



Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International • Editor: Traci Barbier

MICHIGANDER

Quarterly Publication of the Michigan Pond - Chartered 1906

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 3

Detroit Puddle lends a hand to the Goodfellows



Submitted By: Joe Coccia

The Detroit Puddle had another volunteer event that took place on October 16th and 17th at the Old Newsboys Goodfellows Fund of Detroit Warehouse in Detroit. Several Puddle Members along with a handful of volunteers packed up over 2000 gift boxes for the children of Detroit, River Rouge and Highland Park to assure that there will be “no kiddie without a Christmas.” Once again this year, Connie Haddad was the organizer.

Don’t forget to support the Goodfellows on their paper sale day. Last year’s publication featured the Blue Goose volunteers!

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Upcoming Events

July 11-13, 2018



Grand Nest Convention
Edmonton, Alberta

Hope to see you there!

2017/2018 Pond Officers

Most Loyal Gander • Shanna Bryant 517-699-4451
Supervisor of the Flock • Steve Carson II 313-304-5665
Custodian of the Goslings • Connie Haddad 734-787-5922
Guardian of the Pond • Russ Wendt 616-893-3445
Permanent Wielder • Dick Chenard 616-676-1960

Permanent Keeper • Joe Lothschutz 616-575-1122
Past Most Loyal Gander • James Sluiter 616-455-5400
Past Most Loyal Grand Gander • Joe Coccia 734-604-4883
Past Most Loyal Grand Gander • John Zeldam 256-638-1105

Detroit Puddle

Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.
Meeting locations vary each month.

Loyal Gander • Shondell Granger 734-545-3432
Supervisor of the Flock • Michelle Kresnak 517-518-4625
Custodian of the Goslings • OPEN
Wielder of the Goose Quill • Steve Carson II 313-304-5665

Lansing Puddle

Meets every third Wednesday at Leo's Lodge
on Jolly Road in Lansing.

Loyal Gander • Sharon Young 517-769-6193
Supervisor of the Flock • Joe Fitzgerald 616-540-5006
Custodian of the Goslings • OPEN
Wielder of the Goose Quill • Denie Perkola 248-416-4192
PKGGE • Steve Spalding 517-337-1771

Grand Rapids Puddle

Meets at different locations on different dates.
Contact PWGQ Dick Chenard for meeting details.

Loyal Gander • Karla Libolt 888-248-3148
Supervisor of the Flock • Joe Fitzgerald 616-540-5006
Custodian of the Goslings • Jim Sluiter 616-942-5009
PWGQ • Dick Chenard 616-676-1960
PKGGE • Joe Lothschutz 616-575-1122

Northern Puddle

Meets the first Wednesday of each month, meetings alternate
between BJ's Restaurant in Gaylord and different restaurants
in Traverse City. Contact an officer to confirm the meeting
location.

Loyal Gander • Mike Jenkinson 989-426-3483
Supervisor of the Flock • OPEN
Wielder of the Goose Quill • Juli Sauve 989-356-9800
PKGGE • Jennifer Boughner 989-705-1732

**The Blue Goose MICHIGANDER, published quarterly, is mailed to over 300 members.
Send an e-mail or correspondence for articles, to: Traci Barbier: tracib8795@comcast.net
Send e-mail for address or employment changes to: Dick Chenard: biggoose@earthlink.net
Get the MICHIGANDER on the web: www.bluegoosemichiganpond.com**

Detroit helps Goodfellows cont'd



GOODFELLOWS 2016

PACKAGE PREPARATION

Boxes stuffed with much joy

As we approach the 2016 holiday season, the members of the Detroit Goodfellows Purchasing Committee have no time to relax. The purchases have been made, the boxes packed, and we are ready to start the challenging task of ensuring that all 34,000 of them are placed in the hands of our area's deserving young people. We will once again work hard to fulfill our 102-year-old mission of "No Kiddle Without a Christmas."

Goodfellows past President Conrad Koski has served as the leader of our purchasing committee for nearly 30 years, and he is confident we will once again be able to fulfill that mission. From shopping to packing to distribution, it is a year-long labor of love to ensure our goal.

"The staples in the package remain the same, although styles have changed," Koski said. "We always try to go with the most popular styles for hats, gloves and socks."

The wearable items in the packages include the hats, gloves and socks, as well as a sweatshirt, underwear and sweatpants.

The children also receive toys, trinkets (such as jewelry, flashlights, games), school supplies and stuffed animals, among many other items.

We are also proud to have worked with the Detroit Public Library to provide every child with an application form for a library card in every package this year. This complements the age-appropriate books the children receive in their packages.

The library card is a perfect complement to what we believe is one of the most important components of our package each year — the books. Each child from 4-13 receives at least four age-appropriate books.

We begin buying merchandise in late January.

Rogers Foster / Detroit Goodfellows

Members of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International, volunteered at the Goodfellows warehouse to help pack giftbox items. This generous group of men and women who work in the insurance and related industry donated \$6,000 to the Goodfellows in 2016 to support our shoe program. They've given a total of \$200,000 over the years.

By the end of August, all the items are in our Detroit warehouse. Our packaging team, led by Emmett Yglesias, begins packing right after Labor Day and by the first week in November, the packages are ready to go out to our distribution centers.

We work extremely closely with the Detroit Police Department to hand out the packages each year. In 2016, we have eight locations.

Students in the Interact Club of Grosse Pointe South High School, the University of Detroit Jesuit,

BRUSHING UP

Dental kits light up kids' smiles

BY DR. MIKE JENNINGS
V-P, Detroit Goodfellows

Imagine having a toothache for two years! This is the true story of a youngster in the Detroit Public Schools.

Thanks to the University of Detroit Mercy Dental School, that child finally got some relief. The Titans for Teeth Mobile Clinic and Seal a Smile Sealant Programs ensure that this little one and hundreds of others will never have to deal with the pain of a toothache again!

Thanks to our generous donors, the Detroit Goodfellow Board of Directors recently approved a \$20,000 grant to help well as the UD Mercy School of Dentistry Pediatric Clinic.

The Titans for Teeth School Based Mobile Dental Clinic is a 38-foot mobile dental coach, which is an eight-chair clinic. Throughout the academic year, the clinic travels to participating schools in Detroit and Wayne County to provide comprehensive care for children in grades K-12.

Treatment is performed by dental students under the supervision of a licensed dentist and/or dental hygiene faculty.

In addition, the Seal a Smile School Based Sealant Clinic provides free preventive dental care to children in Detroit and Wayne County. Four portable dental chairs are brought into the partnering schools where dental hygiene students provide the necessary preventative services.

Thank you to our donors for the dental kits that go in each holiday package!

The dental kits contain a toothbrush, toothpaste, brushing timer, educational bookmark and dental floss in a reusable pencil style case. The dental health kits are made possible through the generous donations of our partners: Detroit Mercy Dental, Delta Dental Foundation of Michigan, Detroit District Dental Society, Patterson Dental Supply, Henry Schein Dental Supply and Unified Smiles.

What Goodfellows will give kids this year

Your generous support will enable us to buy the following items to provide 34,000 kids with a holiday gift package for 2016.

100,000 age-appropriate books	15,460 warm winter hats
90,600 pairs of girls' underwear	12,800 pairs of girls' magic gloves
34,000 dental kits	10,000 hand dressed dolls
34,000 sweatshirts (crew and hoodies)	9,500 earbud sets
34,000 packages of candy	9,500 design coloring books
32,200 pairs of boys' boxer briefs	8,600 pairs of boys' dress socks
31,000 pairs of girls' "butter" socks	8,400 pull back pickup trucks
26,000 pairs of boys' crew socks	8,000 lightup soccer balls
28,000 pairs of sweatpants	7,200 inflatable baseball bats

6,700 design your own calendars	3,300 fun bear lightup toys
6,600 pairs of boy's ski gloves	3,200 write and play flashcards
5,100 block assembly sets	3,100 princess sticker sets
5,100 scented notebooks with pens	2,500 colorful caterpillars
5,100 velvet poster art sets	2,500 race car sets
5,000 packages of colored markers	2,500 stuffed jungle animals
5,000 Sesame Street flashcards	2,400 packages of jumbo triangle crayons
4,900 packages of 16 count crayons	2,400 Popup "fun" books
4,900 pairs of warm ski mittens	1,800 glamour jewelry making kits
4,600 packages of colored pencils	1,800 lightup "emoji" balls
4,400 animal shaped coin purses	1,200 bling tote bags
3,400 "glow in the dark" planet sets	1,200 wind up tropical fishes
3,400 fancy nail "jewels"	



Convention held in Savannah, GA

Submitted By: Dan Rich Grand Custodian of the Ganders

The 111th Grand Nest Convention was held from July 11-13, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the heart of Savannah. The registration area was set up displaying the Grand Nest historical archives, this area also served as a lounge and central meeting area. Furniture and unused supplies were donated to the local Salvation Army to be used in their new teen center. This was the first time such a donation was made after the convention, but would be only one of the many things "new" for a Grand Nest Convention.

Volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Georgia was another new activity on the convention agenda. Convention attendees volunteered to pack backpacks with healthy food and snacks for school age children from distressed families. This program helps provide healthy meals on weekends for these children. The group was able to fill 645 backpacks!

The Welcome Party was held at Savannah Smiles Dueling Piano Bar. Ganders Joe Coccia and Stacey Rose took over the entertainment at this event. A blazing hot version of Mustang Sally featured Stacey on vocals and Joe on drums.

Wednesday's event began with a full breakfast, followed by Official Business. The National anthems of the United States and Canada were sung by the Gullah Geechee Gospel Choir, colors were presented by the American Legion Post 184 of Thunderbolt, GA, invocation and introductions of the officers (past and present) and their spouses. Queen Quet Marquette L. Goodwine the Chieftess of the Gullah Geechee Nation spoke to the group and educated everyone on the history of the Gullah Geechee culture.

The memorial ceremony, presented by the Tennessee Pond, remembered all ganders who have taken their final flight in the past year. Jerry Simpson, George Harwood and Jerry Hale all Past Most Loyal Grand Ganders were eulogized.

The Kentucky Pond conducted an entertaining model initiation with a Kentucky Derby theme.

The All Industry Luncheon featured motivational speaker, Billy Riggs. Billy combined magic and inspiration, baffling the group with a series of tricks including levitating tables, reassembling a torn up newspaper and solving a Rubiks Cube. He used these tricks to illustrate his talking points about leadership, character, integrity, honor, trust and teamwork.

First time attendees were recognized before the Regional Meetings and the evening's activities. The Family Night Dinner Cruise was held aboard the Georgia Queen. This fabulous boat measures 230 feet in length and 68 feet tall and features 3 grand ballrooms and several bars. All in attendance enjoyed a wonderful evening!

Following the breakfast on Thursday, a lively group of ganders from the Edmonton Pond gave everyone a preview of next year's convention. Mark your calendars for July 11-13, 2018. Coming soon is the convention website that will feature convention activities and information about Edmonton and the surrounding areas.

Most Loyal Grand Gander Linda Meik spoke about her year in office. She was able to visit several puddles and ponds with stops in Hartford, St. Louis, Richmond and Detroit to name a few. Linda's support and enthusiasm for the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International is contagious. Her year as MLGG was certainly busy and successful.

Congratulations on a wonderful year!

The convention was wrapped up with a Grand Banquet and Ball, "Dancing Through the Decades". Great food, music and plenty of fellowship! Another successful convention..... until next year.....Tote Fare.





Volunteers from Disability Advocates of Kent County.

GR Puddle 27th Annual Golf Outing

Submitted By: Dick Chenard

Oh what a beautiful day it was at Quail Ridge Golf Club on August 16. Almost 90 golfers participated plus the many folks from our chosen charities, hole and event sponsors. The event started with lunch, then golf followed by dinner and prizes. We invite our charities to attend the event and assign them to a contest hole where the golfers can make a wager. The proceeds go directly to the charity.

This year our charities were: Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Disability Advocates of Kent County, God's Kitchen, Kid's Food Basket, Special Olympics Area 11 and West Michigan Therapy Dogs. A total of \$8,355 will be passed on to these charities.

The outing could not be a success without the sponsors. Thank you to our lunch sponsor Belfor, beverage sponsors ERS & ART, Modernistic Cleaning and Restoration and Servpro Southwest, Southeast and Northwest Grand Rapids. Our dinner sponsor was J S Held LLC.

Hole sponsors were: Axiom Investigative Services LLC, Case Construction and Restoration, Inc., CRDN/Huntington Cleaners, Tim & Coleen Curtain – CCFA, Damage Restoration Company of Michigan, Envista Forensics, ERS & ART, FRSTeam by Paris Cleaners, Guaranteed Furniture Services, Inc., John Grace Restoration, Modernistic Cleaning & Restoration, Multi Serve, Inc., O'Donnell Brothers Professional Furniture Services Inc., ServiceMaster Advantage, Servpro of Eaton, Clinton, & Gratiot Counties,

Solution Electronics Cleaning, Van Dam & Krusinga and Yeager, Davison and Day, PC.

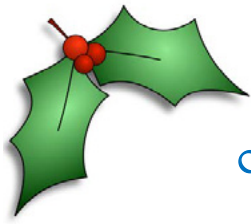
The Event Sponsors were: Chenard & Osborn Inc., Cooper's Restoration, Garan Lucow Miller, PC, Nederveld Forensic Engineering, & Fire Investigation, Secrest, Wardle, Lynch, Hampton, Truex and Morley, PC, Walworth & Nayh and Williams & Beck.

Many of the participants also brought door prizes, including Break the Mold, Chenard & Osborn Inc., Columbo's Floors to Go, Cooper's Restoration, CRDN/Huntington Cleaners, ERS & ART, FRSTeam by Paris Cleaners and Servpro of Eaton, Clinton & Gratiot Counties.

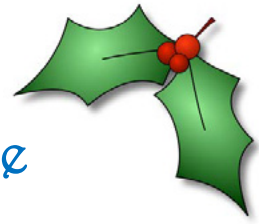
Thanks to the golf committee members, Joe Fitzgerald, Karla Libolt, Jim and Craig Sliuter, Russ Wendt and Dick Chenard. A very special thank you to Joe Lothschutz who very willing runs the financial side of things including preparation of the pairings and the various schedules.

See you again next year August 15.





Detroit Puddle of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose



Announces the **2017 Holiday Season Party**

Thursday, December 14th ~ 11:00 am to 4:00

Advanced Ticket Purchase Price: \$75.00

Seating is Limited to 500 Guest

(after cutoff date tickets are \$85.00 if still available)



20301 Oakwood Boulevard
Dearborn, Michigan 48124

Proceeds to Benefit:

The Old Newsboys' GoodFellows Fund of Detroit celebrates a 101 year old tradition of "No Kiddie without a Christmas".

There will be an After Glow Party immediately following the luncheon, held at **The Dearborn Inn Bar**

**Advanced Tickets must be purchased by
December 4, 2017**

Seating arrangements are made on a first purchase basis

Additional Information call:

David Beger (248) 423-0900 or Steve Carson II (313) 304-5665



Mail Ticket Request to: Dave Beger /CF&H
18444 W. 10 Mile, Suite 200
Southfield, MI 48075

Remember to: **Enclose a "Self Addresses Stamped Envelope"**
Make checks payable to "Blue Goose – Detroit Puddle"

OR

Purchase online at <https://squareup.com/market/bluegoosedetroitpuddle>

Name: _____

Company: _____

Phone: _____

Though contributions or gifts to the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes, they may be deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Please check with your accountant or CPA.

Single Ticket(s) _____ @ \$75.00 = _____

Table (10 Tickets) _____ @ \$720.00 = _____

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*Thought
for the Day...*

*The production of too many
useful things results in too
many useless people*

- Karl Marx

Food for Thought

Submitted By: Dick Chenard

Many of us are between 65 and death, i.e. old. This is an excellent list for aging . . . and I have to agree it's good advice to follow.

1. It's time to use the money you saved up. Use it and enjoy it. Don't just keep it for those who may have no notion of the sacrifices you made to get it. Remember there is nothing more dangerous than a son or daughter-in-law with big ideas for your hard-earned capital. Warning: This is also a bad time for investments, even if it seems wonderful or fool-proof. They only bring problems and worries. This is a time for you to enjoy some peace and quiet.

2. Stop worrying about the financial situation of your children and grandchildren, and don't feel bad spending your money on yourself. You've taken care of them for many years, and you've taught them what you could. You gave them an education, food, shelter and support. The responsibility is now theirs to earn their own money.

3. Keep a healthy life, without great physical effort. Do moderate exercise (like walking every day), eat well and get your sleep. It's easy to become sick, and it gets harder to remain healthy. That is why you need to keep yourself in good shape and be aware of your medical and physical needs. Keep in touch with your doctor, do tests even when you're feeling well. Stay informed.

4. Always buy the best, most beautiful items for your significant other. The key goal is to enjoy your money with your partner. One day one of you will miss the other, and the money will not provide any comfort then, enjoy it together.

5. Don't stress over the little things. You've already overcome so much in your life. You have good memories and bad ones, but the important thing is the present. Don't let the past drag you down and don't let the future frighten you. Feel good in the now. Small issues will soon be forgotten.

6. Regardless of age, always keep love alive. Love your partner, love life, love your family, love your neighbor and remember: "A man is not old as long as he has intelligence and affection."

7. Be proud, both inside and out. Don't stop going to your

hair salon or barber, do your nails, go to the dermatologist and the dentist, keep your perfumes and creams well stocked. When you are well-maintained on the outside, it seeps in, making you feel proud and strong.

8. Don't lose sight of fashion trends for your age, but keep your own sense of style. There's nothing worse than an older person trying to wear the current fashion among youngsters. You've developed your own sense of what looks good on you – keep it and be proud of it. It's part of who you are.

9. ALWAYS stay up-to-date. Read newspapers, watch the news. Go online and read what people are saying. Make sure you have an active email account and try to use some of those social networks. You'll be surprised what old friends you'll meet. Keeping in touch with what is going on and with the people you know is important at any age.

10. Respect the younger generation and their opinions. They may not have the same ideals as you, but they are the future, and will take the world in their direction. Give advice, not criticism, and try to remind them that yesterday's wisdom still applies today.

11. Never use the phrase: "In my time." Your time is now. As long as you're alive, you are part of this time. You may have been younger, but you are still you now, having fun and enjoying life.

12. Some people embrace their golden years, while others become bitter and surly. Life is too short to waste your days on the latter. Spend your time with positive, cheerful people, it'll rub off on you and your days will seem that much better. Spending your time with bitter people will make you older and harder to be around.

13. Do not surrender to the temptation of living with your children or grandchildren (if you have a financial choice, that is). Sure, being surrounded by family sounds great, but we all need our privacy. They need theirs and you need yours. If you've lost your partner (our deepest condolences), then

Food cont'd

find a person to move in with you and help out. Even then, do so only if you feel you really need the help or do not want to live alone.

14. Don't abandon your hobbies. If you don't have any, make new ones. You can travel, hike, cook, read, dance. You can adopt a cat or a dog, grow a garden, play cards, checkers, chess, dominoes, golf. You can paint, volunteer or just collect certain items. Find something you like and spend some real time having fun with it.

15. Even if you don't feel like it, try to accept invitations. Baptisms, graduations, birthdays, weddings, conferences. Try to go. Get out of the house, meet people you haven't seen in a while, experience something new (or something old). But don't get upset when you're not invited. Some events are limited by resources, and not everyone can be hosted. The important thing is to leave the house from time to time. Go to museums, go walk through a field. Get out there.

16. Be a conversationalist. Talk less and listen more. Some people go on and on about the past, not caring if their listeners are really interested. That's a great way of reducing their desire to speak with you. Listen first and answer questions, but don't go off into long stories unless asked to. Speak in courteous tones and try not to complain or criticize too much unless you really need to. Try to accept situations as they are. Everyone is going through the same things, and people have a low tolerance for hearing complaints. Always find some good things to say as well.

17. Pain and discomfort go hand in hand with getting older. Try not to dwell on them but accept them as a part of the cycle of life we're all going through. Try to minimize them in your mind. They are not who you are, they are something that life added to you. If they become your entire focus, you lose sight of the person you used to be.

18. If you've been offended by someone – forgive them. If you've offended someone - apologize. Don't drag around resentment with you. It only serves to make you sad and bitter. It doesn't matter who was right. Someone once said: "Holding a grudge is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die." Don't take that poison. Forgive, forget and move on with your life.

19. If you have a strong belief, savor it. But don't waste your time trying to convince others. They will make their own choices no matter what you tell them, and it will only bring you frustration. Live your faith and set an example. Live true to your beliefs and let that memory sway them.

20. Laugh. Laugh A LOT. Laugh at everything. Remember, you are one of the lucky ones. You managed to have a life, a long one. Many never get to this age, never get to experience a full life. But you did. So what's not to laugh about? Find the humor in your situation.

21. Take no notice of what others say about you and even less notice of what they might be thinking. They'll do it anyway, and you should have pride in yourself and what you've achieved. Let them talk and don't worry. They have no idea about your history, your memories and the life you've lived so far. There's still much to be written, so get busy writing and don't waste time thinking about what others might think. Now is the time to be at rest, at peace and as happy as you can be!

AND REMEMBER: "Life is too short to drink bad wine."



Northern Puddle Scholarships

Submitted By: Traci Barbier

Some of the proceeds from the Northern Puddle Golf Outing were used to provide deserving students \$500.00 scholarships. Sandy Apa from the Northern Puddle is pictured presenting Jeffrey Ostmun and Steve Magnuson with checks. Congratulations to both!

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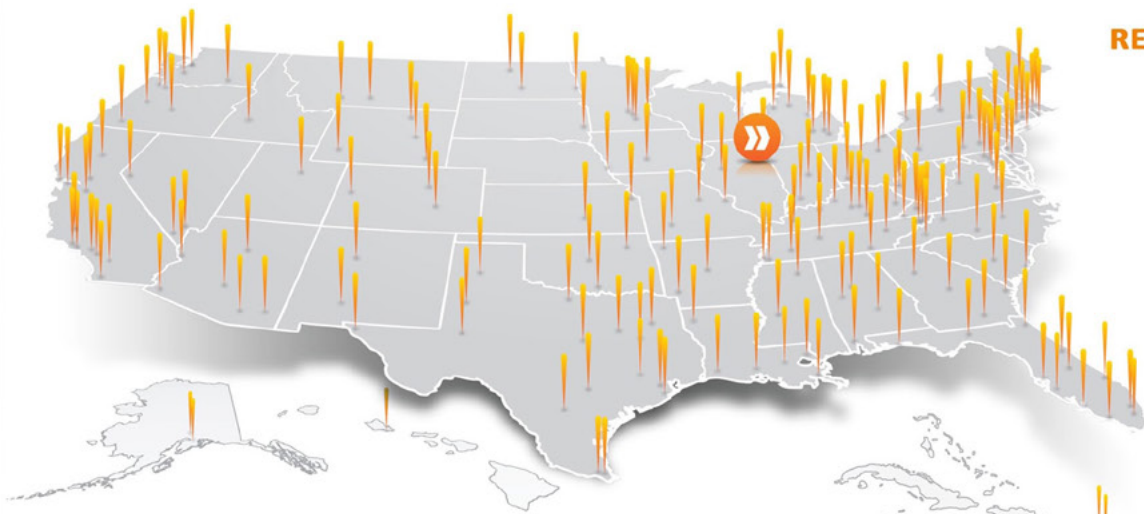
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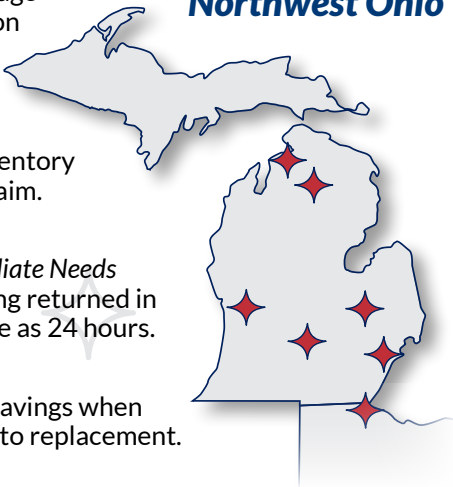
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