



FALL 2016



Proud to be a
United Way Agency

DON'T JUST LOOK AWAY: **National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week –** **November 12 – 20, 2016**

Last November, you might remember seeing some additional bodies around Mankato. Our "It Happens Here" campaign focused on bringing awareness the issue of homelessness in Mankato with life-size bodies. Each group also had signage with local statistics on homelessness. We received some great coverage and a lot of comments about these "families". One of the main comments we heard was "How can we help?"

Our campaign for National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (NHHAW) this year will not only continue to raise awareness that homelessness is still happening in Mankato, but also encourage community members to not just look away from the homelessness that's happening in our community and instead reach out to help. During NHHAW, which takes place November 12 – 20, extra bodies will once again show up around different locations in Mankato, North Mankato and Eagle Lake. Pay attention to these displays. Really take a good look. Look for information on how to help or even donate directly at some of the displays. All donations received stay right here in our community and help those families that are experiencing a temporary housing crisis.

Watch for these displays around busier intersections during peak travel times or in front of local businesses. Take a moment to read the signs and understand what is happening in our community. Take pictures and share on social media to help spread our message. Learn how you can help fight homelessness in the greater Mankato area. Volunteer. Donate. We can't do this without you. Please don't look away.

In 2015, roughly 480 local households were turned away from shelter due to lack of space. Over 9,000 bed-nights are being served between the Theresa House and Welcome Inn in a twelve



month period. And 41% of the shelter guests are children under the age 18. This is what's happening in our backyard. We encourage you to visit us online to learn more about what's happening and how you can help.

Additionally this year, Minnesota's Annual Give to the Max Day falls during National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week. On November 17, Minnesotans are encouraged to give back to their local nonprofits and help make a difference. (Please read the Give to the Max Day article on page two.) By donating to Partners for Affordable Housing on November 17th, you directly help those in our community who are in a housing crisis. You could also help Partners received some extra funding by giving online at GiveMN.org. For more information, please visit us online.

Donate at partnersforhousing.org

 partnersforhousing.org/
 www.facebook.com/PartnersforAffordableHousing
 twitter.com/PAHMankato

#homelessinkato
#NHHAW

Give to the Max Day is Back – November 17, 2016



Minnesota's annual Give to the Max Day is taking place on Thursday, November 17, 2016. Partners for Affordable

Housing is proud to be one of the many amazing organizations that is supported on this day through GiveMN. Year after year, Minnesotans show on this day just how generous and supportive they are to local nonprofits and schools. We hope that you will consider donating to Partners for Affordable Housing and help us make a difference for those in our community struggling in a housing crisis.

Donations given on Give to the Max Day may help us receive an additional donation of \$1,000. How? On November 17, every gift made on GiveMN.org will be entered into an hourly drawing for a \$1,000 GiveMN Golden Ticket to be awarded to a nonprofit organization.

A gift of \$10 or more could instantly turn into an extra \$1,000!

No matter the strategy, it costs money to raise money for our mission-driven work. Online fundraising is a convenient and low-cost method to raise the money we need to meet our mission,

but we still have to pay a small fee to cover secure credit card processing and technology.

For our generous donors who told us you would like to cover this fee on our behalf, we are excited to announce that now you can! GiveMN.org has launched a feature that will give you the option to pay the 6.9% fee on our behalf! If you choose to pay the fee, you can rest assured that 100% of your donation will come straight to us.

And although nobody likes fees, GiveMN uses them to help cover credit card processing, technology, and invests in Minnesota-based programming and special events like the annual Give to the Max Day. It's the fundraising equivalent of buying local!

You know that every dollar counts when it goes to our mission, so we hope you will consider covering the fee on our behalf in the future! Visit our page on GiveMN.org to learn more. <https://givemn.org/organization/partners-for-affordable-housing>



#GTMD16

Christmas Wishes: We Need Your Help

This holiday season, we are once again asking the community to help bring some holiday cheer to the families at shelter and in our programs. Please consider adopting one of the many families we serve and deliver joy by providing some presents this holiday season. If you, your community organization, or business is able and willing to adopt a family, please contact Liz at 507-387-2115 ext. 4 or lizzaruba.pah@eventis.net.



Five Things to Tell Your Kids about *Homelessness*

November 12-20 marks National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. This can be a perfect time to visit with your children and grandchildren about homelessness and get them thinking about how they might be able to help!

Here's what you and your children should know:

- 1** Homeless means "without a home!" When someone is homeless, they might live in their cars, a storage unit, under a bridge or live temporarily with lots of other people. They don't have a place to put all of their belongings so they must carry everything with them in big bags or in a suitcase or leave it all behind. In the last year, nearly 1,000 individuals and families contacted our agency seeking relief at our shelters.
- 2** Not every homeless person is by themselves. Some homeless people have families and children. These children could look just like you, but they do not live like you do. They do not have a warm bed to sleep in or their own room to play in. They do not have their own toys, and they cannot have friends over to play at their house or have a sleepover. This past year, 41% of the individuals we served at our shelters were children under the age of 18. Locally, over 300 children in our area have been identified as homeless or highly mobile, meaning they are often moving around.
- 3** Low income families can easily lose their rental housing when an unexpected catastrophe happens. Finite dollars are stretched when a child needs care in a specialty hospital outside of the community, the family car needs expensive repairs or a parent's work hours are drastically cut! As we all know, rent must be paid every month or families get evicted.

4 Encourage empathy. Start by saying something like "I think it's sad that person doesn't have anywhere to live." People who are experiencing homelessness have feelings just like you and!! They are scared. They get hungry. They are cold. They wonder where they are going to sleep and when they will be able to find another place of their own. They do not want to be homeless! Ask your child to help you gather household items to give to charity or plan a trip to volunteer for our agency.

5 Homelessness can happen to anyone. Homeless people are not bad people! There are lots of reasons why people are homeless. Most of the time, a person is homeless because they do not have enough money to pay for a home. They might work very hard every day of the week and still not have the money to pay for a place for them to live. Some homeless people have families so they have to take care of their children too and that can cost a lot of money. Some homeless people have a disability so they can't take care of themselves or work and make money. Some people are homeless just for a little while; others are homeless much longer! Lower wages and lack of affordable housing in our area are significant barriers for the working families we serve. It is often very difficult to find a home that they can afford!

Make a difference together!
There are so many ways that you can help homeless people. Consider donating household goods, winter coats, new children's socks and underwear, school supplies, cook a meal for shelter guests, adopt a family this holiday season, sponsor a penny drive at school, or join a Pedal Past Poverty team.



Call for Volunteers: Kiwanis Holiday Lights

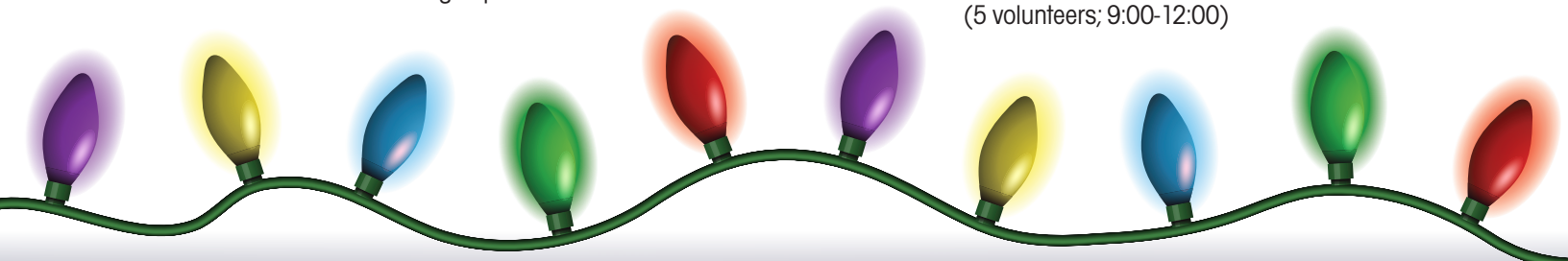
Back for the 5th year, the Kiwanis Holiday Lights Show will be taking place at Sibley Park from November 25 to December 31. This amazing display of lights helps benefit many local nonprofits, including Partners for Affordable Housing! Volunteers are needed for the following activities and dates. This is a great group or company volunteer activity! If you are interested, please visit <http://partnersforhousing.org/volunteer-kiwanis-holiday-lights/> or call Liz at 507-387-2115 ext. 4 to sign up.

Saturday, November 19: Set Up
(5 volunteers; 9:00-12:00)

Friday, November 25: Various Park Activities
(3 volunteers; 4:30-9:30)

Thursday, December 1: Various Park Activities
(6 volunteers; 4:30-9:30)

Monday, January 2: Tear Down
(5 volunteers; 9:00-12:00)





Join us at the Fifth Annual Pedal Past Poverty!

#PedalPastPoverty

It's hard to believe that this will be the fifth year of Pedal Past Poverty! Each year this event gets bigger and the community becomes even more generous, with a record of \$103,000 being raised last year alone to help those in need in our community. We are grateful to be heading into year five and we invite you to join us!

Pedal Past Poverty 2017 will take place on Saturday, February 25 at the Mankato YMCA from 9am – 2pm. There are a number of different ways to get involved! Sign up to be a team captain and recruit your fellow team members. Or sign up as an individual biker and be placed on a team! Consider your business to sponsor Pedal Past Poverty. Or sign up to volunteer the day of the event. And of course, don't forget to donate to this great cause! The opportunities are endless! Give us a call at 507-387-2115 for more information!

HOW IT WORKS:

- Sign up to be a team captain
- Build a team of 10 riders
(friends, family, co-workers, neighbors)
- Fundraise \$1,000 or more as a team
- All riders receive a free t-shirt

DAY OF THE EVENT:

- Compete against other teams on stationary and spin bikes
- Bike for 20 minute intervals, with a 10 minute break in between rides
- Get motivated and pumped up with Radio Mankato blasting some music
- Win awesome prizes throughout the day



BECOME A SPONSOR!

Don't let your business miss this great opportunity to be a part of a highly visible and fun event within our community – with an even more incredible cause! We're looking for corporate sponsors to help support the important work that we do in the greater Mankato area. Call 507-387-2115 today!



Farewell Julie, Thanks for 22 years!

In July, Partners for Affordable Housing said goodbye to a long-time employee, Julie Caraway-Jensen. Julie was first hired as a full time employee in March 1994; but even before that, she had her foot in the door at Partners, starting out as an intern at the Welcome Inn in August 1992.

"My professor, Wayne Sandee, who was directly involved with starting the Welcome Inn, placed me as an intern at the shelter," Julie reflects, "He thought I would like it! I guess he was right!" Professor Sandee was certainly right, as Julie spent the next 22 years working at the Welcome Inn and eventually Partners for Affordable Housing when it merged with the Theresa House in 2009.

Over the years, Julie's work with Partners has been instrumental in keeping the organization moving and growing. After starting as an intern, she worked as the social worker at the shelter then later for the Transitional Housing Program and finally as Program Director, overseeing the various programs offered by Partners to those families and individuals in need within our community.

Looking back over the years, Julie says her best memories are the great people served by Partners for Affordable Housing and the great employees. She also said she has a lot of fun stories she could share but mostly remembers about "learning about things I had no clue about; like bats, boilers, plumbing, heating, painting and moving!"

Lucky for us, Julie decided not to go too far when she left Partners. Julie started her new role as a Social Worker for Housing Support Services with Blue Earth County in July. "I really miss working at the shelter and with the people in PAH programs. I miss everything about PAH," Julie said, "even the things that drove me crazy like the reports! Lucky for me, I get to do what I love at my new job, working with people experiencing homelessness."



Snapshot of Julie's time at PAH

- 1992** Started as an intern
- 2** office buildings
- 7** Executive Directors served under
- 22** Years with PAH
- Countless** families helped

We wish you the best of luck at your new endeavors, Julie!

Save the Date: Hats, Horses & Hope

Grab your fancy hats and most styling bowties, Partners for Affordable Housing is hosting an inaugural **Run for the Roses – a Kentucky Derby celebration fundraiser called Hats, Horses & Hope.**

This stylish soiree will include an outdoor patio and tent, music, red carpet photo opportunities, drink specials and of course, the most exciting two minutes in sports! More details are still being planned but you can bet this will be a party you won't want to miss for a fantastic cause!

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Mankato Golf Club

3-7p.m.

21+ event

Watch for more information next spring!

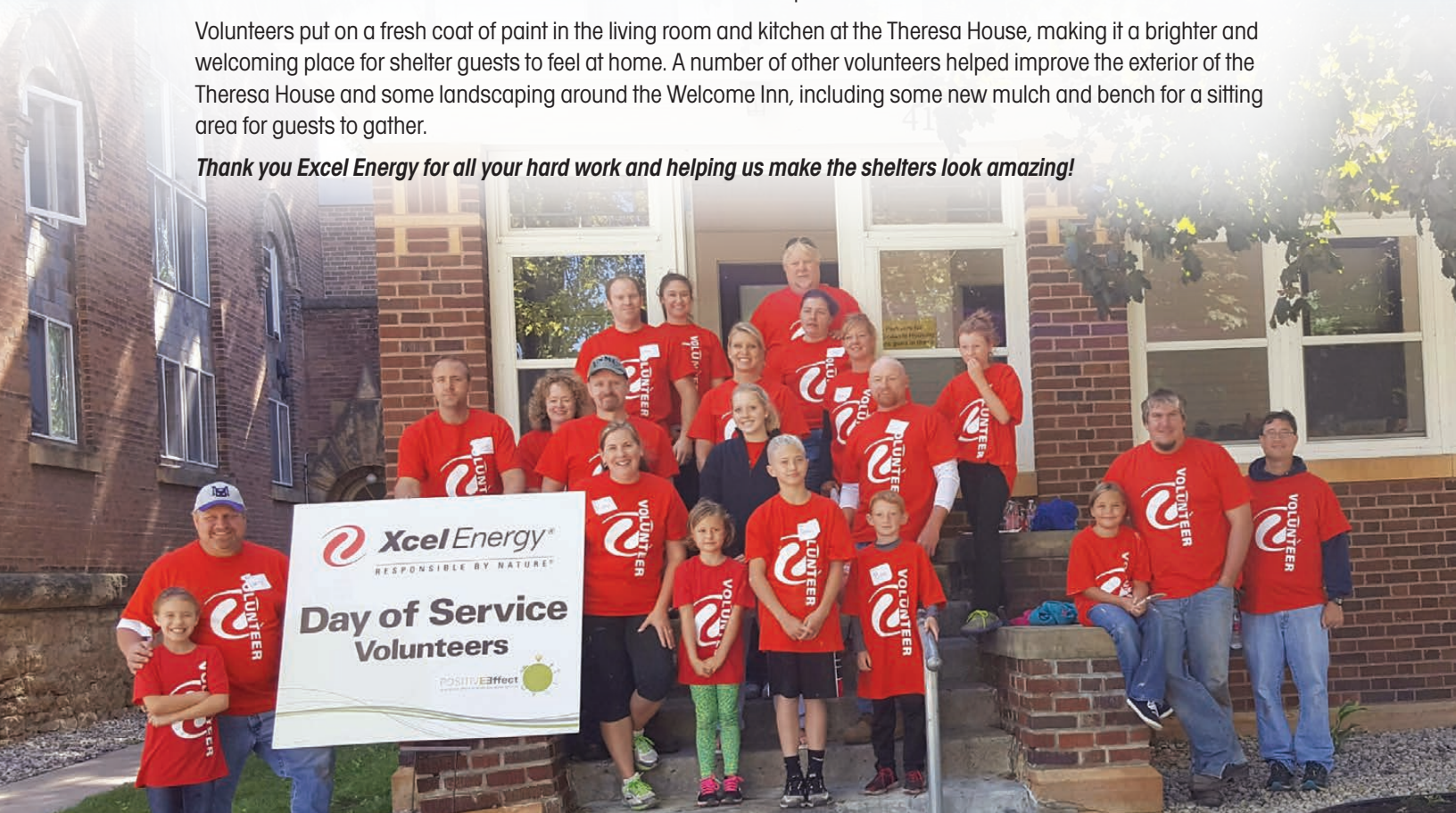


Xcel Day of Service

Partners for Affordable Housing was honored to be selected as the nonprofit Xcel Energy in Mankato chose to support for their Annual Day of Service this year. On September 10, around 20 Xcel Energy employees and family members met at the Theresa House and Welcome Inn and were put to work.

Volunteers put on a fresh coat of paint in the living room and kitchen at the Theresa House, making it a brighter and welcoming place for shelter guests to feel at home. A number of other volunteers helped improve the exterior of the Theresa House and some landscaping around the Welcome Inn, including some new mulch and bench for a sitting area for guests to gather.

Thank you Excel Energy for all your hard work and helping us make the shelters look amazing!



PAH welcomes new Transitional Housing Case Manager

Elise Morrison started as a new Transitional Housing Case Manager for Partners for Affordable Housing in July. Elise grew up in North Mankato and graduated from Mankato West High School. Upon graduation, she attended Winona State University and earned a degree in Social Work, with a minor in Child Advocacy Studies. Prior to coming to work for Partners for Affordable Housing, Elise was the Advocacy Manager at SMILES Center for Independent Living.

"I am very excited about this opportunity to work with Partners for Affordable Housing, and to bring spotlight to the issue of homelessness. I am looking forward to meeting people where they are at, and walking through life with them through all their ups and downs."



Partners for Affordable Housing Donors *Thank You!*

The following is a list of all donors who gave a cash gift between April and September 2016. If your name or business has been omitted from this list, or we have a typographical error, please let us know. We are extremely grateful to those who have chosen to support our work.

Cash Gifts:

A.M. Exchange Club
Anderson, Margery
Babel, Edward & Barbara
Balcome, Helen
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Bessler, William & Marilyn
Bieren, Sister Virginia
Bjorklund, Wayne & Theresa
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Hinsch, Heather
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Lake Crystal Lions Club
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In Honor:

In Honor of David Mauch's Birthday
Goodrich, Ron

In Honor of Sr. Alice Zackmann's Birthday
Studer, Mary Therese

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In Memory of Derrick Davis
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In Memory of Dorothy Schilling:
Barron, Ione



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Fall 2016 Newsletter



Partners for Affordable Housing provides shelter for homeless families and individuals, and helps them to secure economically viable long-term housing.



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