

Thumb Industries to Breathe New Life Into a Former Community Staple

Thumb Industries is excited to announce they have purchased the building previously occupied by McDonald's Food and Family Center for over 60 years. Thumb Industries acquired the building in November of 2020, and will be relocating their Thrift Store currently located in the Huron Crest Plaza and their administrative offices from their location on Sand Beach Rd. Executive Director, Rhonda Wisenbaugh said, "We are extremely happy and excited about this move and change. The new building allows Thumb Industries to keep a legacy alive and expand our Thrift Store to better serve our community."

Thumb Industries is a 501C3 non-profit organization and has been providing employment, on the job skills training, employment placement services, and job coaching services to individuals with disabilities for over 50 years. They provide employment and on the job skills training in retail, manufacturing, and janitorial service sectors, and provide job coaching to individuals employed at multiple businesses throughout the area.

The newly acquired building is already undergoing big changes as remodeling and construction are already underway. Thumb Industries is giving back to the community by keeping the purchase of many materials and contracting with businesses locally. Thumb Industries does not have a definite date when the Thrift Store will be transitioning from its current location, but expects it will take place late this summer or early fall. The administrative offices will be relocating early this spring, and the manufacturing will relocate from the current administrative building on Sand Beach Rd. to the former recycling center on E. Woodworth St.

To assist with the cost of materials, remodeling, and construction Thumb Industries will be raising money through two different fund raising efforts. The first will be a round up campaign that will take place at their current thrift store location. When you make a purchase at Thumb Industries Thrift Store, you will be asked if you would like to round up your sale to the next dollar amount with the extra change going to the building fund. The second fundraising effort will become a permanent fixture in Thumb Industries new Thrift Store location. Thumb Industries worked with Bryan Barwig of American Technical Fabricators and to create the vision they had for their "Soar High" campaign. ATF was able to fabricate the Thumb Industries logo of a bird soaring in the sky and six, eight, and ten inch birds out of metal. The birds will be available to purchase by individuals or businesses and their bird engraved with their name will be hung on the wall when Thumb Industries Thrift Store moves into their new building later this year. The birds will be available to purchase at Thumb Industries main office and Thrift Store. The six inch bird is available for \$100, the eight inch for \$250, and the ten inch for \$500. For more information about becoming a "Soar High" donor visit www.thumbindustries.com or contact Danielle McKimmy, Community Outreach Coordinator at (989)269-9229. Thumb Industries would like to thank Bryan Barwig and American Technical Fabricators for making our campaign become a reality and for generously donating their time, the materials, and for their amazing work on our project.