



A beautiful place to live, work, and make friends.

## United Way Grant for Woodward School

School supplies, household items, winter coats, and much more were purchased to support students and families of Woodward School.

The Stuart Historic Neighborhood Association (SHNA) was awarded a five-thousand-dollar grant from the Southwest Michigan United Way in February, 2024. The grant was intended to support the families of Woodward School. Support was provided in coordination with Frank Rocco, the principal of Woodward; Jen DeWaele, the Woodward representative from Communities in Schools; and Diana Walker, attendance support worker from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Household items including laundry detergent, laundromat debit cards, soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lotion, deodorant, toilet tissue, underwear, and antiseptic wipes were purchased with the grant and distributed by Ms. DeWaele and Ms. Walker. Additionally, snacks and rewards for an improved attendance brunch were contributed.

Prior to the start of the current school year, SHNA helped with the Back-to-School gathering, offering gift bags and activity projects. Sixteen children in need of winter coats received them through the grant. At the holidays, SHNA helped with gifts for families in need.



The grant was greatly appreciated by school staff and the families served. There is not another opportunity to secure such a grant this year through the United Way but the SHNA board will look for other resources. Supporting Woodward School is one of the six goals of the Imagine Stuart Neighborhood Plan. Visit our website to learn more about how we plan to support Woodward School.



# St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

The Stuart Historic Neighborhood is fortunate to be home to a special place, the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store.

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store operates solely with volunteers and provides help to community members needing clothes, household items, and financial assistance. The store sells donated goods to raise funds. They always need donations! Those in need can get help with their expenses up to twice a year. This includes housing costs and utility costs. Client interviews are held during store hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment (269-388-4544).

The charitable work of the store has been ongoing for more than 50 years. The store is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm and is located behind St. Augustine church/school at 513 Eleanor Street, accessible from Westnedge Avenue. The store is not part of the St. Augustine's Parish, it is a separate endeavor.



## Stuart History - Then and Now



The Queen Anne Victorian home at 436 Stuart Avenue was built by George Rickman in 1888. The photo on the left was taken circa 1890s and includes family members of George Rickman and the one on the right in 2020.



Rickman moved to Kalamazoo from England in 1872 and built many buildings including the two houses north of 436 Stuart, as well as, East Hall on WMU campus. If you look closely at the photo on the left, you will see a carriage step, hitching posts, a grand wrap around porch, and exquisite iron work on the roof.