

Focusing on Housing: Changes Ahead for The Road Home

Frequently Asked Questions

1

We continue to hear about Madison's homelessness problems. Will there be enough places for homeless families to stay once The Road Home's shelter closes?

We will continue to work collaboratively with agencies in our community that provide shelter. Right now, we provide shelter space for 3 of the approximately 50 families who are in shelter in Dane County at any one time. We believe that the root cause of much of the homelessness in our community is lack of affordable housing. By focusing on creating affordable housing and supporting families so they can maintain housing, we will be working towards long-term solutions to homelessness.

2

What will happen to families staying at The Road Home's shelter as it phases out?

We will inform all families who enter our shelter of our closing date (March 31). We will work diligently to place these families into one of our housing programs. We will also work with other agencies to transition any remaining families to another shelter as we continue to seek to find affordable housing for them.

3

Congregations have done much of their volunteer work with the shelter. Will The Road Home continue to partner with congregations if they don't have a shelter?

Just as in the past, congregation partnerships will be invaluable to our work. We have been working with our partners in the faith community to figure out the best ways to work together moving forward. Host congregation with the support of buddy congregations can adopt a month where they fill volunteer needs such as putting on an event for families or filling specific volunteer responsibilities.

4

How will the volunteer experience for individuals and families change?

Volunteers will continue to be critical to our success. There will be new opportunities for families to volunteer together as well as for volunteers to interact with our families. Some examples include becoming a buddy family to a family in our program, preparing meals, helping in our after-school programs or holding wish list drives. Contact Alane Conn, our volunteer coordinator, at 608-294-7998 or vol.mgr@trhome.org for more information about volunteering.

5

I heard that you are moving to another building. Is that related to your shelter closing?

We have outgrown our current rented space, making it necessary for us to find a new location. In the spring, we will move to a new building located on the south side of Madison. Although the decisions to end shelter and relocate our agency followed two separate trajectories, as we considered how a new space could most effectively serve families experiencing homelessness,

the timing converged. Our new location will include space for expanded skill-building classes and other evening activities.

6 Does this change represent a change in The Road Home's mission?

No. Our mission and vision of every child deserves a home remains the same. We remain committed to helping families find secure housing.

7 I know that The Road Home provided a day shelter for families. Will that continue?

No. Our new building will not include space for a day shelter. Recently, The Beacon, a new resource center for people experiencing homelessness, opened in Madison. They serve over 150 people each day. We will partner with them to provide case management to families there.

8 Was The Road Home's shelter not financially viable?

The decision to phase out shelter was not based on lack of funding. Instead, it was deliberate and carefully thought out by our staff and Board of Directors, with the goal of maximizing our resources to most effectively serve homeless and formerly homeless families in our community.

9 What housing programs is The Road Home involved with now?

We currently run seven housing programs. Please look in the Programs section of our website to learn more. Our rapid rehousing programs help families who may have encountered a short-term crisis or roadblock overcome that and get rehoused as quickly as possible. Our permanent supportive housing programs work to end chronic homelessness by providing support to families facing significant barriers. These programs provide case management and varying amounts of support.

10 With shelter ending, what new programs or initiatives will you be focusing on?

We have several new initiatives that we are excited about! We will be offering more skill-based classes such as budgeting and resume building at our new building. We also have some exciting housing programs in the works for 2018. New partnerships will help us transition families from our supportive housing into more independent living, opening up those supported housing spots for other families. We have partnered with Stonehouse Development and will be opening nine affordable three-bedroom units in the spring. We will also launch a pilot program that brings several agencies together along with a couple of congregations in a team approach to support formerly homeless families in housing.