

Benton Spirit

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*Denotes "special" volunteers

The *Benton Spirit* Community Newspaper is published every Thursday.

Deadline:

The deadline for submission is the Friday BEFORE Thursday's published date. Exceptions can be made for paid submittals, but confirmation by the *Benton Spirit* is needed.

We prefer information to be submitted by e-mail to:

bentonspirit@aol.com,
or you can send:
FAX: (269) 925-4540
MAIL: P.O. Box 465
Benton Harbor, MI 49023

WEB SITE:
www.bentonspiritnews.com

Distribution:

The *Benton Spirit* is distributed throughout the communities of Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana and growing.

Subscription:

A copy of the *Benton Spirit* will be mailed first-class to you for only \$35 for 6 months or \$70 for a year.

The Power of Freedom of Speech. Note: editorials and letters to the editor are not the opinion and/or view of the *Benton Spirit*, but the viewpoint of the author.

**SUPPORT
OUR ADVERTISERS!**



“Support a Black business during Black History Month in February. Start with the *Benton Spirit* -- Diversifying your Community!
Call us for our 2009 Promotion.

**By Princella Tobias, Founding
Publisher and CEO, Benton Spirit**

**New Help for Unemployed in
Cass and Van Buren**

A new resource is available for Cass and Van Buren County jobseekers. STRIVE (Support and Training Results in Valuable Employees) is an international job-readiness training program that combines attitudinal and work-readiness training with job placement services. The program helps chronically unemployed jobseekers break the cycle of job loss and helps them find long-term employment.

The STRIVE program is ultimately beneficial for businesses, according to Todd Gustafson, executive director of Michigan Works!. “It’s very expensive for employers to recruit and train employees who have a high turnover rate. Graduates of the STRIVE program are prepared with the basic skills to help them keep a job and succeed.” The Benton Harbor and Decatur programs are funded by Michigan Works! and a grant from the Mott Foundation.

The program has existed in Benton Harbor since 2006, producing over 300

graduates. “We’re committed to helping men and women earn a livable income and achieve financial independence,” stated STRIVE Michigan’s executive director, Jamar Baker. “Eighty-nine percent of our graduates have found employment or have enrolled in further education and training”

STRIVE originated in 1984 as East Harlem Employment Service, Inc. in the basement of a New York City housing project to implement the vision of making self-sufficiency a viable opportunity for the unemployed. They now have twenty-three branches throughout five countries.

The new office is located at 107 W. Delaware Street, Unit 2, in Decatur. Any Cass or Van Buren County resident, age 17 and over is eligible to apply.

There is no cost to students. People interested in applying to the STRIVE program should contact (269) 423-7200

**BENTON SPIRIT
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

In the *Benton Spirit's* continuous effort to improve the quality and distribution of your community newspaper, please be advised that information needs to be submitted one (1) week prior to our weekly Thursday distribution date, for consideration.

We are willing to make exceptions for paid advertisements and/or information.

Adhering to these guidelines enables us to produce the type of quality newspaper we aim for and you deserve.

Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated.

**WHERE TO SEND
INFORMATION TO THE
BENTON SPIRIT?**

- **MAIL**
Benton Spirit
P.O. Box 465
Benton Harbor, MI 49023
- **E-MAILS**
Non-government news, press releases, stories, etc. to:
news@bentonspiritnews.com
- GOVERNMENT press releases, news, stories, etc. to:
gov@bentonspiritnews.com
- Send announcements to be included in our EVENTS CALENDAR to:
events@bentonspiritnews.com
- Letters to the Editor to:
editor@bentonspiritnews.com
- Newspapers in Education Literacy Program to:
nie@bentonspiritnews.com
- Obituaries to:
obit@bentonspiritnews.com
- Poetry submissions to:
poetry@bentonspiritnews.com
- Prayer Column submissions to:
prayer@bentonspiritnews.com
- Sales/advertising to:
sales@bentonspiritnews.com

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experience



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STORE

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children...toys...household goods...
furniture...jewelry...vintage...holiday

*174 West Main Street
Benton Harbor Arts District
(269) 827-9783*

An affiliate of Emergency Shelter Services, Inc. of Benton Harbor. We are committed to ending homelessness in Benton County.

Yes, we accept donations!