

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY AWARDED \$500

By Anne Byl

The Ladder Community Center was recently awarded \$500 towards our Mental Health Ministry from the Alex F. Smith Memorial Foundation. This foundation was formed out of a broken heart when the Smith family lost their 24-year-old son, Alex, to suicide. The family tried desperately to seek counseling and mental health support for Alex; however, due to his age and lack of insurance, there seemed to be little or no help available for Alex and his cries for help.

After Alex's death, the family rallied together and decided they did not want to see this happen to other families with compromised means suffering from mental health issues. Alex's parents Richard and Gaileen Smith, and sisters Darcy Torrey, Sarah Fessenden, and Makayla Aspey started the foundation, raising funds through pasty sales and craft sales to make a difference in the lives of our community.

The foundation's slogan, "Always Find Strength," was created from Alex's initials (A.F.S.). To find out more about the foundation or to view upcoming sales events, please follow the Alex F. Smith Memorial Foundation on Facebook.



The Foundation's recent pasty sale earned about \$2,000, which was distributed to local families and nonprofit organizations. Gaileen personally delivered a check to Brian here at The Ladder.

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DONATION OPTIONS:

- One time gift \$ _____
- I/We want to invest monthly:
 - \$100 \$50 \$25
 - \$10 \$5 \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make checks payable to:
**The Ladder Community Center
or TLCC**



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MAY Wish List

Item Requests:

- #6-3/4 Envelopes (White)
- Cases of Bottled Water
- Postage Stamps
- Bingo Prizes

Monetary Investment Requests:

- Newsletter Sponsors
- Youth Program
- Grounds Maintenance
- Printer Ink

Contact the Oceana County Community Foundation (231-861-8338) to fund this item for The Ladder:

- Protective wall and beam pads for the gym: \$4,500

Cut out the wish list & put it on your refrigerator!



We are grateful to the folks who have provided the following items in March & April:

Bingo Prizes	6
Candy Bars	120
Puzzle	1
Handmade Cards	13
Coffee Creamer (Box)	3
Sugar Packets (Box)	2
Decaf Coffee (Can)	1

Toilet Paper (Rolls)	12
Stamps (Rolls)	1
Batteries	10

Monetary Gifts-Mar: \$7,442
 Monetary Gifts-Apr: \$7,240



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