

News from the road home

Spring 2014

The Road Home Community Celebrates 15 years



Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive, presenting at The Road Home's 15th Anniversary Celebration

More than 100 attendees helped The Road Home celebrate our 15th anniversary on April 27, 2014 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Dane County Executive Joe Parisi was our guest speaker. Volunteers, board members, congregations, community partners, staff and others enjoyed an afternoon of celebration, cake and ice cream, heard a family's success story of being in housing for eight years, and had an opportunity to tour Housing & Hope Phase II.

Our thanks to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for hosting our anniversary celebration. And our thanks to our generous sponsors for their

support of The Road Home: **CUNA Mutual Group, Baker Tilly and UW Health and Unity Insurance.**

We invite you to continue to celebrate The Road Home's 15 years of building partnerships and programs that help families succeed. See the "15 Ways you can support The Road Home and our 15th Anniversary."

15 the road home
DANE COUNTY
1999-2014
years solutions for homeless families

Ralph Holmes – Volunteer, Van Driver Extraordinaire

There are many uncertainties facing families on the path to housing, but thanks to The Road Home's reliable van driver, transportation does not have to be one of them. Rain, sun, snow, or ice, the van arrives every morning at the host congregation to take children to school and their parents to work or appointments on time.

The weekday driver, Ralph Holmes, has supported The Road Home since its beginning in 1999. He was on the board of trustees at Lake Edge United Church of Christ when it first considered becoming a founding congregation.

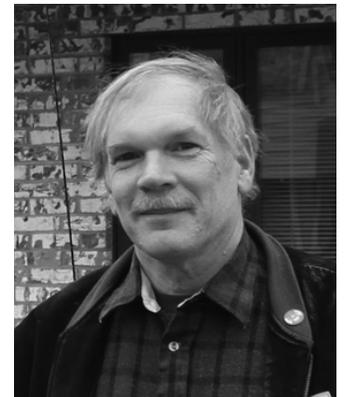
"I first liked this program because it helps people get their lives back on track," Ralph said. "It's not just a giveaway. Families put in the effort." Ralph and his wife, Karen Holmes, served the first dinner to families staying with the newly formed Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) 15 years ago. There were three families that night, and although Ralph can't remember the exact menu, he does remember being inspired to give more to the program. He and his wife volunteered to coordinate additional meals and activities. A woodworker by trade, Ralph helped build showers as IHN grew.

In 2011, Ralph was hired as van driver at The Road Home. He sets the driving schedule after consulting public transportation listings for

adults taking the bus instead of the van. Ralph is at the congregation by 7:00 a.m. each day and occasionally earlier, if required. At one point, there were nine kids at seven different schools, which entailed a two-hour drive around town. Fortunately, the van has never broken down.

Ralph says that although he is now a paid staff member of The Road Home, he still considers his work to be a service to the community.

"It's fun when I run into families who are doing well, as each housing success is hard fought. I consider it part of my job to boost people's spirits," Ralph said. "This program just makes sense, although I would hope it wasn't needed. Eventually, I am hoping I run out of a job."



Ralph, The Road Home's van driver



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info@trhome.org
Facebook



Scan to visit
The Road
Home website

Upcoming Events

Please join us at our office for a **Homes for Families Tour** to learn more about how The Road Home changes the lives of homeless families. During these short, powerful, and informative tours, you will learn about family homelessness in our community and how The Road Home is working to help families transform their lives. We invite you to meet us and to see our work firsthand. This is not a fund-raiser and we guarantee it will only last 59 minutes!

2014 Tour dates

Wednesday, June 11, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 15, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 6, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 19, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 9, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 24, 6:30 p.m.

For more tour dates, check our website www.trhome.org.

The Road Home Tour goes "On the Road"

Can't make it to a tour at our office? We'll come to you! The Road Home's Homes for Families Tour can be presented at your congregation, business, organization, or home. We would welcome the opportunity to provide information about The Road Home to you and a group of friends, colleagues, co-workers, family, or neighbors. Please contact us at 608-294-7998 to schedule a tour.

Mark Your Calendars:

Families Moving Forward Celebration
August 24, 2014
Warner Park

10th Annual Homes for Families Breakfast
November 6, 2014
Alliant Energy Center

Then and Now

A Retrospective Look at The Road Home in 1999 and 2014

Mission Statement:

1999: to mobilize communities to help low-income families achieve and sustain independence
2014: The Road Home Dane County provides opportunities for homeless children and their families to achieve self-determined goals and affordable, stable housing

Families served:

1999: 29 families– 40 adults and 65 children
2013: 146 families including 310 children

Programs:

1999: shelter program
2014: shelter program, six housing programs, including permanent housing

Budget:

1999: budget: \$101,989
2014: budget: \$1,130,000

Homelessness in the schools:

1999: 477 children were identified as homeless in the Madison School District
2014: 1,287 children were identified as homeless (as of May 2014) in the Madison School District

Congregational support for the IHN shelter:

1999: 12 host congregations and 17 buddy congregations
2014: 14 host congregations and 37 buddy congregations

Today, the need to help homeless families with children is as great as it was in 1999. In 2013, almost 400 families, including 775 children, could not immediately access shelter due to lack of capacity.

15 Ways you can support The Road Home Dane County and our 15th Anniversary

1. Attend our Families Moving Forward Celebration, August 24, 2014.
2. Ask 15 friends/family/co-workers to attend a Homes for Families Tour OR host a tour at your business/congregation/home.
3. Make a donation to help our families.
4. "LIKE" us on Facebook and share our posts.
5. Ask friends/family/co-workers to "Give a Day" of their rent or mortgage to help families move into housing. Go to <http://trhome.org/donate.php> for more information.
6. Donate 15 items from our wish list or organize a wish list drive at work, your neighborhood or congregation.
7. Invite people to our Homes for Families breakfast fundraiser on November 6, 2014.
8. Ask your business/organization/congregation to get involved with The Road Home.
9. Visit our website at www.trhome.org and make a financial donation.
10. Become a volunteer: volunteer in the shelter, join a committee (events, development, pr/marketing), help with special projects, become a mentor or tutor.
11. Sponsor a child: An annual gift of \$1,000 is about the amount it costs for The Road Home to provide services to one child for a year.
12. Sponsor a family: An annual gift of \$5,000 a year helps one family per year transition from shelter to a stable home.
13. Sponsor a home: An annual gift of \$10,000 a year provides affordable supported housing for a family that needs extra help on their way out of homelessness.
14. Include us in your will or other estate planning.
15. Learn about homelessness, racism, poverty and trauma.

New Mission Statement

The Board of Directors has approved a revised, more concise mission statement for The Road Home: The Road Home Dane County provides opportunities for homeless children and their families to achieve self-determined goals and affordable, stable housing.

Why We Give

by Steve Goldberg, Executive Director,
CUNA Mutual Foundation

The CUNA Mutual Foundation and the employees of CUNA Mutual Group love The Road Home. We appreciate how The Road Home takes a holistic approach with its client families, helping them reverse the downward spiral of homelessness and take control of their lives.

While The Road Home's focus is on housing, its services go far beyond the physical environment. Families who go to The Road Home for shelter or housing get access to a full range of support services, such as employment assistance, counseling, transportation, clothing and other resources. Most of all, they get hope.

They get self-esteem. They get successful. They smile again. Their kids don't have to wonder where they'll sleep tomorrow.

Anyone who has attended the annual Breakfast for Families has seen powerful examples of this. That's why CUNA Mutual has been the presenting sponsor of this breakfast for many years.

We've also been a big funder of The Road Home's "Housing & Hope" apartments, because we understand the power of community these buildings have created by giving families a chance to interact with each other in their new homes. And many of our employees are active volunteers with The Road Home, including Beth Cutler, who serves on the board.

We love The Road Home because we want kids and families to have a chance, and The Road Home is very good at this challenging

work. We look forward to continuing our partnership with The Road Home as funders, sponsors and volunteers.



L to R: Beth Cutler, (The Road Home board member); Steve Suleski, (CUNA Mutual Foundation Board Member); Candace Stohs-Krause, (Assistant Director of the CUNA Mutual Foundation); and Steve Goldberg (Executive Director of the CUNA Mutual Foundation)

Grants Help The Road Home Help Families

Recent grants to The Road Home help enhance programs and services for the families and children we serve. A \$20,000 grant from **Attic Angels Association** will fund the first year of a three-year program to expand in-home family counseling services to families with pre-teen to high-school age children in The Road Home's housing programs.

The Madison (Downtown) Rotary Foundation's \$7,900 grant supports services to families in our Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) shelter program. This Rotary Club has provided over \$95,000 in grants for The Road Home's programs since 2001.

Additional Rotary support has been received through a \$1,000 grant from **Madison South Rotary**. Funding will be used to purchase a new computer and printer for the Family Resource Center in The Road Home's

Housing & Hope Phase II apartment buildings on Madison's southwest side.

A \$23,750 grant from the **Madison Gas & Electric Foundation, Inc.** will also allow The Road Home to replace boilers and water heaters in both buildings of Housing & Hope Phase II. The improved energy efficiency and water usage will generate savings that can be used for building maintenance. MGE Foundation's previous support of the Housing & Hope capital campaign helped The Road Home purchase and renovate a total of four apartment buildings, creating 30 affordable apartments with on-site case management for formerly homeless families with children unable to qualify for other housing.

Thank you to these funders for their generosity and commitment to The Road Home's mission.

Congregation and Volunteer Thanks

On behalf of our families, we would like to thank each and every congregation and volunteer who, in the past 15 years through our IHN shelter, has helped our families on their road home.

Host Congregations

Christ Presbyterian Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Evangel Life Center
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb
Lake Edge U.C.C.
Lake Edge Lutheran Church
Lakeview Lutheran Church
Luther Memorial Church
McFarland United Church of Christ
Middleton Community U.C.C.
Midvale Community Lutheran Church
Mount Olive Lutheran
Orchard Ridge U.C.C.
St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Oregon
St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Middleton
Temple Beth El
Trinity Lutheran Church
Windsor U.C.C.

Buddy Congregations

Advent Lutheran Church
All Saints Lutheran Church
Arbor Covenant Church
Asbury United Methodist Church
Bashford United Methodist Church
Beth Israel Center
Bethany United Methodist Church
Blackhawk Evangelical Free Church
Blackhawk Church, Middleton
Blessed Sacrament Church
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Burke Lutheran Church
Christ the King Catholic Church, McFarland
Christian Science Neighbors
City Church
Community of Hope
Community of Life, Oregon
Dale Heights Presbyterian Church

Damascus Road Church
Deerfield Lutheran Church
Door Creek Church
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cambridge
First Baptist Church
First Church of Christ Scientist
First Presbyterian Church, Oregon
First Presbyterian Church, Waunakee
First Unitarian Society
Fountain of Life
Geneva Campus Church
Glenwood Moravian Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
High Point Church
Holy Mother of Consolation Church, Oregon
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb
James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church
Lake Edge Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
McFarland Lutheran Church
Madison Christian Scientists
Madison Mennonite Church
Memorial United Church of Christ, Fitchburg
Messiah Lutheran Church
Monona United Methodist Church

Mount Horeb United Methodist
Oregon Presbyterian Church
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie
Parkside Presbyterian Church
People's United Methodist Church, Oregon
Plymouth Congregational U.C.C.
Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society
SERRV
Shraarei Shamayim
Springdale Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Verona
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
St. Pius X Catholic Church, Cambridge
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Monona
The BRIDGE
West Middleton Lutheran Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Willerup United Methodist Church, Cambridge
Windsor U.C.C.

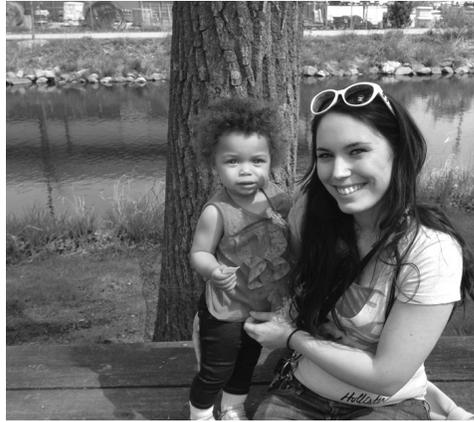
Dear Road Home,

I started the Rapid Rehousing program in April, 2013. Before the program, my newborn daughter and I were homeless for a year. We stayed in a hotel and doubled up with friends and family members. The program paid my first month's rent, security deposit, and a monthly rent subsidy. Without Rapid Rehousing, I would not have been able to afford my rent each month or the security deposit. My daughter and I have been so successful in our housing that that the landlord renewed our lease!

While in the program I met weekly with my case manager to work on my goals. I learned how to budget, pay my bills each month, and together we worked on improving my credit score. My case manager helped me with W-2 requirements, building my resume, and job searches. I am now working and no longer need W-2 benefits. While in the program, I learned about different community resources such as Energy Services, food pantries, baby supplies, and other rental assistance programs. The Road Home receives donations for cleaning supplies, personal essentials, and baby supplies such as diapers, formula, and

toys. My case manager would bring me these items each week which helped, so I could afford to pay my rent and other bills instead of paying for these items. In addition, The Road Home gave me a donated microwave and couch for my home. I want to thank everyone involved in helping me be successful in housing this past year!

Thank you!
Karissa and Kailie



Karissa and Kailie

Wish List

Diapers/pull ups

Baby wipes

Cleaning supplies

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Bars of soap

Feminine hygiene products

African American hair care products

Please contact us if you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically.

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DANE COUNTY

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