

News from the road home

Winter 2015

2015 Homes for Families Breakfast

The Road Home Dane County held its 11th Annual Homes for Families Breakfast at the Alliant Energy Center on November 5, 2015. The event was a great success with over 440 people in attendance and raised \$340,000 to help The Road Home provide programs and services for homeless families with children. This year's theme was **"Teaming Up to End Homelessness."** The Madison Youth Choir opened our event singing "Gonna Make a Home." Chinae, a program participant of The Road Home, shared her story about being homeless and finding housing.

Kristin Rucinski, Executive Director, spoke about the needs of The Road Home families and their children by recalling a family that she dealt with as The Road Home's shelter case manager about eight years ago. "A single mom and her seven-year-old daughter were at our Day Center during the day because they had no safe place to be. The safest place they could think of that would be open for longer than a few hours was a local hospital's emergency



Kristin Rucinski, Executive Director and Chinae

room, so that is where I dropped them off. I can't describe my feelings as I drove home that night knowing I'd have a safe place to sleep, on a bed, with a pillow, after I made dinner in my kitchen, and having no idea how long they'd be able to stay there and where they'd end up."

Kristin shared The Road Home success statistics with the attendees, "Thanks to our donors, our community and our team, 88% of the families who have exited our shelter this year successfully moved into housing." She also shared the statistics of the need for affordable housing. "Our community had to turn away over 300 families from shelter last year."

This year's featured speaker, Chinae, reflected on her troubled childhood, abusive relationship and becoming homeless. She wanted more for her three children, Jada, Reggie and Regon. With the help of The Road Home's Second Chance Apartment Project, in the past 18 months Chinae has paid rent in full each month, repaired her credit, completed the YWCA's Construct U program, has enrolled at Madison College and recently started a new job. She is an ambassador as well as a grassroots leader in her community. Her daughter Jada is in third grade, is reading at a sixth grade level and is doing fourth grade math, Reggie is in 4K, Regon is two years old and already loves playing basketball.

Says Chinae, "I'm thankful to The Road Home team of staff, volunteers and donors who helped me get back on the right track."

Breakfast Thanks

We would like to thank our Homes for Families Society members and all donors, sponsors, table hosts, speakers and attendees for supporting us in our mission.

Our thanks to this year's generous sponsors: **Founder:** CUNA Mutual Group; **Gold:** UW Health & Unity Health Insurance and National Guardian Life; **Silver:** Alliant Energy Foundation, American Family Insurance, The Great Dane Pub & Brewery Company, MetaStar, and Naviant; **Bronze:** First Weber Foundation, Sentry Insurance, TASC,

Terzo Solutions, UW Credit Union, Wisconsin Management Company and FGS The Restoration Company and Wisconsin Mutual Insurance; **Friends:** Wegner CPAs and Group Health Cooperative.

Generous leadership gifts were provided by Lau and Bea Christensen Charitable Foundation, Hovde Foundation, Jay and Katie Sekelsky and the Madison Metro Jaycees. Special thanks to Heidi Lobraco and SVA for graphic design services.

For ways you can support The Road Home visit our website.



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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!

2016 Tour Dates

Wednesday, January 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 3 at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Wish List

Diapers/pull ups

Baby wipes

Cleaning supplies

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Bars of soap

Feminine hygiene products

Hair-care products designed
for
African-American hair

Gifts cards for gas
and groceries

The Playing Field

The Road Home, The Playing Field and the Dane County Parent Council have entered into a partnership to provide access to high quality early educational programming to children experiencing homelessness. Bethany United Methodist Church is providing the space for the day care center. Initially, the center will serve ages 0-3, but hopes to raise additional funds to provide tuition scholarships to more families and to provide programming for ages 3-5.

An Early Head Start grant, from Dane County Parent Council, will provide some funds for the start-up costs, and funding for the cost of up to 16 children to attend.

“The Playing Field is a great place and has been even greater for me and my daughter. I’ve never seen my child (2 years old) so excited and overjoyed when she speaks of her teachers and friends that go there. I want to thank the people involved with the Playing Field because I don’t know what I would’ve done without it.” - Luticia



THE ROAD HOME RECEIVES GENEROUS GRANT SUPPORT

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

American Girl’s Fund for Children: \$6,100 for Little Picassos Art Program at Housing & Hope apartments in Meadowood neighborhood; **H&H Foundation:** \$5,000 for general support; **John Bergstrom Endowment:** \$2,500 for employment-related assistance for families; **Madison4Kids:** \$1,000 for playground at Housing & Hope apartments in Vera Court neighborhood; **Magic Pebble Foundation:** \$10,000 for general support; **St. Dunstan’s:** \$1,000 for employment-related assistance; and **U.S. Bank:** \$5,000 for general support.

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

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Why We Volunteer

By Nicole Moll

My heart has always been drawn to poverty, injustice and families in need. I went to college for a degree in social work and have traveled to Guatemala several times to serve and love the poor. For years I was focused on poverty in developing countries feeling very little compassion or direction for those in my own community.

Box of Balloons, a nonprofit organization I started almost two years ago, began working with The Road Home providing birthday celebrations to the families there. After a few months of providing birthday celebrations to families in need I wanted more information about The Road Home. At one of our Box of Balloons board meetings we hosted a Homes for Families Tour so we could learn more.

From there I knew my family had to get involved and start making connections to the families at The Road Home. God was prompting us to open our eyes to those in need right in our community. We went through the training and signed up to help with evening activities in shelter one night. My husband and I brought our young children. We had bins of their toys and some craft projects to help us entertain the kids. After our three hours of serving, we were hooked and changed forever.

The Road Home is so inspiring, the employees are amazing and we are so thankful for this opportunity to show love to others. Now my entire family which includes my immediate family plus my parents, grandma, aunt, uncle, cousins, sister and her family all are involved. The last time we volunteered we brought a pizza dinner and lots of Legos for the kids to play with, my uncle played his guitar and we decorated sugar cookies with



Nicole and her husband Jeff, and sons Brenner, Paceler and Trexen

the kids. It was truly a perfect night where my family was able to enjoy an evening together while giving back.

Thank you to The Road Home for giving us this opportunity to serve those right here in our community!

Leave a Legacy That Will Help Homeless Families Into the Future

Did you know that you can maximize your giving to The Road Home by designating our organization as a beneficiary in your will, insurance or retirement plan?

A planned gift will help ensure that The Road Home maintains and expands services in the future for homeless families with children. Your attorney or financial planner can advise you regarding the options that

may be available, and can make arrangements for a gift that is designed to best meet your personal situation. The Road Home can work with you, your family, and your professional advisors to carry out your vision. If you plan to include or have already included The Road Home in your estate plan, please let us know. We would be honored to recognize your support!

It Takes a Team

The Road Home was recently selected by two local organizations as recipients of their fundraising efforts: **Madison Metro Jaycees** and **Who's New in Madison**. For the 8th year, the **Jaycees** designated proceeds from their annual Haunted House to The Road Home. Over \$50,000 has been raised through this event to help families move from homelessness to housing.

A new partner is **Who's New in Madison**. The group selected The Road Home as its 2015-2016 service project. So far, members raised over \$2,500 from their annual walk, are conducting monthly wish list drives and contributing holiday gifts for children in our programs.

Thanks to both groups for joining our team to end homelessness and for their generous support!

Newsletter Update

In order to conserve precious resources, both paper and funds, The Road Home is moving toward providing the newsletter electronically. This will allow us to provide more timely information to you. We will not send

frequent email communications – only the newsletter and an occasional update. As will all personal information, we will not sell or share your email address. Please help us by sending your current email address to: Sheila Kirschbaum, Business/Development Coordinator at sheilak@trhome.org.



Dear Road Home,

I want to take this opportunity and thank The Road Home. My daughter, Sadie, and I were referred to the Rapid Rehousing program after staying at the YWCA shelter. The Rapid Rehousing program paid our security deposit, first month's rent, and a small portion of our rent for 11 months. This financial assistance helped immensely! I would not have been able to afford the expensive move-in costs if it was not for the program. In addition to the financial assistance from the program, I also met with my case manager each week to work on my goals. I think one of the most valuable parts of the program was the case manager visits. It was nice to have someone to discuss the things I had been working on that week and to learn about resources in the community. When I started Rapid Rehousing I was on W-2 benefits and looking for employment. During the program, I was able to secure a full-time job that pays really well. I am able to afford my rent each month and never missed a payment on my bills. During the year that I was in the program, my case manager and I met with the school regularly to set up an IEP (individual education plan) for my daughter. We were able to get all the paperwork completed and she was able to start special education classes for reading and math. Sadie's school performance has improved now that she is receiving the services that she needs to be successful. In addition to the school help, the program paid for Sadie to attend summer camp at the YMCA. This was a great experience for her that I would not have been able to afford on my own. She participated in summer activities with other kids her age and went on field trips.

The other part of the program that was so helpful was the personal essential donations. Each week, my case manager brought donated items

for the household such as toilet paper, cleaning products, shampoo, laundry detergent, etc. Since the majority of my income was going to pay the rent and utilities, it was difficult to afford these items, so this was a great help for our family! We completed the program September 30th and were able to renew our lease for another year. We will miss having the weekly support but know our case manager is still there if we need her. Thank you The Road Home for everything this past year!

Shannon and Sadie

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
ends homelessness for families and individuals.

RRH HELPS



FIND HOUSING

Help people quickly find housing within one month or less.

PAY FOR HOUSING

Help people pay for housing short term; longer-term help an option.

STAY IN HOUSING

Help access services so people can stay in housing.

Site: [National Alliance to End Homelessness](http://NationalAllianceToEndHomelessness.org)

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

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