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## Proceeds from Commerce running event feed hungry

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EDITOR

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Thanks to those that participated in this year's Outrun Hunger charity run in Commerce Township, 722 families in the Lakes Area were able to enjoy a hot meal this Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Grace Church in Commerce Township sponsored their fifth annual Outrun Hunger 5K run/walk and 1-mile fun run on Saturday, November 7. Proceeds from the event feed hungry families during the holiday season by benefiting two local food pantries, Hospitality House in Commerce Township and Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. Both serve the Lakes Area.

According to Race Director Kari Cotter, this year 360 racers, 81 volunteers, 47 donors and 23 sponsors raised \$14,457.10 to benefit both pantries.

Karen Myers, executive director at Open Door Outreach Center, says the funds were used specifically to feed the hungry and provide holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Additionally, funds will be used to support the center's holiday programs, which include an adopt-a-family program and crisis funding. In addition, last month the pantry served 316 families 15,139 meals.

"This year, the funds raised through Outrun Hunger provided turkeys with side dishes and dessert to feed 100 families (294 people) for the Thanksgiving holiday, plus, provided 100 Christmas meals and will feed the hungry through December," she said. "Outrun Hunger builds community. We are so



Hospitality House was recently presented with a check from the fifth annual Outrun Hunger 5K run/walk and 1-mile fun run. The event raised \$14,457.10 to support Hospitality House and the Open Door Outreach Center. (Photos submitted.)

very grateful to Kari Cotter, Grace Community Church and our community for this tremendous, critical support.”



Karen Myers, executive director of the Open Door Outreach Center, said proceeds from the event were used to supply pantry clients with holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

According to Donovan Neal, executive director of Hospitality House, funds will be used to purchase food to stock the center’s pantry.

“The monies donated will help us to provide food for the families we serve,” he said. “We can easily spend 6K a month with Gleaners to acquire food, so Outrun Hunger’s donation of over 5K allows us once again to feed close to 1,000 families over the same timeframe.”

“When we receive monies for food, it allows us to take care of equally necessary expenses such as rent and other needed operational costs,” he continued.

Over 300 runners participated in last year’s Outrun Hunger, which raised \$10,572.70. Myers said funds from last year’s program allowed the center to provide 284 families 11,205 meals.

“One hundred percent of the contributions go directly to the food pantries, that’s a rarity when it comes to races,” Cotter said. “We at Grace Church want to thank the community for their support year after year.”

*Next year’s Outrun Hunger has been scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 2016. For more information on Outrun Hunger, visit their website at [www.outrunhunger.org](http://www.outrunhunger.org).*

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