

GESHER *Gazette*

The bridge to where you want to be ... **at work, at home, and in the community.**



Dedicated Volunteer Making Valuable Contributions to the Metro Detroit Community



Jared Kroopnick shows the true meaning of community service through his volunteer work in Metro Detroit. As an active

member of Gesher's *Skill Building* program, Jared has made valuable contributions to local organizations, churches, and nonprofits. His dedication to helping others and improving the community is inspiring.

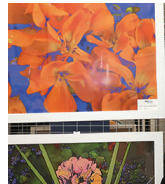
Jared's efforts have greatly strengthened the Metro Detroit community. Through Gesher, he takes part in a program with Gesher's *Creative Expressions* and the *Detroit Symphony*

Orchestra, where participants create and perform songs at local events. He also builds his skills in drawing, painting, and ceramics through a partnership with the *College for Creative Studies*. Participants proudly display their finished artwork in local exhibits, sharing their talents with the community.

Jared's volunteer work through Gesher Human Services reflects his strong commitment to helping others. His efforts inspire those around him and help create a stronger, more united community.

Jared's dedication was recognized with the 2024 Helping Hands Achievement Award from the *Oakland Community Health Network*.

geshermi.org



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Geshher is the Hebrew word for 'bridge' and, every day, our programs and services facilitate a bridge to a better job, improved mental health, greater independence, and so much more.



MISSION

Geshher Human Services is a bridge to hope and opportunity for people at work, at home, and in the community. Geshher's workforce development, behavioral health, and inclusion programming serves all Metro Detroiters while meeting the needs of the Jewish community.

VISION

A world where each person will have the tools to cross life's bridges and realize their potential.

VALUES

- People First
- Integrity
- Kindness
- Forward Thinking



Geshher Human Services is funded in part by the Jewish Federation of Detroit and is proud to be a partner agency of the Federation.



I'm thrilled to welcome you to the inaugural edition of the Geshher Gazette, our new newsletter.



Dear Friends,

As we step into 2025, I'd like to reflect on our shared accomplishments in 2024 and look ahead to what's next for Geshher Human Services.

2024 was a year of growth, resilience, and community impact. With your unwavering support, we provided services to more than 33,000 individuals and families. We strengthened partnerships with local businesses and organizations, ensuring those facing employment barriers had access to vital programs. Your generosity made it possible to support countless residents in need of mental health services, employment support, financial counseling, and more.

As we move into the new year, we're setting ambitious goals to expand our workforce mental health services, inclusion programming, and development efforts.

Your support goes beyond financial contributions – it's a testament to the compassion and dedication driving our community. Every success we celebrate is shared with you, whether you've attended our events, volunteered, or cheered us on from afar.

We're grateful to have you on this journey and look forward to sharing updates, success stories, and opportunities to get involved through this newsletter. Thank you for supporting Geshher Human Services.

Here's to a new year filled with growth, opportunity, and hope.



Warmest regards,
Paul Blatt | President & CEO | Geshher Human Services



Geshher provides a continuum of residential services

for individuals with mental illness to ensure that all residents get the exact level of housing and support they need to live a fulfilling life.

Get in touch with our Residential Program team today!

(248) 559-5000
residentialinfo@geshhermi.org

Supporting Mental Health at Home



At Geshher Human Services, *we believe everyone deserves a safe home and the support needed to thrive.* That's why we offer a range of residential services for individuals with mental health diagnoses, ensuring personalized care.

Our programs include both 24-hour care and non-24-hour care, with trained staff providing help as needed. This may include assistance with medication, housekeeping, cooking, shopping, hygiene, and daily tasks. We also offer transportation for appointments, grocery trips, therapy, vocational support, and volunteer opportunities, helping residents succeed at home, work, and in the community..

In 2024, Geshher's Residential Services team marked two milestones. We reopened our Grand 1 home in Farmington Hills after a temporary closure and renovated our Pitt 3 home. Both are 24-hour licensed homes providing consistent care. In 2025, we plan to open another 24-hour licensed home in Oak Park.

We also offer Bridge and Independent homes with staffing based on needs. These single-family homes and condos in Oakland County are located in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Southfield, and Oak Park.

Your support is vital to maintaining these homes. Donations help us continue serving as a bridge to hope and opportunity.

Together, we can help our residents overcome challenges and reach their potential.





Creating Employment Opportunities for Forward-Thinking Employers

At Geshher Human Services, we believe everyone deserves the opportunity to work, contribute, and feel proud of a job well done.



Geshher Participant Marx Cafagna, who works at The Salvation Army in Rochester Hills

Through our programs, we partner with employers who value inclusivity and offer meaningful job opportunities to individuals with disabilities. These partnerships not only open doors for people with disabilities but also enrich the workplaces they join.

Over the past year, our collaborations with forward-thinking employers across southeast Michigan **helped more than 200 individuals with disabilities find employment.**

Hiring individuals with disabilities benefits everyone—employees gain independence and confidence, while employers gain dedicated, hardworking team members who often exceed expectations.

We're always seeking new employer partners to tap into this incredible talent pool. To learn more about hiring individuals with disabilities, including customized employment options and coaching support, visit geshermi.org/careers-employment.



Geshher's goal is for everyone to have fair access to the job market.

Through our programs, we are working to ensure people with disabilities in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties have the support, skills, and opportunities they need to succeed.

Celebrating Nearly Three Decades of Partnership with Detroit Arsenal

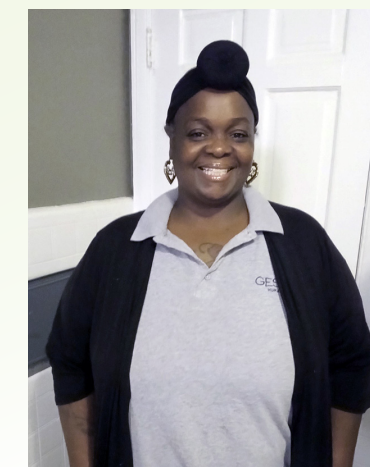


For nearly 30 years, Geshher Human Services has proudly held the janitorial contract at the Detroit Arsenal (US Army), a partnership that began in 1995. As we celebrate 29 years together, we honor the incredible work of our team, who keep the Arsenal's facilities spotless while providing meaningful jobs for individuals with disabilities.

This enduring partnership reflects the dedication of our staff, especially those in our Vocational Services and Supported Employment programs. Among them is

Camille Rogers, a Direct Support Professional (DSP) who exemplifies Geshher's core values: People First, Integrity, Kindness, and Forward Thinking.

Camille leads a team from our Frank building in Detroit, meeting the high standards required by the federal government. Marie Burleigh, an Administrative Assistant at TACOM, praised Camille's professionalism and responsiveness, saying, "Camille quickly addresses needs and teaches her team step-by-step. It's a joy to have kind, professional people working with us."



This program is about more than fulfilling a contract; it's about creating opportunities. At the Detroit Arsenal, Geshher participants build skills, gain experience, and overcome barriers to employment. Their hard work proves their value to the community every day.

We are proud of Camille and the entire Geshher team at the Detroit Arsenal for setting the bar high. As we approach three decades of service to the US Army, we remain committed to building partnerships and expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

At Gesher Human Services, we help people achieve career success with programs for career counseling, computer training, job placement, networking, and financial education.



> CAREER COUNSELING

We guide clients in setting career goals, exploring strengths, writing resumes, and improving interview skills.

> RESUME WRITING

Certified Professional Resume Writers provide one-on-one and workshop support to create or update resumes.

> EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Our coaches assist with resumes, cover letters, job searches, LinkedIn, and mock interviews.

> SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

JOIN Internships: Paid summer internships for Jewish college students to gain work experience and learn about the Jewish community.

HarMoney Down Payment Assistance: A six-week course on credit, savings, and homeownership, offering up to \$2,500 for eligible participants. Funded through a grant from Huntington Bank.

NEXTWork: Networking and career-building resources for young Jewish professionals. NEXTWork is a collaborative initiative with the Jewish Federation's NEXTGen Detroit, and is made possible through the Hadas and Dennis Bernard NEXTWork Endowment Fund.

Recharge: A three-week program for individuals 45+ exploring new careers.

Retirement Reemployment: Workshops to help retirees return to work with financial and career planning support.

Women to Work: A four-week program supporting women re-entering the workforce.

> FINANCIAL SERVICES

Financial Coaching: One-on-one guidance on budgeting, saving, credit building, and planning for retirement.

Debt Consolidation Counseling: In partnership with Hebrew Free Loan, we offer credit reviews and budget support to help families achieve debt relief.

Savvy Savers: Monthly meetings teach strategies for saving and starting to invest.



Homebuyer Education: A certified course on purchasing a home, covering budgeting, loans, and avoiding foreclosure. Graduates may qualify for down payment assistance.

> COMPUTER TRAINING

At Gesher's Hermelin ORT Resource Center

Computer Basics: A three-week class teaching essential skills like file management and internet navigation.

Office Essentials: A six-week course on Microsoft Word and Excel for workplace readiness.

Open Lab: Use our lab with staff support every Friday, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

> PROFESSIONAL BRANDING

Workshops on LinkedIn and social media help job seekers enhance their online presence and build a strong personal brand. Led by a certified digital career strategist,

> CAREER CONNECTIONS

We connect job seekers with industry experts for networking and informational interviews to advance their careers.

Gesher's programs provide skills, confidence, and support to help you succeed. Visit geshermi.org to learn more!



16th Annual



Empowering Women at Trade Secrets

A fun, unique, and inspiring evening

On November 14, 2024, more than 275 friends and supporters gathered at the Detroit Marriott-Troy for Geshher Human Services' 16th annual Trade Secrets FUNdraising event. It was a memorable evening of inspiration, celebration, and community impact.



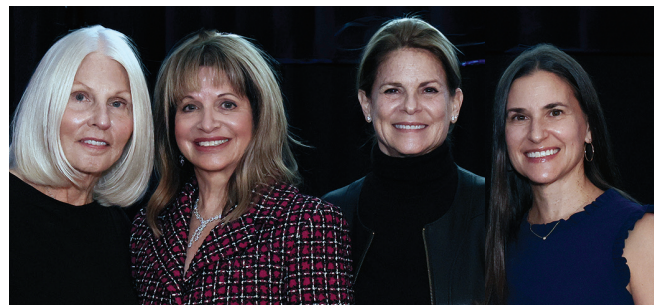
Honoree Amy Nederlander and Geshher CEO Paul Blatt

We were honored to recognize Amy Nederlander as our keynote speaker and celebrated the remarkable achievements of Geshher's workforce development initiatives, which supported over 15,000 Metro Detroit women last year. Programs like Women to Work, financial education, computer training, resume writing, and homebuyer assistance have helped women across our region build confidence, gain skills, and achieve success.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, Trade Secrets 2024 raised more than \$230,000 to continue empowering women and families through our transformative programs.

The energy in the room was palpable, as attendees enjoyed a reception, silent auction, raffle, dinner, and program. Together, we reaffirmed our shared commitment to creating opportunities and changing lives.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported this extraordinary evening. Your support ensures that Geshher Human Services can continue to be a bridge to hope and opportunity for women and families in Metro Detroit.



Geshher Board Member Linda Schlesinger-Wagner, Trade Secrets Co-founder Elaine Fieldman, Amy Nederlander, and Geshher Board Chair Dani Gillman



Save these 2025 dates! UPCOMING EVENTS

At Geshher Human Services, we're excited to share a lineup of impactful and inspiring events that bring our community together to celebrate, support, and make a difference. From creative performances and fundraising galas to golf classics and awards nights, there's something for everyone to enjoy while championing our mission. *Save the dates below and join us as we continue building bridges to hope and opportunity!*



CREATIVE Expressions SPRING CAPSTONE

Congregation Shaarey Zedek | FREE | 5:30 PM

Join us for a truly inspiring evening as Geshher Human Services partners with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Creative Arts Therapy, Inc. to celebrate the incredible talents of our Creative Expressions program participants.



LOIS ZUSSMAN GOLF CLASSIC 2025

Franklin Hills Country Club

This signature fundraiser benefits the Clubhouse for the Common Good, located at the Lois and Milton Y Zussman Center. The Clubhouse provides life-enriching programs, education, and employment opportunities for adults living with mental health challenges. Sponsorship information available on GeshherMI.org.



GESHER HUMAN SERVICES AWARDS NIGHT

Celebrate connection, community, and achievement at Geshher Awards Night! This inspiring evening will honor the remarkable accomplishments of our honorees and showcase Geshher's impactful journey.



Brown Program's Caregivers Day Off Offers a Day of Respite, Relaxation, and Community Support



On Sunday, November 10, 2024, caregivers of loved ones with dementia enjoyed a much-needed break at the Dorothy and Peter Brown Jewish Community Adult Day Program's annual Caregivers Day Off event. Hosted at the Soul Café, the day offered relaxation, self-care, and connection while their loved ones received compassionate care at the nearby West Bloomfield Brown site.

The event featured soothing chair massages from licensed therapists, a Music for Self-Care session blending fun and therapeutic benefits, and a calming yoga session to help caregivers unwind and reconnect with themselves.



"I want to thank you, and everyone associated with Gesher and the Brown Center for such a lovely day ... as great as it was, I think that the best part was connecting with other caregivers who truly understood each other's emotions. Thank you once again."

Lunch provided a refreshing and delicious meal, offering caregivers and staff a chance to enjoy community and conversation. The day also included an inspiring discussion led by Brown staff, Jess Gibson and Sharilyn Rowe, on self-compassion and the importance of prioritizing kindness toward oneself.



The event highlighted the mission of the Brown Program, which is jointly operated by Gesher Human Services and Jewish Senior Life. The program provides engaging activities and personalized care for individuals with dementia while offering essential support for their families at its West Bloomfield and Southfield locations.

Your support makes events like this possible! Donations to Gesher Human Services directly fund programs like the Brown Program. Learn more at brownadulthood.org. Caregivers Day Off was sponsored by the Dee dee and Michael Perlman Caregivers Fund.

give.
grow.
secure.



Maximize Your Impact by Supporting Gesher Human Services with an IRA Gift or Qualified Charitable Distribution

If you're 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free donation directly from your IRA to Gesher through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

The QCD donation counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), which you must take once you turn 73½.

The best part? The amount won't be counted as taxable income, and you can receive a normal charitable deduction if you itemize.

With a QCD, you can donate up to \$100,000 each year from your IRA to a registered 501(c)(3) like Gesher without paying taxes. If you don't need your full RMD, have excess funds in IRAs you'd rather not be taxed on, or want a tax-efficient way to give more, this is a great option.

Your donation supports essential Gesher programs like mental health services, job training, housing, and community support—making a lasting impact on individuals and families.

"Donating directly from your IRA is a great way to support Gesher Human Services while also lowering your taxable income," says Eric Adelman, Gesher Executive Vice President & Chief Advancement Officer. "It's a simple, tax-smart way to give back and make a difference in the community."

To donate through your IRA, contact your financial advisor or IRA custodian and request a QCD to Gesher Human Services. *Thank you for helping make 2025 a year of even greater impact!*

Please consult with your financial or tax advisor to determine how an IRA charitable contribution can benefit your specific financial situation.

For more information, or to donate, contact Eric Adelman, Gesher's Executive Vice President & Chief Advancement Officer, at eadelman@geshermi.org or 248-233-4210.

In addition to our direct donations, Gesher supports a number of gift giving options for you to consider when making your next gift.



Recurring Donations
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Life Insurance
Retirement Plans

Donor Advised Funds
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With a network of more than **450 employees and volunteers** across more than **30 locations** in southeast Michigan, Geshher delivers a continuum of services and support that directly impacts the lives of nearly **33,000 individuals and families annually.**

People First | Integrity | Kindness | Forward Thinking

Geshher Human Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to helping people across metro Detroit lead more stable and fulfilling lives through career development, behavioral health, and residential services that strengthen our community by strengthening the individual.

geshermi.org

Scan the QR code to learn more!



we're hiring.

Are you looking for a fulfilling career where you can make a difference every day?

Geshher Human Services is hiring, and we'd love for you to join our team! As a leading nonprofit in the Detroit area, we're passionate about supporting individuals and strengthening our community. Our workplace culture is rooted in collaboration, respect, and growth, offering employees the chance to thrive both personally and professionally. Whether you're just starting your career or bringing years of experience, you'll find a warm, welcoming environment where your talents can shine. *Explore our current opportunities and see how you can be a part of our impactful mission!*

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HEADQUARTERS BUILDING
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Let's connect!

