



FALL 2015



Proud to be a
United Way Agency

November is National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Month



The month of November is dedicated to bringing awareness to issues of hunger and homelessness in our country. Partners for Affordable Housing will be bringing this awareness to our local community during the National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week, which takes place November 14th – 22nd.

While it is not easily seen, Mankato and the surrounding areas do have a homeless problem. Homelessness isn't just happening in the larger cities. It is no longer just an "older man" standing under the bridge or next to the road asking for money. Homelessness is a teen struggling in school every day and sleeping on a different friend's couch every night. Homelessness is a young couple living in their car. Homelessness is a single mother working a minimum wage job, trying to buy food for her family, with no place to go. Because of this, it's actually hard to picture this is happening in our community. But it is.

It's this silent population that we at PAH work with every day. We work with the family that can't continue to live in their car as the winter months come. We work with the single woman who has no more friends to stay with. We work with the families that have been evicted because they could no longer afford their rent. We take calls every day from people who need a place to stay.

We are also forced to turn away over 75% of these individuals due to lack of beds in our shelters. Deeply concerned about those families who are denied services, our Board of Directors is working with the city and actively searching for property that would allow us to shelter and serve more families in need.

So what can you do to help? You can help bring awareness that homelessness is happening in our community. Watch for information on our "It Happens Here" awareness campaign planned for National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week. You can donate gently used furniture like dressers, tables, chairs, etc. and household items, such as dishes, pots, pans, silverware, towels, etc. You can volunteer for any one of our great volunteer opportunities. You could donate to PAH.

The possibilities are endless. Help us make Mankato's silent population heard.

Stay Connected!

It Happens Here

#homelessinkato

#HOMELESSINKATO

#NHHAW

#PAHlife

Give to the Max Day 2015

GiveMN.org is an online tool that makes giving to your favorite non-profit fun and easy. It's also another venue for Partners for Affordable Housing to share our story.

Each year, GiveMN has a Give to the Max Day. This year, the #GTMD15 will be on November, 12th. On this day, people are encouraged more than ever to give to their favorite non-profit. Year after year, Give to the Max Day has raised record number of donations for charities across the state of Minnesota. On #GTMD15, donations given through GiveMN.org will also help qualify Partners for Affordable Housing for some additional funds and prizes.

For #GTMD15, we want to see a record number of donations given to PAH within these 24 hours. We're setting a goal of 200 individual donations to be given to PAH on November 12th. Will you help us reach this goal? All you need to do is go to

GiveMN.org and make a donation to Partners for Affordable Housing.

New this year, you can even schedule a payment to be charged on November 12th if you want to take care of it now and not forget! Once you make a donation, make sure you share on social media and encourage your family and friends to do the same. Don't forget to use the hashtags #GTMD15 and #PAHlife.

Find us online at

<https://givemn.org/organization/partners-for-affordable-housing>



Cooking up some Thursday night giving

Every Thursday night, our shelter guests head down the block to Centenary Church where they attend one of the New Beginnings classes. Before they attend class however, all families are invited to a homemade meal, prepared and cooked by some amazing volunteers.

This generous meal provides a night off of cooking for our guests and a chance to gather and socialize with other guests. These Thursday night meals have been happening for about two years this fall. Throughout this time, we've had two couples that have volunteered over and over, really offering their gifts of cooking.

Robin and Susan Schwieger first heard about the opportunity to cook a meal when Onnie, the previous Volunteer Coordinator, came and spoke at their church, Belgrade United Methodist. They decided this was a great and simple way for them to give back to the community. They set aside the third Thursday of every month and join us at the church, cooking up some fabulous meals. "We are thankful for the great work PAH does, and this was a good fit for us to show our appreciation. It is a win-win for us, as the guests are

so kind and appreciative to us as well!"

Mikael and Tracey Leet have also served many Thursday night meals since first volunteering in January of 2014. New to the area, Mikael and Tracey (pictured right) were looking for an opportunity to volunteer. A friend from church invited them along to help out with a Thursday night meal and they've been volunteering ever since. "The Thursday night meals have been such a wonderful time. It is a time to share conversation and a simple meal while getting to know and hear little bits of the lives of the people going through Partners."

THANK YOU to Robin and Susan and Mikael and Tracey for your continued support and giving with Thursday night meals.



Christmas Wishes: Adopt a Family

Can you picture the joy on a child's face when they open their presents on Christmas morning? Now can you imagine a child having no Christmas presents to open? The families staying with us at shelter are already struggling to make ends meet and often don't have the extra income to be able to provide gifts for their families.

This year, we want to encourage our generous supporters to consider adopting a family this holiday season! Every family has specific needs and wishes. With your help, you could bring joy to the children and families that stay with us.

For more information on adopting a family, contact Liz Zaruba, Volunteer Coordinator at 507-387-2115, ext 4.

Consider Grateful Giving this November

For the month of November, let's consider what we're grateful for. There are many basic things that we have that we sometimes take for granted. Not everybody in our community has enough food or housing to live a healthy life. November is a month to raise awareness about hunger and homeless issues in Blue Earth County AND to do something about it.

The Blue Earth County Homeless Response Team, with leadership from Centenary United Methodist Church, Minnesota Valley Action Council, Partners for Affordable Housing, Rural Aids Action Network, The Backpack Program, The REACH and SMILES, has put together a Grateful Giving Calendar to help raise awareness. On each day of the month, there are instructions on realizing those things we might take for granted. It then encourages you to give a small amount of money each day if those instructions apply to you. At the end of the month, you can donate the amount you've collected to one of the many organizations that help fight hunger and homelessness in Blue Earth County, like Partners for Affordable Housing.

The Grateful Giving Calendar can be found on our website <http://partnersforhousing.org/grateful-giving-bec/> and on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/GratefulGivingBEC. This Facebook page will post daily reminders about the calendar instructions, various challenges throughout the month and information on the organizations that this campaign will help support. Please consider getting your family involved in this campaign and help us raise awareness by using #GratefulGivingBEC on social media.



Blue Earth County

Kiwanis Holiday Lights and YOU!

Do you love to volunteer? Do you love Christmas lights? Do you enjoy being outdoors? Do you want to help spread Christmas cheer for all those to hear? Then we have the perfect opportunity!

Partners for Affordable Housing participates in the Kiwanis Holiday Lights show each year. For our participation, we get to decorate a tree, we have a designated night and we collect the food and donations from a couple of different nights. In order to be a participant in the Kiwanis Holiday Lights, we get to also volunteer our time – and we could use your help too!

We need volunteers to help set up, pick up food donations, do different park activities and tear down. If you're interested and available to volunteer on one of these days, please contact Liz to sign up.

We will also be decorating a tree that will appear in the line of non-profit trees. Each year, visitors to the park get to vote on their favorite tree and the non-profit with the most votes wins prize money! So keep your eyes open for our tree and be sure to vote for Partners for Affordable Housing! You'll be able to find our tree pretty easy if you saw our "It Happens Here" awareness campaign in November!

Volunteer Dates:

December 5th – Pick up food donations

December 8th – Partners for Affordable Housing Night – 6 volunteers (park activities)

December 10th – Pick up food donations

December 17th – Pick up food donations

December 25th – 4 volunteers – park activities

January 1st – Tear Down – 3 volunteers

Fourth Annual Pedal Past P

PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING



We're gearing up for our biggest Pedal Past Poverty yet – and you should too! Partners for Affordable Housing will hold our Fourth Annual Pedal Past Poverty Bike Race on Saturday, February 27th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the YMCA in Mankato! We're back in the blue gym this year and ready for some fun!

Pedal Past Poverty is a one-day and one-of-a-kind stationary bike race where 60 teams of ten riders compete for a broad array of fabulous prizes. The real winners of the event, however, are our Mankato neighbors who are experiencing a temporary housing crisis and are guests of the Theresa House and Welcome Inn. This past February, we raised over \$84,000! This year, we're reaching for \$100,000! But we won't be able to do it without your help!

How it works:

- Sign up to be a Team Captain
- Attend the Team Captain's Kickoff in January (Details TBD)
- Build a team of 10 riders (friends, family, co-workers, neighbors)
 - Fundraise \$1,000 or more as a team!
- All riders will receive a free t-shirt and a goodie bag

Day of Event:

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

For more information about Pedal Past Poverty or how to get involved, please contact Liz at 507-387-2115 ext 4 or email at lizzaruba.pah@eventis.net. Teams fill up quickly so gather your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors and sign up today!

#PedalPastPoverty



Poverty: Go Big or Go Home

Pedal Past Poverty Needs Your Help!

Imagine being a part of a highly visible, fun, and growing event within our community - with an even more incredible cause! Partners for Affordable Housing is looking for corporate sponsors to help support the important work that we do in the community. Last year, over 600 individuals within the community hopped on a stationary bike and raised over \$84,000 for those in need in the Mankato area. Pedal Past Poverty, now in its fourth year, is the only major fundraising event that our non-profit organization facilitates. This event is critical to helping us bring our mission to life in helping people within our community secure affordable housing.

By becoming a Key Sponsor of our signature event, Pedal Past Poverty, slated for Saturday, February 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the YMCA in Mankato, your sponsorship investment will help assure our ability to continue to provide emergency shelter services to families and single women experiencing a temporary housing crisis. If you or your business are interested in being a sponsor, please contact us at our office.

For information regarding the sponsorship levels and media visibility during our wonderful event, please visit <http://partnersforhousing.org/pedal/pedal-past-poverty-sponsors/> or contact us directly at 507-387-2115. We hope to see you as a key sponsor to a great event with a meaningful cause! Your help is needed!



A note from Our Honorary Co-Chairs



Every person is important, and deserves to be treated with dignity and worth. Steve and I believe a home - simple to grand - is critical to physical and mental well-being. Being clothed, fed, and out of the elements with a place to rest creates self-worth. Having access to a shower and being able to use sanitary facilities creates self-respect.

Many of us are one paycheck, one mental health episode, or one natural disaster away from being homeless and not having access to these basic necessities. There are children now in

your school district who are homeless. There are people working next to you in our community businesses who are homeless. Homelessness has many different faces. But they have the same needs.

Partners for Affordable Housing is doing their part to address the needs of our community's homeless. This incredible organization provides shelter for homeless families and individuals and helps to secure economically viable long-term housing.

Their services also include emergency help, transitional housing and social workers helping individuals achieve short and long-term goals. Supporting this organization and their noble mission is how we can each do our part to wipe out homelessness in our community.

Please join us and come Pedal Past Poverty on February 27th.

Melanie and Steve VanRoekel

Liberty Street Refresh

We are excited to share the recent rehab of our apartment triplex. The two story home was built in 1881 and is found just off the street from the Lincoln Park area. Because of its proximity to the historic Lincoln Park area, our rehab followed the necessary steps of getting approval from the Minnesota Historical Society. With the help of the city of Mankato and Community Block Development Grant monies, the outside of our apartment complex got a new paint job. This time around, the house's detail was showcased by contrasting paint. The inside of the apartments were refreshed with new kitchens and bathrooms. Bo Nash was the winning bid on the project managed by the Minnesota Valley Action Council agency.

Before



After



#GivingTuesday is another great way to give

November is unofficially the start of Christmas and holiday shopping. Over the years, a few days have emerged as the busiest shopping days of the year. The Friday after Thanksgiving has become Black Friday, where stores open at crazy hours giving customers some amazing deals. Within just the past couple of years, Cyber Monday has come along. This is the Monday after Thanksgiving where many online retailers offer discounted rates or free shipping on products. But by far the most generous day that has evolved is #GivingTuesday, which falls on December 1st, 2015. #GivingTuesday is a day for us to give back to our communities.

#GivingTuesday is a simple but powerful idea. We encourage you, along with your family and friends, to give back to community by giving to Partners for Affordable Housing. This could be through a monetary gift, the donation of items needed by our shelter guests

or even volunteering your time with our organization. And then, of course, sharing your experience or gift on social media with the hashtags #GivingTuesday and #PAHlife.

To find out more about the items our shelter guests need or to sign up to volunteer on Tuesday, Dec. 1st, please contact Liz at 507-387-2115 ext 4 or lizzaruba.pah@eventis.net. Monetary gifts can be given online at <http://partnersforhousing.org/support-pah/>.

#PAHlife #GivingTuesday

Shelter Needs:

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Dish Soap
Multi-Purpose Cleaner
Laundry Detergent

Baby Wipes
Diapers
Feminine hygiene products
Full-size toiletries
(shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
New packages of socks & underwear

Welcome Home Program Needs:

Bathroom & Kitchen towels
Dishes & Silverware
Pots & Pans
Small Kitchen Appliances

Sheets, Pillows & Blankets
Shower Curtains
Rugs
Mops & Brooms
Beds, Dressers & Tables (please contact us before donating)

Partners for Affordable Housing Donors *Thank You!*

July 2015–October 2015

Annual Memberships:

Carder, Dawn
Coomes, Roger & Sally
Gaffer, Christopher

Cash Gifts:

Bach, Michael & Sandra
Benshoof, Brian & Nancy
Brandt, Shirley & Eugene
Cowan, David
Dahms, Sandra & Randy
Davis, Derrick
Dorn, Kathleen & John
Johnson, Sandra & Gary
Meyers-Dobler, Carrol
Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union
Molski, Rosalia
Oberle, James
Schiller, Dorothy
Scully, Margaret
Smith, Norbert & Lynette
Trembley, David

Church Supporters:

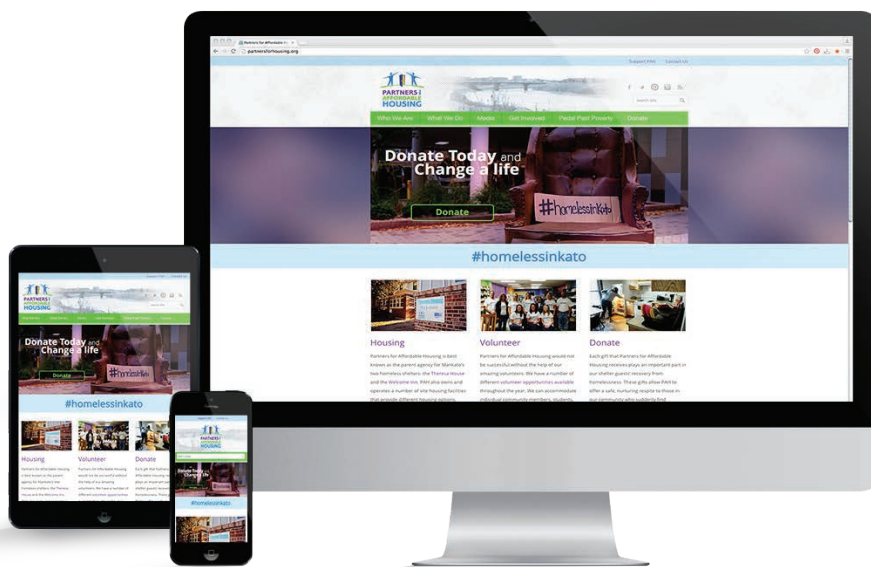
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Church of St. Joseph The Worker
Church of St. Mary
EUMC Methodist Church Youth Group
St. John the Baptist Council of
Catholic Women

In Honor of Anne Dickau's Birthday

Bruce, Nancy
Carlson, Margaret
Conlin, Christopher & Patricia
Conroy, Judy
Danielson, Linda
Date, Kevin & Mary
Dickau, Anne & David
Galen, Vanda
Herickhoff, Penelope
Kanyusik, John & Carolyn
Peterson, Scott & Sheryl
Popowski, Sharon

In Memory of Florence Perner

Perner, Florence (estate)



We're Web Mobile!

Partners for Affordable Housing launched a new mobile friendly web site in October. Based on user history it became clear that more and more users are accessing our information with mobile phones and tablets. The new web site is fully responsive, meaning it optimizes the display of content to whatever device is being used. Also check out our real-time Twitter and news feeds on the home page. Liz Zaruba coordinated the project and funding was made possible in part from a donation by Lime Valley Advertising, Mankato.

Nielson Promoted



We are pleased to announce that Rickell Nielson has accepted our Transitional Housing Case Manager position.

Rickell joined our team in January as our Case Aid support staff person where she has been actively working with our shelter guests.

Rickell earned a certificate in child development and her associate's degree from South Central College in 2012. She graduated from Minnesota State University - Mankato with her bachelor's degree in social work in December 2014. Upon completing her Minnesota licensure for Social Work – Rickell stepped into our Transitional Housing Case Manager role. She will be working with families in our Transitional Housing Program (THP) and Rapid Rehousing (RR) Programs – supporting them in their goal-setting, facilitating Partners' educational programming and providing overall case management to insure our participants are working towards long term self-sufficiency.

PAH Central Office

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Mankato, MN 56001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fall 2015 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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