



Grosse Pointe Crisis Club Newsletter

Serving the Community Since 1956

Volume 60

1st Quarter 2026

Number 1



From The President

You're not reading an old Newsletter. I'm back and honored to serve another term as the President of The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club. I want to thank Jim Ellis for everything he did during his term to increase the Club's Membership and fundraising. Creighton Weber, who served as our Treasurer for several years has stepped into the Vice President position and Rich Grosfield will serve as Treasurer. Linda Bertges will continue as Secretary. Thank you Linda.

The Board has started planning this year's events with the 32nd (NCAA Basketball Championship) Spring Sports Night on April 6, 2026. Assumption Culture Center will once again host the event. The planning committee has been hard at work fundraising for raffle prizes along with everything that happens behind the scenes. If you would like to donate a prize, bottle of liquor, or something else, please contact Bill Meridith or Rick

Continued on Page 5

Save the Date!

2026 Spring Sports Night™

April 6th, 2026



Mark your calendars for Spring Sports Night™ on April 6th. Additional details and an event flyer is enclosed.



Grosse Pointe Crisis Club
18640 Mack Ave., Unit 36243
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Web: www.gpcrisisclub.org
A 501(c)(3) Public Charity

OFFICERS — 2026

President
 William R. Turner

Vice-President
 Creighton J. Weber

Treasurer
 Rich Grosfield

Secretary
 Linda C. Bertges

Crisis Case Director
 Donald H. Vormelker

TRUSTEES

Term Ending Dec. 31, 2026
 Jim Ellis
 William R. Turner
 Rich Grosfield

Term Ending Dec. 31, 2027
 Eugene (Bud) Casazza
 Donald H. Vormelker
 Tim DeMeulenaere

Term Ending Dec. 31, 2028
 Linda C. Bertges
 Richard Bertges
 Creighton J. Weber

Term Ending Dec. 31, 2029
 Richard Grosfield, Sr.
 Mike Norris
 Bill Meredith

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Accounting
 John J. Blake

Newsletter/Editor
 Eugene L. Casazza

Assistant Crisis Case Director
 Mike Norris

Advertising Chairman
 Jimmy Maniere

Legal Counsel
 F. Peter Blake

Membership Chairman
 Richard Grosfield, Sr.

Nominations/Elections
 William Turner
 Steve Graus

Roster Chairman
 George Strachan

The Grosse Pointe Crisis Club is pledged to act in an emergency or "Crisis" not covered by the policies of other charitable organizations. Cases requiring continuing aid are best handled by others.

PLEASE NOTE!

We encourage our members to refer people or families in a possible crisis or emergency, but we ask our members to contact the Crisis Director or any Trustee in person. Please do not give anyone the hot-line number, or the telephone number of case investigators or any other Crisis Club member.



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Dan Aitken * Crisis Club Member



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Paul D. Alandt
Crisis Club Member

Crisis Case Corner

By Donald H. Vormelker, Crisis Case Director

2026 CALENDAR YEAR CASES (1st Quarter)

Case 1911 J. Flannery D. Vormelker

A single mother with two children was referred to the Club by a social worker from a St. Clair Shores middle school. After talking to the oldest child things were very difficult at home and they may be evicted. She contacted the mother and gave her the Club hotline to call for possible help. It was determined that she had been off work for three months due to back surgery she needed after a fall and that they were facing possible eviction. They received no financial assistance but she would be returning to work shortly. The Club paid two month's rent to avoid eviction.

Case 1912 J. Flannery D. Vormelker

The Judson Center Outpatient Therapist contacted the Club about one of her patients who was disabled with PTSD and whose washing machine broke down. Because of the costs for a replacement and plumbing up grades required he was not able to pay his mortgage. The Club paid two month's mortgage to bring him up to date.

Case 1913 M. Norris D. Vormelker

The Van Elslander Cancer Center social worker requested assistance for a single 56 year old man who recently had prostate surgery. He worked full time and planned on going back to work after surgical clearance. After surgery he encountered an infection and was off work six weeks and may be off another two. He requested assistance with a mortgage payment that he was behind. The Club paid two month's mortgage payment. The one he was behind and another payment to cover him while he was off work.

Case 1914 M. Norris D. Vormelker

A member contacted the Club about a family that was staying at the Days Inn and who no longer had funds to stay any longer and no other place to go. After meeting with the woman it was determined that her husband was disabled and that she also had two teenage sons staying there. They were expecting his disability checks to start within two weeks. The Club paid for two weeks stay so they would have a place to stay until his checks arrived.

Case 1915 M. Norris D. Vormelker

A representative from St. Vincent DePaul contacted the Club about a single woman diagnosed cancer who underwent surgery and chemotherapy. She

works housekeeping at Ford Field and Little Caesars Arena but hasn't been able to work full time but hopes to resume working full time soon. She requested one month's rent but they did not have any funds available at this time so they contacted the Club. The Club paid two month's rent until so can go back to work fulltime.

If any member has or knows of an individual or family that could possibly need assistance please have them contact the Crisis Club Hotline at 313-685-0086.

Thank You Notes Received

Card Received

To Don and all members of the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club

On behalf of the Corwell PATCH Pediatric Team (Children's Hospice), we wish you all Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year!
Many thanks for the generous gifts you've shared with our hospice families all around Metro Detroit. Your kindness is so appreciated by our families and our team?

Thank you so much!
Corwell PATCH Social Workers

Notes received from giving out Meijer gift cards at Christmas

Thank you so much for the help for Christmas. It was wonderful getting to see our boys really enjoy Christmas morning! We truly appreciate it and I hope to pay it forward in the future.
Thank You

I cannot thank you enough for the gift cards at Christmas. Without them I wouldn't have been able to get gifts for my kids. I did not know what I was going to do so thanks again
Merry Christmas to all of you.

I could not believe when I was given the cards and I wish you could see how happy my children were when they opened their gifts. Thanks for making our Christmas.

Case 1913

To all members of the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club I cannot thank you enough for all your generously at a very difficult time. I was worrying what I was going to do until you called and then helped me.
Thanks to All of You



Happy Birthday



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 John N. Knill
- 4 Lou Micks
- 7 Creighton J. Weber
- 9 Thomas Ellis
- 10 David B. Hea
- 12 John W. Koski
- 14 James P. Ellis
- 15 Phillip Deck
- 15 John M. Kennedy
- 15 Michael G. LeFevre
- 15 Jay Zawislak
- 16 Bill Hadley
- 18 Gerrit C. DeMeulenaere
- 18 Thomas P. Youngblood
- 21 Dan Grano
- 23 Daniel T. Dombrowski
- 23 Joseph Michalewicz
- 23 Thomas W. Spanos
- 25 David L. Peters

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Michael J. Kennedy
- 5 Shawna Kesler
- 8 Anthony D. Berti
- 9 Paul J. Quasarano
- 13 Mary Catherine Rentz
- 16 Daniel R. Roemer
- 18 John Jay Buell
- 18 Frank T. LaGrasso, Jr.
- 20 Rick Pesta
- 22 Wendy Bertges Yost
- 23 John R. Eastman
- 28 J. Michael Clyne

MARCH

- 3 Dave Fosser
- 4 Martin E. Cohan
- 4 Thomas L. Ostrowski

- 8 Bert Skibinski
- 9 N. William O'Keefe
- 11 Eugene W. Bader
- 12 Paul Ellis
- 12 Rodney K. Elnick
- 12 Anthony Marchiori
- 13 Richard Hathaway
- 17 Gregory A. Cheesewright
- 18 Thomas H. Shenkosky
- 20 Timothy DeMeulenaere
- 20 Tom Johnston
- 21 Charles Kaiser
- 23 Alex Lucido
- 23 Paul Michael Thoen
- 28 Anthony Jekielek
- 29 Andrew H. Cohen
- 31 Dennis M. Cyr
- 31 Otto Kern

Service Officer Report

Bob Fleming continues with rehabilitation, which now includes a broken fibula, at the Michigan Veteran Home in Chesterfield Township.

Larry Smith recently had additional surgery and has been in and out of Henry Ford St. John.

Bob West had total knee replacement and is recovering at home.

Dick Grosfield, Sr. recently took a fall which resulted in a fractured wrist.

Please keep Bob Fleming, Larry, Bob West and Dick in your thoughts and prayers. We're sure those members recovering from hospitalization and surgery would appreciate a call or an email.

2026 Donations

The 2025, Big Beautiful Bill made changes to charitable deductions for 2026. Taxpayers who *do not itemize* can deduct up to \$1,000.00 (\$2,000.00 if filing married jointly) for qualified charitable cash contributions. A contribution to the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club qualifies for this deduction in 2026.

Thank You For Your Donations

Once again, John Kennedy (the Irish Coffee Bar and Grill) has procured a \$15,000.00 contribution from the Wilkinson Foundation for the Club in December 2025. The Wilkinson Foundation has been a loyal contributor to the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club for Seventeen years. The Club offers its thanks to the Foundation and to Chris and Colleen Gay for their continued support and generosity.

Also, in December 2025, Dick Grosfield made a \$800.00 donation, Ken Dilaura made a \$1,000.00 donation, Mary Catherine Rentz made a \$2,000.00 donation and Paul Zimmer made a \$2,500.00 donation. Thank you all for your generous donations.

2026 Dues

If you have paid your \$100.00 annual dues for 2026, thank you. If not, please immediately pay your dues by sending it directly to our Treasurer, Rich Grosfield, 39326 Northpointe Parkway, Harrison Twp., MI 48045. If you joined the Crisis Club in 1986 or earlier, your dues as a Life Member are optional.

From the President *Continued from Page 1*

The Crisis Club helps people in need not only through the funds raised at our events, but through the generous support of our members and supporters.

I encourage you to read about the crisis cases and the hope and help we bring into people's lives. One of the great things about our Club is the speed Don Vormelker (Crisis Case Director) is able to provide assistance to an approved case. This can make the difference between someone falling another month behind in rent and possible eviction or getting a gift card to put food on the table for a family.

I'm excited to see what 2026 will bring this year. We are always looking for volunteers at our events. Finally, if you forgot to pay your 2026 dues, please take a second to send in a check.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at our future events.

Bill Turner
President



Upcoming EVENTS

2026

- March 10th - Trustee meeting at Romano's
- April 6th - Spring Sports Night at Assumption
- August 3th - Kotcher's Kapers
at Gowanie Golf Club
- November 13th - Comedy Night
at Lakeland Manor

**NOTE: Trustee Meeting dates
are subject to change**

SAVE THE DATE



**2026 SPRING
SPORTS NIGHT**
Monday, April 6th, 2025
Assumption Cultural Center

**2026 GROSSE POINTE
CRISIS CLUB
"KOTCHER'S KAPERS"
GOLF OUTING**

Monday, August 3rd, 2026
Gowanie Golf Club



Presidential Trivia

- A. Established the First National Park
- B. Used slave labor to build his home
- C. Signed the Sherman Anti-Trust Act
- D. Known as the "Little Magician"
- E. Watched Bunker Hill Battle from his Farm

See Page 8 for Answers



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, November 13th
The 2026 Grosse Pointe Crisis Club
"Ted Eickhoff" Comedy Night
Lakeland Manor, St. Clair Shores

**GROSSE POINTE
CRISIS CLUB**



presents

**The Road
To Indianapolis**



**Monday,
April 6, 2026**

Assumption Cultural Center
21800 Marter Rd.
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080

Doors Open 6:00 p.m.
Checks/Credit Cards Accepted
Night of the Event

Master of Ceremonies:
Rich Higginbottom

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PLEASE MAIL OR CALL TO RESERVE SEATING

MAIL TO: Rick Bertges • 26701 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-2860
For Information, Call: (586) 241-2411 • E-mail: rick@bassecuritysystems.com - Subject: Sports Night

Lic. # Pending

Enroll Now In the Kroger Community Rewards Program

If you shop at Kroger, please enroll for the Kroger Community Rewards Program and designate the Crisis Club as the beneficiary of your shopping. There are two options to sign up: go to krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the prompts to designate the Crisis Club as your charity of choice or call 1-800 KROGERS, follow the prompts to #4, and the Customer Service department will answer and ask you for the number on the back of your plus card. Tell Kroger to add the Grosse Pointe Crisis Club as your charitable designate and you're done. Remember that your friends, family and business associates can also join to help us have more people enrolled. Please sign up using the new Rewards number of AC852.

Thank you.



KROGER UPDATE

We received a Kroger check in the amount of \$132.04 from the period of November 1, 2025 to January 31, 2026. We now have 57 households participating. We remind all our Members to go to Kroger online, sign up for Community Rewards and name the GPCC as your charity of choice. Kroger has assigned the Club a new Rewards number. Please sign up using the new Rewards number of AC852. Thank you for your help.



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Presidential Trivia Answers

- A. Grant
- B. Jackson
- C. B. Harrison
- D. Van Buren
- E. Quincy Adams



2026 ROSTER

As previously reported, the Crisis Club is no longer publishing a hard copy Roster booklet. The Roster is now on the website and is password protected. George Strachan is the Roster Chairman. If you need to update your information or need the password, email George at Geostrac@sbcglobal.net.

Newsletter Availability

If you would like an additional copy of our Newsletter for family, friends or business associates, please stop by the following establishment:

Irish Coffee Bar & Grill, Grosse Pointe Farms,

Crisis Club Contact Information

Web: www.gpcrisisclub.org

E-mail: ELCasazza@aol.com

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