

News from the road home

Summer 2014

4th Annual Families Moving Forward Celebration: August 24, 2014

What happens to families when they leave The Road Home? Our volunteers, board, staff, and contributors are excited to celebrate the accomplishments of our families. This celebration is an opportunity



to support and honor our families who have moved beyond homelessness to reach new milestones in their lives. We will be highlighting their successes in housing, school and employment, while enjoying good food, good company and fun activities and crafts for children 3 years and older. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Our celebration will be held at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive, Madison, from 12:30 pm-2:30 pm. The presentation highlighting our families' accomplishments will begin at 1:15 pm. We hope to see you there! RSVP - **by August 15, 2014** - call 608-294-7998, ext. 311 or email: peggyh@trhome.org

This year's celebration is proudly sponsored by:

CUNA Mutual Group, Baker Tilly, UW Health & Unity Insurance, Great Dane Pub & Brewing Co., MetaStar, Midwest Open MRI, Alliant Energy, and McGladrey.

Homelessness and Its Effect on Children

During the 2013-2014 school year, 1,364 children were identified as homeless in the Madison Metropolitan School District. Over the past 10 years, the number of students identified as homeless has tripled.

Children who are homeless have twice the rate of learning disabilities as non-homeless children, according to the *National Center on Family Homelessness*. Homeless children are sick four times as often as housed children. In addition, they suffer from emotional or behavioral problems that interfere with learning at almost three times the rate of other children. Compared to other children, homeless children are twice as likely to repeat a grade (due to frequent absences and moves to new schools). The result: fewer than 1 in 4 graduate from high school.

According to *The Future of Children organization*, "the costs associated with not completing high school are significant, both for the

student who drops out and for our society as well. Because minority and low-income students are significantly more likely than middle-class white students to drop out of school, the individual costs fall unevenly across groups and ultimately affect important social issues, such as racial and ethnic education gaps, the income distribution, and health disparities."

The Road Home is teaming up with **M3 Insurance, American Family Insurance and United Way Dane County** to help families and their children succeed in school. In August, as part of United Way's Days of Caring, these sponsors are providing backpacks and school supplies to the children in our housing programs.

The Road Home thanks our generous sponsors in providing funds and volunteers for this project.

Celebrating 15 years - 1999 - 2014. For ways you can support The Road Home visit our website.



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(608)294-7998



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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

Tuesday, August 19, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 9, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 24, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 7, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 22, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 12, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 9, 5:30 p.m.

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

Mark Your Calendars:

10th Annual Homes for Families Fundraising Breakfast
November 6, 2014
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
at the Alliant Energy Center.

Did You Know?

Homelessness disrupts every aspect of family life – it's detrimental to physical and emotional health, damaging to children's education and development, and frequently causes separation of the family. Homeless families consist of one-third of the total homeless population.

Program Report: January-June 2014

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Shelter:

- 15 families (21 adults, 32 children) stayed in shelter
- 139 families, including 278 children were turned away due to lack of capacity

Housing Stabilization:

- 6 families participated
- 100% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so

Second Chance Apartment Project:

- 13 families participated in the program
- 100% of families that could have reached three years in housing did so

Second Chance Leasing Project:

- 7 families were housed
- 100% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so

Rapid Rehousing:

- 26 families served through The Road Home*
- 100% of families successfully maintained stable housing for one year or longer

House-ability:

- 10 families served through The Road Home*
- 100% of families served are Dane County residents

Housing & Hope:

- 32 families participated in the program
- 8 families reached three years of stable housing during the first half of the year

Totals:

So far in 2014, The Road Home has served 109 families in all of our programs.

** Partner agencies serve additional families in these programs*

Young Philanthropists – Making a Difference in our Community

Recently, The Road Home received donations from a number of children: Rosalie, the 4-year old who wanted to purchase toys for children who didn't have any; Julian, the young man who organized a wish list drive in his neighborhood for his bar mitzvah; the 11-year old girl who requested donations for The Road Home instead of birthday presents; Cayden, the 6-year old, who, after watching a documentary on homelessness, organized a wish list drive in his neighborhood and kindergarten class. These and other children all demonstrate the characteristics of young philanthropists – giving and caring for people in the community who have less than they have.

Teenagers and young adults also volunteer their time for The Road Home – the Holy Mother of Consolation confirmation class that purchased and organized welcome baskets for all the families moving into our Housing & Hope apartments; the UW-Madison college students who volunteered at our anniversary celebration; and the Edgewood High School juniors who volunteered at our shelter, prepared and served dinner, and coordinated evening activities with the families.

Volunteering is just as important as donating. Parents and their children have volunteered at the shelter, youth groups have organized wish list drives, organized and cleaned the toys in our shelter, and volunteered in other ways to support

The Road Home. Children who volunteer are more likely to grow into philanthropic adults. Encourage your children to get involved in volunteering – get them involved in community issues and ways in which they can help.

Our thanks to all the young philanthropists and volunteers, their parents, organizations and others who are providing encouragement and opportunities for children to get involved in helping The Road Home.

For more information on how to introduce philanthropy to children and ways you and your children can be involved in The Road Home, visit our website at: www.trhome.org and click on the volunteer link.



Cayden with his donations.

Why We Invest in The Road Home

By Beth Pinkerton

For Mike and Karin Victorson, charity begins both at home and at work. The Victorsons and their three children – ages, 11, 13 and 15– have volunteered for the past three years with the shelter program serving as meal hosts, activity leaders and overnight hosts. They said that seeing the depth of their children’s understanding of the needs of others grow has been particularly rewarding for them as parents. “Our kids have become aware that there are kids who don’t have the comfort and security of home and how much they take that for granted,” Karin says. “They’ve discovered that kids who are dealing with homelessness are not much different than they are and it has given them greater compassion for people.”

Mike says that for Karin and him, the life lesson is that “homelessness can affect anybody. Life circumstances can change very quickly, and our work with The Road Home has revealed the fragility of many people’s circumstances. Plans sometimes just fall through.” Mike recalled when their son Erik who was eight at the time said: “Dad I can’t believe those kids are sleeping in a

car and don’t have a home like I do. That’s just wrong!” As Mike says, “If an eight year old can get it, we can get it.”

The Victorsons were drawn to The Road Home because of the organization’s partnership between faith communities, businesses and government to help address family homelessness. They’ve been deeply inspired by the families they’ve met and the “unity of purpose among people of a variety of backgrounds and beliefs.” As President and CEO of M3 Insurance, Mike also believes in fostering a culture of giving among the company’s employees. It’s a part of M3’s mission to support organizations that have an impact on our local community, and volunteerism is something that Mike has found also generates a real passion for work.

“When people feel that their life is bigger than their job and are connected to our community, they come back and just shred it,” he said. “They work really hard.”

M3 engaged its employees by hosting a non-profit fair, showcasing options for community involvement. As a result, many M3 employees

have made The Road Home their charity of choice by hosting drives for wish list items and donating their time.

At the end of the day, the Victorsons are inspired to give their time, treasure and talent to The Road Home, because as Mike says, “Homelessness is something that with the right support and attention people can lift themselves out of. This is not one of those social causes you feel like you can’t make any progress in. You can really see the impact of your support.”



Annika, Erik, Karin, Ethan & Mike

The Road Home Receives Generous Grant Support

These foundations and organizations have recently awarded grants in support of The Road Home’s programs.

Eyjue Foundation: \$10,000 grant for case management services at Housing & Hope apartments owned by The Road Home and managed in partnership with the Meridian Group. Families pay 30% of their income in rent and work with an on-site case manager to overcome barriers and work on plans to sustain housing through employment, financial stability and education. **Madison4Kids:** \$1,000 for The Princess Club at Housing & Hope Phase II. The Princess Club was founded by a resident mom to promote health, self-esteem, manners and community service for girls ages

4-15 living in the Housing & Hope apartments in southwest Madison.

Madison West Kiwanis: \$1,500 for emergency rental assistance for those families who are struggling to make ends meet and face an additional financial crisis such as a job loss. **Magic Pebble Foundation:** \$5,000 grant for case management services at Housing & Hope apartments. **The Cap Times Kids Fund:** \$3,000 grant to help expand in-home family counseling services to families with pre-teen to high-school age children in The Road Home’s housing programs.

Thank you to these funders and all our donors for their generosity and commitment to The Road Home’s mission.

Give a Day 2014

Looking for a way to have an immediate impact on homeless families with children? Consider donating the cost of one day or more of your rent or mortgage payment to provide rental assistance and case management services for our families in housing.

Determining one day’s cost of your rent or mortgage is easy—divide your monthly payment by 30. To make a donation, go to www.trhome.org and click on **DONATE**. Please consider making a recurring gift. Funds raised will go toward programs to provide permanent, safe, decent and affordable housing.

Thank you for giving homeless children hope for a better life!

Dear Road Home,

When my family and I first came to The Road Home Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) shelter my daughter was only two weeks old. I was 19 and a first time mom. I was so scared. The Road Home did everything they could to make me feel comfortable.

After a short stay at The Road Home's shelter program, we found out we were accepted into the Housing & Hope program. I can't put into words how excited I was and how relieved I felt to know I was really going to have a home! I actually broke down and cried the happiest tears of my life. It was the biggest blessing ever! At Thanksgiving, we celebrated our first holiday together as a family in our own home.

Thanks to The Road Home's Housing & Hope program I'm able to be a stay-at-home mom with my daughter while I work on furthering my education. Though we still have a low income, we are paying our bills and have food on our table. It is an extremely beautiful feeling. Our life is so amazing now; I honestly can't believe how far we've come. I hadn't had a "home" since I was 14 years old. Now I am 24 and I'm very confident in my mothering ability, and I'm taking a course for early childhood education. My daughter, Karma, is four and a half years old.

She's extremely happy and she's always willing to help out or share a smile.

I want to thank The Road Home. We've been in stable housing for almost five years. I can't put into words how grateful we are. We owe our success, our happiness, and our life to all the staff, volunteers, and donors. If it wasn't for all of you, we wouldn't be here.

Jeff, Karissa and Karma

For the full letter from Jeff and Karissa, please visit our website at www.trhome.org and click on the article on the home page.



Jeff, Karissa and Karma

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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