

For the First Time I Slept Without Fear

Dawn Morales could have never imagined being homeless. Now she realizes how easily it can happen—to anyone.

Dawn was asleep on the sofa in her apartment when her husband came home after a night of heavy drinking. An angry fist hit her in the jaw, waking her to what would become a night a terror. With her nose broken and blood seeping down her throat, Dawn knew she was in trouble.

The night was young and Dawn's angry husband had only just begun his night of terror. Twisting her long hair in his hand, Dawn's husband dragged her off the couch and into the bedroom where he took off his leather belt, wrapped it around her neck and pulled it tight. Tying her to a dresser, he proceeded to kick her with his steel-toed boots.

I thought, I prayed, "God, please don't let this be the last day I get to kiss my babies good-night." Dawn tried to scream, indeed thought she was screaming throughout the five hour ordeal, but now she is not so sure. The belt damaged her vocal chords and she fought valiantly just to maintain consciousness. Around five in the morning, the abuse suddenly stopped. He left Dawn with a broken nose, a broken leg and too many cuts and bruises to count.

Still tied to the dresser leg by the leather belt, Dawn remembered that she had a professional chef's set stored underneath the dresser. The boxed set included kitchen knives of all shapes and sizes. If she could reach it, she might be able to cut herself free.

It wasn't easy. It took a lot of time. She had to shimmy inch by inch, enduring horrific pain with every move. Eventually, her fingers could reach the box and she could slide it over. Opening it, she found a large butcher knife with which she cut the belt which was around her neck.

Terrified that he would come back, Dawn was frantic to get to her teenage kids who, in fear, had barricaded themselves in their bedrooms. The teenagers only opened the door when they realized that the gentle tapping they heard was a call for help by their battered mother.

The three of them knew that they had to leave—quickly.

Both Dawn and her daughter were hysterical.

Her son, on the other hand, was strong and focused. He led the trio safely to the Police Station which was less than a half a block away.

In the early morning hours, police stations are not generally open to the public. Many of the stations have a double set of doors. The outside

doors remain unlocked while the inside set of doors are locked. Contact to law enforcement staff is made via a wall-mount phone and cameras allow viewing of the visitors so sequestered in the entranceway.

The family opened the exterior glass doors and frantically called for help.

After what seemed like forever, a uniformed police officer let the family into the safety of the station where statements were taken while waiting for medical help to arrive. Dawn remembers seeing the police officer's "crystal blue eyes" fill with tears at the sight of her.

I told him, "You saved my life."

He answered, "No. You did it yourself."

Dawn gave the officers her apartment keys. The officers found that her apartment had been ransacked, dishes broken and furniture destroyed. They also found her husband passed out on the floor.

"Thank God we got out," said Dawn. "He would have killed us, to be sure."

"He took my soul away that night," said Dawn. "In the end, I lost everything. I could no longer live in my apartment for it brought back horrific memories. All of my life's belongings had been destroyed in his night of rage. I could not return to my job, terrified that, by some quirk, he would find me there. The kids and I had no choice but to pack up what was left of our lives and move in with friends in another community. I did not know it then, but I had become homeless—all at the hands of a man I trusted."

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"I don't know what it is about you guys, but when I arrived (at the shelter), I knew I was home."



The President's Prose



When you read Dawn Morales story, published within this newsletter, you will be struck by the sense of relief she experienced when accepted into the Welcome Inn. Though we rarely talk about it—and it is hard to measure as an “outcome”—safe housing is critically important to those homeless families who knock on our doors in hopes of finding respite from the storms of life.

This last fiscal year, our agency sheltered 60 households, each of whom stayed an average of 60 days before moving out into community-based housing.

Hm-m-m! We sheltered sixty households, each of whom stayed for an average of 60 days!

It made us wonder: What is the daily cost of sheltering these families?

We began looking at our financials.

We learned that the cost of offering a private bedroom with shared kitchen, living, bathroom and laundry facilities is just \$60 a night for 11 families! (Eleven families can be sheltered within the Theresa House and the Welcome Inn at any given time.)

Of course, that does not include the costs related to insurance or our 24-hour, 'round-the-clock supportive shelter staff. And it doesn't

include our licensed social workers who work with our guests on a daily basis or our volunteer coordinator who orchestrates after-school tutoring and recreational fun for our sheltered kids! And, it doesn't include the New Beginnings and RentWise classes offered each of our guests! And, finally, it does not include the day to day repairs and maintenance required to keep two houses and eleven families in good working order!

Sixty dollars a day simply covers the costs of heat, lights, water, television and telephone services for 11 families. Sixty dollars can—and does—deliver a respite from the storms of homelessness. As Dawn Morales said, “For the first time in years, I felt safe.” Be sure to read her story in this newsletter.

This holiday season, we are asking you to consider a gift of \$60 which will insure one night's shelter for 11 homeless families. Better yet, a gift of \$120 will insure a full weekend of shelter for those same families—and a gift of \$300 will insure their safe respite for an entire work week.

Please take a moment to ponder the many blessings that have been bestowed upon you and your family—and then ask yourself, “Can we spare \$60 to help 11 families in need? How about \$120 or \$300?” Then, please use the giving envelope inside this newsletter and send your gift soon for it is urgently needed. We thank you.

Blessings,

Mark Piepho, President
Partners for Affordable Housing Board of Directors

Dawn Morales' Story continued from page 1

For a year and a half, Dawn and her kids couch-hopped, bunking out with friends and family members until the landlords discovered them. For a year and a half, Dawn worked minimal wage jobs as she struggled to rebuild what was left of her life. For a year and a half, the kids attended various high schools, ever grateful to have survived that night of terror, ever proud of their mom for her incredible strength.

And then, finally, there were no more friends or family members who could open their houses to them. The family was, indeed, homeless.

Dawn googled “homeless shelters” and began calling them one by one. Full. Full. Full. The answer was always the same. “We are full.”

Finally, Dawn contacted Julie Caraway Jensen, Program Director for Partners for Affordable Housing.

“Keep in contact,” advised Julie. “We don't have any openings now but keep calling.”

“It took me a long time to call for help,” said Dawn. “I had the attitude that I can do it! I used to volunteer at Mary's Place (a huge shelter in Mpls.). When I called Julie, I kept thinking about my volunteer experience at Mary's Place. I never thought of myself as being homeless but when the most basic of needs can no longer be met, wow!”

Dawn and her kids has spent a number of nights in their car when, in her words, God turned on the green lights for her! Julie called with news of an opening. She and the kids arrived at the shelter at 10:30 PM, well after curfew, but the staff welcomed her with open arms. Within an hour, the little family was nestled in their assigned bedroom and allowed to sleep until noon the next day.

“I didn't get to meet Julie until the next day,” said Dawn. “For the first time in years, I slept, without fear, all night long.”

Dawn and her kids stayed at the shelter just three weeks before being accepted into the Rapid Re-Housing Program. Dawn had already found a job and now the little family had a small apartment. Onnie Brodkorb, Volunteer Coordinator, helped the family pick out dishes, silverware, bedding and bath linens and furniture from the hundreds of donations collected by Partners and sorted, shelved and stored for families like Dawn's who are moving into their own apartments after being sheltered for a short period of time.

“I don't know what it is about you guys, but when I arrived (at the shelter), I knew I was home.”

Today, Dawn continues in her recovery from the night of terror, grateful every day for her life and the lives of her children.

You can read the unedited version of Dawn's story of strength by visiting our website, www.partnersforhousing.org

Seven Things to Tell Your Kids *About Homelessness*

November 16th – 22nd marks National Homeless Awareness Week. It can be a perfect time to visit with your children 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". There are homeless families in Mankato who sleep in their cars or find respite in a vacant building, storage unit or under the bridge!
2. Many of these families have children! Over the last nine months, 42 children were sheltered with their families in the Theresa House and/or the Welcome Inn.
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. People who are experiencing homelessness have feelings just like you and I. 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!

5. Children, whose families have been accepted at the shelters, need the toys you no longer play with and the clothes you have outgrown. Ask your Mom to consider donating them to Partners.
6. Homelessness can happen to anyone. Homeless people are not bad people. They are just people who were unable to pay their rent because they didn't have enough money.
7. Most of the families who stay at the shelters move out into their own apartments after just 2 months! Sometimes Partners can help them pay their rent for a while. Sometimes other agencies help them with their monthly rent. Sometimes our families can pay their entire rent on their own.

Ask your children, "How would you feel if you were homeless?" Then ask them, "What do you think our family can do to help these families?" Won't you let us hear from you soon?

What's It Like *at the Shelters?*

Life is busy at the shelters! With eleven families staying at the two shelters at any given time, there is always lots going on! Each and every morning, the kids are racing around getting ready for school while the parents are dressing for work! Beds are made, breakfast is prepared and dishes are washed.

But what about those parents who are not working? Or the kids who are still too little for school? Of course, they are "home" during the day! Home, but not inactive!

Case workers meet with each family, one on one, to set goals critical to their ultimate recovery from homelessness. Does someone need to obtain their GED? Enroll in college? Draft a resumé? Apply for a job? Do they need a specialized driver's license? Do they need to brush up on their budgeting skills? Look for an affordable apartment? Learn how to navigate Mankato's public transit system? Have they attended RentWise and New Beginnings Skills Classes? Do they need to sign up for ESnap

(food) Assistance? For each family, the journey is different. Case managers empower our families towards success! The work can be tedious—and it can be long— but in most cases, our families are ready to move to independence within just 60 days! For Dawn Morales, featured within this newsletter, it was just 3 weeks!



PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Pedal Past Poverty III: *More Bikes, More Fun!*

Grab your padded shorts and a styling sweatband! Partners for Affordable Housing will hold our Third Annual Pedal Past Poverty Bike Race on Saturday, February 28th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the YMCA in Mankato! This year we are moving to the blue gym to fit more bikes and more fun!

Pedal Past Poverty is a one-day, one-of-a-kind stationary bike race where 60 teams of ten riders compete for a broad array of fabulous prizes. Who will be the real winners? Our Mankato neighbors who are experiencing a temporary housing crisis and are guests of the Theresa House or Welcome Inn. Partners' signature event, Pedal Past Poverty, raised over \$83,000 in net proceeds last year and this year we've set a goal of \$100,000.

The race challenges teams of ten to compete against one another riding on a stationary bike for 20-minute intervals with a 10-minute break to change riders. Boring? Not on your life! The name of the game is fun—and you do not have to be of Tour de France caliber to enter! From nine year olds to ninety year olds, everyone can ride!

Every Pedal Past Poverty participant will receive a free t-shirt and "goodie" bag. Additionally, each rider will be entered into a drawing for random prizes to be awarded throughout the day. Radio Mankato

will be with us throughout the day blasting kick-butt, pedal-fast music. DJ's will keep our riders motivated, counting out the seconds that remain in each heat. Finally, TV and newspaper crews will do their best to make sure your family catches a glimpse of you on the evening news or in the Sunday paper!

Crazy, zany prizes will be awarded throughout the day. Almost everyone can plan on walking away with something wonderful! Grand prizes will be awarded to the team that bikes the greatest number of miles during the race and the team that raises the most money prior the race. More grand prizes will be awarded to the most creative teams and the most spirited teams! Individual grand prizes will be awarded to the cyclists who ride the most miles during his/her 20-minute heat and the cyclists who raise the greatest amount of money before the race.

To view pictures of last year's race, please go to our website, partnersforhousing.org. To learn how you can participate in this year's race, please contact Carrol or Onnie at 387-2115.

Teams fill quickly so gather you friends, family, coworkers or neighbors.



"Homelessness is a very real but often overlooked problem right here in southern MN. Without a place to call home it is nearly impossible to function as a member of a community. Please help us raise awareness and support so that we all have a place to call home!"

Jenna & Justin Rinehart
Nicollet Bike Shop
Honorary Race Co-Chairs



"Employees from our Xcel Energy's Wilmarth Generating Plant in Mankato put a team together for the event this last March and had a great time. We wanted to be sure we were able to help even more in 2015 and become a Silver Sponsor."

Five Ways to Increase Your *Pedal Past Poverty* Fundraising Efforts

February 28th is going to be here before you know it—and this year's race has set a goal of raising \$100,000 in net proceeds! How can your team raise more money than ever before? We asked the experts! Here is what they said:

1. Ask people! It seems like such a simple idea, but if you want to raise more money, you'll need to talk to more people.

Duane Olson, whose team raised \$4,500 in the past two years' combined said, "A couple of us asked people for just one dollar. Steve would go up to people when he was out shopping and ask them to give \$1 to Pedal Past Poverty. These are people he never met, but most people gave a dollar."

Consider EVERYONE you come in contact with: neighbors, friends, coworkers, family members, people at your church, people at school, your hair stylist, teachers, your doctor, politicians, everybody! See each person you connect with as a potential donor. You have a heart for this organization; chances are people you know will, too.

2. Ask BIG! If you simply ask for a donation, people may not realize how great the need is. Set goals for asking. Maybe you want to get 20 people to donate \$20. Tell people that's your goal. Always be specific. Ask, "Will you sponsor me at \$20?"

Give people big options. If they can't donate as much as you ask for, then you can always go to the classic, "Is there a smaller amount you could help out with?" Having a plan and telling people about your goals will help you reach them faster.

Another way to ask big is to ask for *matching* donations. Matching donations means doubling the funds. There are corporations that give matching funds, to be sure, but you could ask your well-to-do aunt or brother if they would match the first \$100 you raise! You might be surprised!

3. Teams raise more than individuals. If you were on a team last year, see if you know enough people to start your own team. Maybe some of your last year's donors are interested in forming a new team with you.

If you were a Team Captain last year, see if each participant knows one other person who would want to be on the team with them. Then you could split into two teams.

If you have a workplace team, encourage another department to start their own team. Friendly competitions between teams in the same corporation can be a fun way for people to raise more money. With a minimum goal of \$1,000, each team helps Partners for Affordable Housing with the funds it needs. (Last year's teams raised an average of \$1,500 each!)

Kathy McGuire, Nurse Manager of three area Mayo Clinic Health Systems Clinics said, "My team was a team of nurses. We put out a challenge to our provider partners (physicians), which helped us start a second team made up of our docs. The competition was a lot of fun!"

Make sure people on your team and people you recruit know what's expected of them as a team member, such as the minimum \$100 to be raised per individual.

4. Consider ALL avenues for donations to come your way. Think of all the ways you regularly connect with people! If you make a phone call, visit relatives, or go out to lunch with a friend, use those opportunities to seek donations. Post flyers. Have conversations. Write letters.

Posting on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to ask followers and friends to help is also a great way to reach a large number of people. Contact everyone individually who "likes" or "retweets" any posts you put up. Then, tag donors in a thank you so that friends and followers of that donor can see and perhaps donate as well! It's a great way to get your fundraising efforts to go viral.

Finally, your team can also do some creative fundraising efforts, like McGuire's team did, such as bake sales, taco feeds, and soup bars in the workplace. The more people you reach, the more people you will get donations from.

5. Tell people why. "Asking people for money is hard. Period. The best way to get over this hurdle is to get excited about this fundraiser, and let your enthusiasm show for all to see," said Olson. "I told my team members that it is about the education of housing needs as much as it is about raising money...They had to tell the story. They had to talk to people about the families and children in need of housing right here in Mankato."

To meet Duane or Kathy and get more ideas on how your team can be even more successful, Team Captains are invited to the **Team Captain's Kick Off Luncheon on Friday, January 16th at noon in the Conference Center of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.**



“Oh, I get it. That’s really nice.”

“What’s in the box, Onnie?” asked a curious child happily dancing behind me while I carried a box of infant clothing into the Theresa House.

This little girl has seen me carry many boxes from my car to the shelter. A few times the boxes have had things for her and her family. When her family moved in I brought them an alarm clock, new socks, and hair brushes. When the weather grew colder I helped her sort through several boxes of hats, mittens and coats until we found warm clothing that fit (and was even her favorite color).

While all of this is fun for me, as Volunteer Coordinator, my favorite part will be when this little girl and her family actually visit our “Free Store” located in the basement of our administrative offices on the campus of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Her family has been staying at the shelter for several weeks and her mom is about to sign a lease for a new apartment she can afford. With a new job, a few new skills learned in New Beginnings, and as much support as we can give her as she transitions to permanent housing, this mom of 2 energetic girls feels ready and excited to have her own place to call home.

Soon she’ll be walking through our Free Store picking out dishes, bath towels, a bed or two, sheets and warm blankets to furnish and outfit her new home.

As the person who does most of the carrying of the “mystery boxes,” I receive lots of thank you’s from people living at the shelters or enrolled in our Transitional Housing Program. I always remind them that these gifts are not from Onnie – they are from generous donors.

The little girl who danced down our driveway at Theresa House didn’t understand the word “donor”, so I simply explained that there are lots of people in our community who care about her and her mom, who believe in her, and want to help in whatever way they can.

“Oh, I get it. That’s really nice. Tell them thank you!” she exclaimed as she continued to skip down the driveway.

From pots and pans to laundry soap and paper towels, your gifts are needed and appreciated. Thank you!

Onnie Brodkorb, Volunteer Coordinator

PAH

Are you thirsty for more info and updates about homelessness in Mankato and how Partners for Affordable Housing is serving our community?



Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/partnersforaffordablehousing



or follow us on Twitter

@PAHMankato

We'll keep you up to date on what we're doing and how you can help.



Did you know that we can email our newsletters to you?

Top 7 reasons to get your PAH newsletter by email:

1. You'll get your newsletter 2 days before all of your friends and be one step ahead of them.
2. Your dog can't eat it before you get a chance to read it.
3. No paper cuts!
4. You can open your email in your undies, but the neighbors always want you to wear clothes when you go to the mailbox.
5. An email is easier to share with your out-of-state friends.
6. You'll be saving trees—one little newsletter at a time.
7. Getting your newsletter by email saves PAH a little money which means more funds to serve homeless individuals and families.

Ready to make the switch?

E-mail onnie.pah@hickorytech.net or call us at (507) 387-2115

Partners for Affordable Housing Donors *Thank You!*

The following is a list of all donors who gave a cash gift between March 1 through September 30, 2014. 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 with a portion of their life treasures. **A separate list of \$100+ donors to Pedal Past Poverty 2014 is also included.**

Annual Memberships:

Anonymous
Carder, Dawn
Coomes, Sally
Cowan, David
Gaffer, Christopher
Kinne, Dale and Rosemary
Kuechle, Lynn
Meyers-Dobler, Carrol
Nygaard, Mary Beth
Schoeneberger, Elaine
Solano, J. Faith

Sometimes Christmas comes at times other than the month of December! Such was the case when Riverbend Business Products donated a brand new full color copier to Partners earlier last spring! The Copystar cs300ci does everything except create the documents themselves! We continue to be excited about this very awesome and generous gift!

Cash Gifts:

Anderson, Jeffrey & Leah
Anderson, Margery
Anderson, Marilyn
Anonymous
Back, Rosalva
Bakken, Gary & Kathy
Balcome, Helen
Benshoof, Brian & Nancy
Bradley, Scott & Dawn
Breiter, Richard & Therese
Carder, Rev. Dawn
Caven, Eleanor
Clements, Anne
Coomes, Sally
Cooper, Scott & Lynette
Corcoran, Dan & Mary
Dahl, Kermit & Phyllis
Dehning, Christopher
Dickerman, John
Dicks, Nathan
Dorn, John & Kathy
Eckberg, Joel
Exchange Club
Fine Impressions, Inc.
Gehrke, Robert & Deborah
Grayson, Michael & Jennifer
Groebner, Jeanne
Hamze, Dr. Francois & Jill
Hansen, Signe
Heitzeg, Louis
Honermann, Alan & Dianne

Through the wonderful coordination efforts of Joe Farnham, PC's for People donated four refurbished computers and Computer Technology Solutions personnel completed the transfer of all data from our very-old computers to the "new" computers! We cannot believe the difference that has made! Thank you!

Ireland, Doug & Deb
Johnson, Michael & Jennifer
Joseph Dhuyvetter Family Trust
Kanyusik, Carolyn
Kaye Corporation
Kearney, Jane
Kiwanis Holiday Nights
Knudson, Kathy
Knutson, Bonnie
Kvasnicka, Donald & Joanne
Lamm, David & Pamela
Lamoreux, Jennifer
Lime Valley Advertising
Lloyd, Mark & Myrna
Makovsky, Dawn
Mankato Elks Club, Inc.
Mapleton Community Chest
McGuire, Robert & Kathryn
Meyer, Christopher & Janene
Meyer, Robert
Meyers-Dobler, Carrol
Nolting, Paul & Sara
Northern Comfort, Inc.
MSNU Student

Nurses Association
Nygaard, Mary Beth
Oberle, James & Monica
PEO Chapter BE
Petrie, P. Jane
Piehl, Charles & Kathleen
Pongratz, Mary Ann
Portz, James & Dolores
Prochazka, Randy & Donna
Reser, Tess
Ries, Carol
Rossow, Janet
Sassenberg, Karl
Schiller, Dorothy
Schneck, Gerald
Schroeder, Marlene
Sigafus, Allan & Loretta
Slack, Mary S.
Smith, Lynette
Steiner, Millicent

We'd like to issue a very special thanks to Bill and Jake of Spectrum (Security) for their donation of a brand new key card system for the Theresa House and the Welcome Inn. As a matter of protocol, shelter staff issue key cards to all shelter guests—cards that unlock the outside doors of the two shelters. This system insures that our people can go to work, take their kids to school, shop for groceries or whatever and still get back into the shelters at the end of the day.

Steiner, Peter & Regina
Stow, Sara
Struder, Mary Therese
Sugden, George & Nadine
Sweere, Catherine
Syverson, Charles & JoAnn
Tate, Jane
Tholkes, Cathy
Topp, Mary
Trembley, David
Union Pacific Employee Club 70
United Prairie Bank Denim for Dollars
Waltman, Ed & Maureen
Weldon, Jeffrey & Katherine
Wendel, Kenneth & Cynthia
Wendlandt, Bill & Pat
Wemerskirchen, Thomas & Theresa
Westre, Michelle
Wenger Physical Therapy
Willaert, Mary
Yerington, Scott & Cindy
Zierden, Mark
Zwickey, Nancy

Thank you, Taylor Corporation, for the multiple donations of "scrap" paper we have received. We have been able to save tons of dollars on copier paper through your generosity.

Church Supporters:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Mission Project
Centenary United Methodist Church
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Church of St. Joseph the Worker
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
St. John the Baptist Catholic Council of Women

For as many years as we can recall, Dave Sanders and Flexible Plastics, Inc. has donated trash bags to Partners for Affordable Housing! Every home needs trash bags—and so does every office! They can be extremely expensive for an agency such as ours so this is a very generous and much appreciated donation! Thank you!

Memorials:

In Memory of Ron Steinberg:
Anderson, Alan & Teresa
Anonymous
Banwart, Penelope
Boyer, Wallace & Brenda
Darge, Karl & Caryl
Eichers, Joan
Fitch, Dr. Phillip & Meridith
Halvorson, Jack
Johnson, Breck & Lisa
Layman, Eloise
Meyers-Dobler, Carrol

Schaffer, David & Jo Ann
Simpson, Justin & Barbara
Surprenant, Chad & Tera
Vihstadt, William & Ruthann
Voda, Rosalie
Vogel, Todd & Carol
Wenzenburg, Robert

In Memory of Rylan Meyers:
Behrens, Alfred J. and Linda
Carder, Rev Dawn
Connolly, Barb
Coomes, Sally
Cowan, David
Erdahl, Sally
Griensewic, Virjean
Hoovestol, Carole & Kim
Jensen, Margie
Kinne, Rosemary
Kuechle, Lynn
MSNU Nursing Faculty
Nygaard, Mary Beth
PAH Board Members
PEO, Chapter DA
Piepho, Mark
Solano, Faith
Schoeneberger, Elaine

In Memory of Sr. Mary Edmund Laurent:
James Decker

In Memory of Frank Schneider:
Staff of Partners for Affordable Housing

Throughout the summer and into the fall, Mankato/North Mankato residents have been very, very generous to us! Their donations of gently used furniture, bed and bath linens, and kitchen basics have made it possible for us to help many, many formerly homeless families set up their new apartments. That is so-very-important! Most people don't realize that when a family loses their housing because they were unable to pay the rent, they also lose all of their furniture and household items too. Unlike most of us, they do not have the means to rent a storage unit—and they may not have family who have room in their garage!

For over the last two years, Lime Valley Advertising has been a key partner in helping our agency develop a family of print materials that not only inform but also compel prospective donors to support our work. Starting with the creation of a logo to the development of letterhead, brochures, newsletters and Pedal Past Poverty registration materials, Lime Valley keeps us looking professional in every way. We want them to know that we appreciate the creative work that they do on our behalf.

PAH Central Office

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Mankato, MN 56001

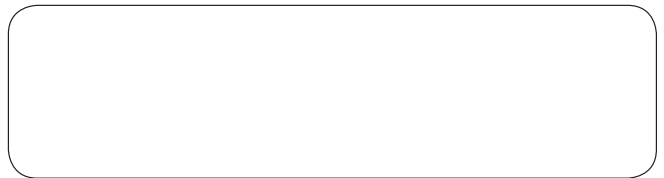
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Fall 2014 Newsletter



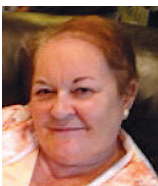
Partners for Affordable Housing provides shelter for homeless families and individuals, and helps them to secure economically viable long-term housing.



New Faces in *New Places*



Elaine Olinger Schoeneberger is a Mankato native. As the oldest of 7 children, caregiving was an important part of her growing up. She was a graduate of Loyola and attended Mankato State University. She spent 32 years in retail before joining the Salvation Army as the Social Service Coordinator. Assistance and problem-solving for the poor and homeless became a part of her life for 19 years. Now retired, Elaine is sharing her expertise and experience with Partners for Affordable Housing where she serves on the Board of Directors.



Virjean Griensewic is a retired library media teacher. She has also taught English and German in her 38-year career. A native of New Ulm, she graduated from Minnesota State Mankato and has lived in Mankato for forty years. Virjean is married to an also-retired teacher and has two adult children who live in Mankato. Virjean serves as Secretary to the Board of Directors for Partners.

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Member at Large

Every day, families living at the Welcome Inn & Theresa House need:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Dish Soap
- Multi-Purpose Cleaner
- Bleach
- Laundry Detergent
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers
- New Packages of Socks & Underwear

*Donation can be dropped off at 151 Good Counsel Dr.
Monday - Friday 9am to 4:30pm (507)387-2115



When families move to their own permanent housing they need:

- Bath & Kitchen Towels
- Dishes & Silverware
- Pots & Pans
- Small Kitchen Appliances
- Sheets, Pillows, & Blankets
- Shower Curtains, Mops & Brooms
- Kids Clothing
- Beds, Dressers & Tables

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