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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release...
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Guidance Center mentor volunteers make “Little Dresses for Africa” on November 7

Volunteers are sought to help with event
and to impact the life of a child

Southgate, MI – Helping locally has been the focus of The Guidance Center for nearly 50 years. Soon, the agency will participate in a global effort to help young girls in Africa.

On Wednesday, November 7 from 6-8 p.m. at The Guidance Center campus in Southgate, the agency’s Opportunity Center program will partner with Rachel O’Neill of Brownstown Township to host a dress-making night. O’Neill started the Little Dresses for Africa project in which volunteers create dresses out of simple pillowcases to help less fortunate girls feel great with new clothing.

Each week at The Guidance Center, mentors and young mentees who are part of the Opportunity Center meet to work with one another. The dress-making night is one of the many volunteer projects for the mentoring program.

“After reading an article about Little Dresses, I discovered a similarity in our on-going efforts: we both care about kids!” stated Allison Smith, mentor coordinator. “Whether they are here in Michigan or in Africa, both groups are doing something to impact the life of a child. Through this experience, if we are able to inspire one client to dream big while providing a basic living necessity to child in Africa, then the night will be a success.”

Even if volunteers are not able to make an entire dress, other ways to help are welcome. Donations of thread, needles, coupons for fabric stores, and pillowcases also are appreciated. O’Neill’s goal is to have 1,000 dresses made for the girls in the village of Ntcheu by January. She can be contacted at 734-637-9064 concerning donations.

The Guidance Center’s Opportunity Center continues to seek mentors to work with young people who are part of the program. Contact Allison Smith at 734-785-7704 or at alsmith@guidance-center.org to learn more about being a mentor.

Since 1958, The Guidance Center has responded to the ever-changing needs of Downriver and Southeast Michigan residents as an innovative leader providing quality behavioral health, substance abuse and community outreach services to children, adults and families. The private, non-profit agency is leading the way in creating new prevention and education models to help children and families deal with these important issues. The agency serves nearly 16,000 children, adults and families each year.

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