery plan.

***Charity Scams:** Scammers pose as charity workers and collect money. Tip: Check the Attorney Generals website for registered charities.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and file a report with the Michigan Attorney General (www.michigan.gov/ag (517) 373-1110).

***Telemarketing Fraud:** Scammers call and offer unneeded goods or services. Items are never sent or items are substandard. Tip: Don't buy from an unfamiliar company. Don't be pressured into buying.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and file a report with the Michigan Attorney General (www.michigan.gov/ag (517) 373-1110).

***Used Car Scam:** Shady car dealer sells a overpriced used car to a buyer with distressed credit. A few days later seller contacts buyer and says financing fell through. Requests buyer for more money.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and file a report with the Michigan Attorney General (www.michigan.gov/ag (517) 373-1110).

***Computer Scam:** Scammer contacts victim and tells them that their computer is infected. Scammer offers to fix computer by remote access.

Scammer obtains access and installs a virus and demands money to remove virus OR scammer obtains personal or banking information from computer files. Tip: If you have problems with your computer, take it to a local computer repair service.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and if monies are wired, also report to the F.B.I. (FBI Detroit field office, www.detroit.fbi.gov (313) 965-2323).

***Coronavirus Scam:** Scammers contact victim and claim to have a cure or testing for the Coronavirus. They request money for the cure or testing. Tip: Only obtain testing or medications from your physician.

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and if monies are wired, also report to the F.B.I. (FBI Detroit field office, www.detroit.fbi.gov (313) 965-2323).

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***Vehicle warranty Scam:** Scammers call victim and offer a vehicle warranty. They obtain personal information and defraud victim (identity theft).

Reporting: Report violations to your local police department and if monies are wired, also report to the F.B.I. (FBI Detroit field office, www.detroit.fbi.gov (313) 965-2323).

***Other Reporting information**

If money is sent through the U.S. Postal Service, a report should also be filed with the United States Postal Inspectors (postalinspectors.uspis.gov) or contact your local Postmaster.

***Common practices by scammers**

Scammers request/demand victims to:

- 1) Provide personal information (bank information, social security number, etc.).
- 2) Request/demand payment by wiring funds (Western Union, etc.) or by purchasing prepaid cards (ITUNES, Green dot cards, etc.).

***Exploitation by family/caregivers**

(common practices)

- Suspect obtains a power of attorney and uses victim's funds for their own benefit.
- Suspect obtains a joint bank account with the victim and deposits little or no money into the account and withdraws funds for their own benefit.
- Suspect obtains a quit claim deed for the victim's property.
- Suspect opens accounts in the victim's name.

***Common improper use of victim's funds:**

- Paying suspects cell phone/internet bills.
- Suspect purchases gas/ vehicle repairs.
- Purchase cigarettes, tobacco, vaping equipment.
- Purchase fast food/groceries for their own use.
- Use victim's funds for trips to casino, vacations.

Reporting: Contact your local police department and/or Adult Protective Services.

***Referral information**

- Better Business Bureau, www.bbb.org (703) 207-0100
- Federal Trade Commission, www.ftc.gov (202) 326-2222
- Credit report, www.annualcreditreport.com 1-800-525-6285, 1-888-397-3742, 1-800-680-7289
- Michigan Department of Regulatory Affairs (L.A.R.A.) www.michigan.gov/lara
- Michigan Attorney General, www.michigan.gov/ag (517) 373-1110
- Adult Protective Services, (855) 444-3911
- United States Postal Inspectors, www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov
- United States Internal Revenue Service, www.irs.gov
- F.B.I. Detroit field office, www.detroit.fbi.gov (313) 965-2323

Call 2-1-1

If you did not find the resource you were looking for try dialing 2-1-1. Dialing 2-1-1 is a simple way for people to connect to community organizations and services.

NOTES:
