

## **Copper thieves damage Medbury St. soup kitchen**

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DETROIT -- Copper thieves have dealt a blow to the efforts of workers at the Capuchin Kitchen to feed those in need.

The thieves struck the charity's Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Services Center, on Medbury Street, looking for copper in the building's heating and air-conditioning units. The vandals destroyed five heating and air-conditioning units and two compressors in their search for the copper they sell at area scrap yards for fast cash. The incident occurred between Saturday afternoon and Monday morning. The damage to the building's heating and cooling units is estimated between \$50,000 and \$66,000.

The charity will not be able to accept frozen or fresh food at the center until the service center's units are operating again.

"This is discouraging," said George Gaerig, manager of the service center, in a press release. "This vandalism affects those with the most need in our city. We are trying to run business as usual, but with all of our frozen and perishables being stored off-site, there are many unbudgeted expenses in our day-to-day operation."

All food for the operation is now being stored at the Gleaners Food Bank, a partner of the Capuchin Kitchen.

Founded in 1929, Capuchin Kitchen serves 2,000 hot meals per day at its two locations on the city's east side.

The charity also distributes about 300,000 pounds of food per month to needy families. It also provides individuals and families with clothing and furniture.