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## Fruitport resident needs help Letter to the Editor

This is a real life story that angels truly walk among us. Karen Hugget is just one of them. I met her at work where she worked 72 hours a week (the most our company allowed) for years. We became friends because her work ethic and upbeat personality made her very easy to be friends with. Karen was always slow to share her story. She is a very private person by nature, and never boasted about all the help she truly spreads around. I can only hope she will not be angry with me for telling her story now.

She has earned my respect with her commitment to her family, sweet disposition, and willingness to fill the gap no matter the cost to her wellbeing. Karen is a single mother of three biological children and four adopted children. I have watched this woman take what has been handed to her, stretch herself and work through it. I think she has hung on to her military spirit. Yes, she is a veteran and proud of it! She is a mother, a sister, and a daughter and she has shined in every one of those roles.

Karen has the grit that America was built on. I could go on for days about the personal sacrifices she has made in her short 55 years, like when she moved into her parents' attic for two years so she could help her aging mother take care of her dad who was in the last stages of Alzheimer's. She went to work on third shift so she would be able to care for her father during the day. She did it with love and never complained. Many times, I wondered how she juggled it all. I could always look to Karen and draw strength from her incredible spirit.

Karen is close to her family. When she found out her cousin in Indiana was in desperate need of a kidney, she went to get tested and, much to her delight, she was a perfect match. During the extensive screening for becoming an organ donor, they found that Karen had contracted hepatitis C from a blood transfusion in the early '80s. They do have a cure for it now, but it is an arduous regimen of drugs that, if not followed, would be fatal. She decided to go ahead and try for the cure, because if she were cured, she might still be able to donate her kidney.

About five months into the program Karen's life was interrupted. In May, 2012, she slipped into a coma for several weeks. She woke up in a nursing home in Muskegon, completely dependent on other people for everything. (I know this is everyone's worst nightmare.) She suffered stroke-like systems on her right side and loss of speech. (She had the words in her head but could not give them voice.) She was trapped in her own head.

Karen has claimed the steepest part of this mountain. She has worked hard, like she always does. Karen is mobile enough now that her kids could bring her home, but they need to make her home handicapped-accessible in order for the nursing home to be able to release her. What I am hoping for is to rally a few champions with electrical, plumbing and dry-wall talents. People from her church came out, bless their hearts, but they said it was too big of a job, requiring more than a band aid fix. They thought we needed a contractor.

That is why I am calling on angels to come to the aid of one of your own. She is trapped in a cage and she wants to come home. The family has been overwhelmed with paperwork and the confusing disability. They are trying to conduct their young lives and hang on to what their mother has so that she has something to come home to. I see the toll this heavy burden is taking on the family. They sure could use some good news in their lives. I need Fruitport Township. With many hands, this is possible and won't be too taxing on any one person. We need estimates on the materials needed. I am looking wherever I can to find as many earthbound angels as I can to give a much-needed heavenly visit to impact the hearts and lift the spirits of this deserving family. Hope is a beautiful, silent gift we pass from one hand to the next, showing the next generation what America was built on. Any time or talent you can offer will be rewarded in our hero book of fame.

For more information or to volunteer, please call Gail at (616) 644-1556. In Fruitport, donations can be made out to Karen Hugget and dropped off at Copies & More, 420 N 3rd Ave. between 11:00am and 3:00pm, Monday - Friday.

Gail Bodine  
Grand Haven

## On-line educational program helps new farmers get started

By Jim Isleib

(Submitted by MSU Extension Office)

Michigan State University Extension is offering a series of webinars for beginning farmers. Each two-hour webinar will cover a different small farm enterprise. The webinars focus on northern Michigan, but are relevant state-wide.

The two remaining webinars are: "Getting Started with Field-Grown Vegetables," offered on February 27, 2013; and "Getting Started with Hoophouses," offered on March 20, 2013.

Each of the sessions will be presented from 7 to 9 p.m. EST. The cost is \$15 per session. Register online at <http://events.anr.msu.edu/upbegfarmer2013> or contact Alger County MSU Extension at (906) 387-2530 or [msue.alger@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.alger@county.msu.edu) for more information and a registration form. •

## Chamber offers business briefing: Turning 'no' into 'yes'

(Submitted by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

On Tuesday, February 12, 2013, the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce is offering a business briefing from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the chamber office, 380 W. Western in downtown Muskegon.

If you utilize a "consultive" model of selling, this briefing identifies the techniques which are most effective in dealing with objections. The presenter is Kevin Woods of Woods Consulting Group.

Share your expertise with other sales professionals and learn from them. And once you have overcome the objections, learn how to "ask for the business."

The fee for the briefing is \$20 for chamber members, \$35 general admission.

The event is sponsored by Parmenter O'Toole, attorneys at law. •