

News from the road home

Spring 2013

Letter from the President



Jay Sekelsky, President

By Jay Sekelsky

For many years I have devoted a portion of my time and treasure to support The Road Home Dane County. I have served in numerous capacities with the organization by volunteering in the IHN Shelter with my wife Katie and our children; providing financial support for the organization; volunteering on the Board of Directors for several years; and

most recently, I have been appointed President of the Board of Directors. I am thrilled and honored to serve The Road Home and its mission to support homeless families with children.

Much progress has been made in furthering the mission of The Road Home over the past several years. But much more can

be done, and needs to get done, to provide safe and affordable housing for all. Yes, that is an ambitious goal and over the years, through the generosity of our donors, and the hard work of our staff and our volunteers, we have been able to expand and enhance our programs to serve more and more families. But our work is far from done.

We recently announced our 2012 successes of serving 140 families, but hundreds of families with children cannot receive services due to lack of capacity. As a husband and a father of three children, I can't imagine what it would have been like if we had not had a home or beds to sleep in at night. It troubles me to know that many children in Dane County do not have a home. At The Road Home we are all striving to change that.

I encourage you to support The Road Home in whatever capacity you can. Together we can make a difference in the lives of homeless families with children, so that one day, everyone will have a place to call home.

Homelessness and Its Effect on Children

By Kristin Rucinski, Executive Director

After being involved with The Road Home for eight years, I am still not numb to the fact that children in Dane County are homeless. Last week I had the opportunity to talk with "Lucy," a blue-eyed 6-year-old girl whose family was spending time in the Warming House, the emergency shelter collaboration between The Road Home and The Salvation Army. Lucy has an amazing imagination. She talked at length about her "super powers," she baked me a magical cake, she told me, "You don't have a big imagination because you're a grown-up so you don't need one." She even let me pet her magical dog. I thought to myself, "This girl has a bright future ahead of her." She had put a smile on my face for the day. But then, two hours later, her parents found out there wasn't space for them in the Warming House that night, so they would be spending the night in their vehicle.

Children who are homeless are strong and resilient, but I know I couldn't be at my full potential to learn at school if I had slept in my parents' car the previous night. Research* shows that compared to housed, low-income children, homeless children experience twice the rate of chronic or acute illnesses, twice the rate of learning disabilities and three times the rate of emotional or behavioral problems. As a result, homeless children often fall behind in school and have less than half the rate of proficiency in math and reading as their housed classmates. It is estimated that fewer than one in four graduates from high school on time. Unfortunately, the Madison Metropolitan School District has identified over 1,100 students as homeless this school year.

I'm happy to report Lucy's family's spirits remain high, they are very appreciative of the services they are receiving and her mom just obtained a job. I still do believe that Lucy has

Cont. on Page 2



The Road Home
128 E. Olin Ave., Suite 202
Madison, WI 53713



www.trhome.org
(608)294-7998



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 first hand. This is not a fundraiser and we guarantee it will only last 59 minutes!

Wednesday, June 12, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 16, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 6, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 28, 6:30 p.m.
See our website for future tour dates.

Mark Your Calendars:

Friday, August 2, 2013
Volunteer Appreciation Day
Madison Mallards, 7:00 pm

Homelessness and Its Effect (con't.)

a bright future ahead of her, but it will take the help of our community – businesses, congregations, service providers, and individuals – to give her a level playing field so she can reach her full potential and not become another statistic. Trust me, this is an investment worth making, and I'm not just saying this because Lucy granted me "super powers" yesterday!

** American Almanac of Family Homelessness, 2013, The Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness (ICPH)*

3rd Annual Families Moving Forward Celebration, June 2, 2013

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 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 Warner Park Community Recreation Center, 1625 Northport Drive, Madison,

WI from 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. The presentation highlighting our families' accomplishments and recognizing our volunteers will begin at 1:30 pm. We hope to see you there!

RSVP by May 28, 2013. Call 608-294-7998 or email juanitae@trhome.org

This year's celebration is proudly sponsored by UW Health and Unity Health Insurance.



DID YOU KNOW?

Family homelessness is the fastest growing population of homelessness. More than 1,436 individuals, 445 families with 881 children were served in Dane County shelters in 2012 (shelter provided by homeless service providers: DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services), The Road Home, The Salvation Army, Porchlight, Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin and the YWCA). This is an increase of 12 % over 2011, where 1,282 individuals, 394 families with 803 children were served in shelters. Due to lack of capacity, more than 1,444 individuals and families were turned away from shelters.*

*2012 Annual Report on Homeless Served in Dane County report – Madison Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development

Wish List

- Diapers/pull ups
- Baby wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Cleaning supplies
- Toilet paper
- African-American hair care products
- Paper towels
- Bars of soap



Donation Ideas (Go Green!)

Do you have a vacuum, fan, microwave, lamp or small kitchen appliance that you either don't use or is in need of repair? Instead of adding it to the landfill, give it a new life. Please call Richard at 608-444-1196. All repaired items will be donated to families in need.

Ways to Participate

- Become a trained **volunteer** and share your time and talents with the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Shelter Program.
- **Donate** items from our wish list or organize a donation drive in your neighborhood, community, company, classroom or with family and friends.
- Become a **mentor** to a family who needs additional support and would greatly appreciate your time.
- Housing & Hope Phase II apartments will be refurbished this summer, with families moving in by fall. We have 15 apartments that will need furnishings, household items and supplies. Please consider **providing supplies** for one kitchen or bathroom.

There are a variety of ways you can help in the fight against homelessness. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer or learning more about other ways you can get involved, please contact Alane or Juanita, our volunteer managers, at 608-294-7998, ext. 306 or email vol.mgr@trhome.org.

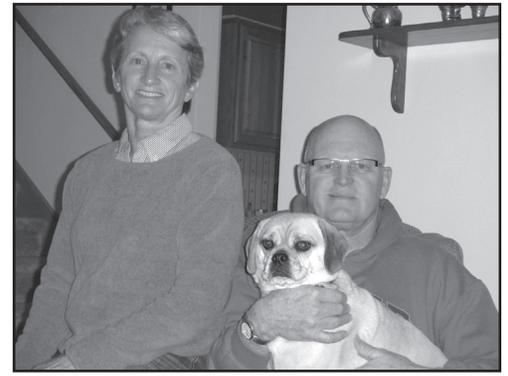
Why We Give

Anne and Steve Staton

It was a little more than 7 years ago that we first learned about the Interfaith Hospitality Network, now known as The Road Home. At a work-related meeting we heard a presentation by The Road Home. It was extremely informative since we knew very little about homelessness. It was The Road Home's passion for the work and their care, concern, and commitment to the families that hooked us. Our first step was to accept leadership of our church's shelter team so we could become a "buddy" congregation in their Interfaith Hospitality Network Shelter Program. Attending one of the "Homes for Families" tours was part

of our orientation to the shelter program and again, we were impressed with the extent of support given to the families served by the agency. Their effective use of resources, the respectful way the people are assisted to set goals and work toward getting out of homelessness, and the on-going guidance and support that The Road Home provides helps one understand the success rate of the families in getting their lives back on track.

Along with volunteering, we feel very fortunate to be able to support The Road Home with an annual financial gift. The fact that there are so many people who are homeless concerns us and makes us want to help. Knowing that many of the homeless are children makes it impossible not to give to the fullest



Anne and Steve Staton

extent possible. We feel that The Road Home is an organization that makes the best possible use of our resources - helping those they serve regain their independence and get a new start. We are thankful that we can be a part of the work done by The Road Home.

Special Thanks

Thank you to:

- All the donors who organized donation drives, provided wish list items, blankets, furniture and other items for our families in need.
- The many individuals and groups who donated furniture and/or helped families move into housing.
- All our volunteers and donors who have helped our families in so many ways – from working in our IHN Shelter Program, mentoring a family, driving families to appointments, working on committees, and donating financial contributions.
- TDS employees for designating \$12,469.00 to The Road Home through their United Way campaign.

Congregation Thanks

On behalf of our families, we would like to thank each and every volunteer who has helped our families on their road home.

Host Congregations:

Christ Presbyterian Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Lake Edge U.C.C.
Lakeview Lutheran Church
Luther Memorial Church
Middleton Community U.C.C.
Midvale Community Lutheran
Orchard Ridge U.C.C.
St. John's Lutheran, Oregon
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Temple Beth El
Trinity Lutheran
Windsor U.C.C.

Buddy Congregations:

Advent Lutheran Church
Bashford United Methodist Church
Beth Israel Center
Bethany United Methodist Church
Blackhawk Church
Blessed Sacrament Church
Burke Lutheran Church
Christian Science Neighbors
City Church
Community of Hope
Community of Life, Oregon

Dale Heights Presbyterian Church
Damascus Road Church
Door Creek Church
First Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church, Waunakee
First Presbyterian Church, Oregon
First Unitarian Society
Fountain of Life
Geneva Campus Church
Glenwood Moravian Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Holy Mother of Consolation Church, Oregon
Lake Edge Lutheran Church
Madison Mennonite Church
Messiah Lutheran Church
Monona United Methodist Church
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
People's United Methodist Church, Oregon
Plymouth Congregational U.C.C.
Prairie Unitarian
Sha'arei Shamayim
St. Dunstan's Episcopal
St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Dear Road Home,

My children (Wade, 17, Charly May, 14, Brianca, 12 and Jade, 9) and I came to Madison in August of 2011. I lost my job in Miami, Florida and we were evicted from our apartment. Miami was becoming crime ridden and an unsafe city to raise a family. Since we had relatives in Madison, and I heard it was a great place to live, we drove to Madison with only \$300 and our clothes. We first came into contact with The Road Home while staying at the Warming House, run by The Salvation Army and The Road Home. We applied for emergency shelter at both The Salvation Army and The Road Home. We were accepted into The Salvation Army emergency shelter, but it was only a 90-day program, and it was a struggle to find an affordable place to call home. At the end of our stay, we were accepted into The Road Home's Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Shelter. The volunteers were fabulous – they provided 3 meals a day, evening activities, and overnight accommodations. In addition, they helped provide transportation for us to get to important meetings, school and my son was especially grateful for the rides to football practice.

While in shelter, I was having difficulty being approved for housing. My case manager really advocated for my family. My case manager had me apply for all the housing programs at The Road Home. We were excited to be accepted into the Second Chance Apartment Program, a two-year program where 30% of my income goes toward paying outstanding bills. Our sponsors, Westminster Church and the Shorewood Village, provided our



family with a beautiful apartment including donated furniture, supplies and household items. On moving day, the church volunteers moved us in, and they even insisted on helping us clean the apartment. They have been a great support. My mentor has been wonderful, and our sponsors have helped us with transportation, appointments and other needs.

My children and I enjoy our neighborhood, they are doing well in school and looking forward to enjoying the summer. My son Wade will soon be graduating from high school and enrolling at MATC. My long-term goal is to improve my credit and housing history, so once we complete the Second Chance Apartment Program, we will move into a stable and affordable home.

The Road Home Dane County has been a blessing to my family.

Sincerely,

Mary, Wade, Charly May, Brianca and Jade

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

Address Service Requested

128 East Olin Avenue, Suite 202 • Madison, WI 53713

the road home
DANE COUNTY

Non Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Madison, WI
Permit # 2950