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HAMBURG TOWNSHIP TO DEED 1940'S FIRE STATION TO BENNETT'S BEAVERS

At the January 20, 2015 Hamburg Township Board of Trustees meeting the original township fire station that was built in the 1940's will be deeded and presented to the non-profit organization of Bennett's Beavers whose moto is "Improving the Lives of Hospitalized Children".

Bennett's Beavers was started in 1995 when lifelong Hamburg resident and soon to be 80 years old, Jim Bennett began making simple wood cutouts for patients at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

The pieces quickly became a favorite arts and crafts project for the patients. As demand increased, several of Jim's friends joined in, meeting weekly in Jim's garage to make the cutouts. Over the years, the size of the group has grown, as has the demand for their product.

In early 2010, the Hamburg Township Board of Trustees agreed to lease at no charge the unused fire house, located on Stone Street in the Old Village of Hamburg, to the organization. The group renovated the building and moved into their new expanded facility in September 2010, ensuring their ability to grow and meet the needs of hospitalized children for years to come.

Bennett's Beavers has expanded to include over 20 volunteers that in 2014 provided over 50,000 toy cutouts to 20 children's hospitals throughout the country. These hospitals are located in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Flint, Petoskey as well as out-of-state hospitals in Memphis, Columbus, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Nashville and Indianapolis.

Bennett's Beavers is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is funded through tax deductible donations, grants and fund raising activities such as an annual golf outing. All labor is provided by unpaid volunteers. No administrative fees or other such expenses are paid to anyone. Wood is graciously donated by several Michigan businesses. All cutouts are provided free to participating hospitals, with the exception of requesting reimbursement for shipping costs.

For more information, photos, updates or to make a donation you can visit their website: www.bennettsbeavers.com

or contact them at:

Bennett's Beavers, P.O. Box 216, Hamburg, Michigan 48139-0216.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2015



Jim Bennett, Founder of Bennett's Beavers



Original Hamburg Township Fire Station Building on Stone Street In the Village of Hamburg Being Deeded to Bennett's Beavers on January 20, 2015 by the Hamburg Township Board of Trustees



Volunteers at Bennett's Beavers work to craft wood cutouts for patients

**All photos taken by Jim Neilson,
Hamburg Township Clerk**