

# News From The Road Home

Dane County

Fall 2018 newsletter

## Looking Closer at Dane County Evictions

Many people are familiar with Matthew Desmond's book, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, which took place in nearby Milwaukee. But have you ever wondered what the issue of eviction looks like here in Dane County?

Eviction is traumatic for families and can lead to homelessness. Yet, unfortunately eviction is a common occurrence. Evicted in Dane County: A Collaborative Examination of the Housing Landscape, a recent report by graduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, found that "between 2000 and 2015 there were 40,439 eviction court cases initiated in Dane County, with an average of 2,527 cases per year." The summer months had the highest number of evictions.

"Evictions are often misunderstood," said Zach Stephen, a case manager at The Road Home who has worked with many families with evictions on their records. "While the end result of eviction looks the same, the story behind how it happens is different from family to family. I've seen hard-working parents who got laid off and just needed time to find employment—but got evicted before they could. No matter what the cause, eviction will always impact someone's chances of finding housing in the future."

At The Road Home, we work to create more affordable housing, enabling more families to locate housing that fits their budget, decreasing evictions. Our case managers also help families negotiate with landlords to avoid evictions as well as help families with past evictions secure housing. Landlords are often important partners in helping families maintain stable housing. "I've met so many great landlords here in Dane County who are passionate about helping house families that have significant barriers," said Stephen. "It's so wonderful to see landlords who are invested in their communities and in seeing their tenants succeed."

Creating partnerships like these helps us reach our goal of ending homelessness. Thank you for your support that makes this possible.

## Families Moving Forward Celebration

What happens to families when they leave The Road Home? Our volunteers, staff, and contributors celebrated the accomplishments of families on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at Families Moving Forward. This celebration acknowledges families who have moved beyond homelessness to reach new milestones in their lives. We celebrated their successes in housing, education and employment, while enjoying good food, good company and good music by Kinfolk Soul. Backpacks and school supplies were distributed to children in elementary, middle and high school.

This year's celebration was proudly sponsored by: CUNA Mutual Group Foundation, Madison Investment Advisors, MetaStar, National Guardian Life, Naviant, UW- Health/UnityPoint Health-Meriter/Quartz, Alliant Energy Foundation, Alvarado Real Estate Group, Frank Beverage Group, BMO Harris Bank, Associated Bank, RSM and UW Credit Union.

Special thanks to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish for providing the space for our celebration.



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



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Thank you to the record number of businesses, congregations, schools and individuals that support our backpack and school supply drive. We received enough to help 400 children! In addition to the Families Moving Forward distribution, case managers will make sure all the children in our programs receive backpacks and we'll have a supply for children entering our program throughout the school year. Thank you for your generosity!

Backpack and school supply donors include:

Bethany United Methodist Church, Hansen Home Team – Stark Company Realtors, Ghana Association, LINC – United Way of Dane County, Madison Investment Advisors, Madison South Rotary, Messiah Lutheran, MetaStar, Porchlight, United Vaccines, UnityPoint Health-Meriter, West Corporation, Zendesk and many individuals.

## Healing House: A Place for Homeless Children and Families to Recuperate

A mom cradles her newborn in her arms. It is one of life's most precious moments. But if the mom is homeless and staying in a night-to-night shelter, she and her newborn will not receive the important medical care they need once they are released from the hospital.

Up until now, there has been no medical respite for homeless families in our community. No place to go when a member of the family needs to prepare for a medical procedure, or to recuperate after childbirth or hospitalization. Currently, when someone is discharged from the hospital and needs follow-up care, a home-health provider is assigned. But when you have no home, this type of care is not an option.

Two agencies are coming together to address this critical need. Madison - Area Urban Ministry (MUM) will soon open Healing House, an 8-bed facility in Madison providing homeless families with 24/7 recuperative care by medically trained staff and volunteers for up to 28 days. It will be the first medical respite of its kind in Wisconsin.

The Road Home will provide case management to families staying at Healing House including developing a plan for families to secure and maintain housing.

“MUM is excited about partnering with The Road Home on Healing House because of its record of effective case management with families experiencing homelessness,” says MUM Executive Director Linda Ketcham. “As we developed our model for Healing House we knew that that one of the key outcome measures would be people leaving Healing House into housing and retaining their housing long term. With The Road Home providing the housing case management we are confident that those outcomes will be achieved.”



### Program Report: January-June 2018

All programs: served 122 families, (including 298 children)

#### **Housing Stabilization:**

15 families participated  
100% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so.

#### **Second Chance Apartment Project:**

14 families participated in the program  
100% of families that could have reached a year in the program did.

#### **Rapid Rehousing\*:**

30 families participated  
83% of families successfully maintained stable housing for one year or longer

#### **Rapid Rehousing for Families:**

9 families participated. 100% of families who exited the program left with housing.

#### **House-ability\*:**

14 families participated. 100% of families that could have reached two years in the program did.

#### **The Breese:**

9 families participated. 100% remained housed.

#### **Housing & Hope:**

31 families participated in the program  
100% of families that could have reached two years in housing did so.

#### **Education Services:**

Worked with 30 children. 100% of children that could have graduated 8th grade did. 100% of children who could have graduated high school did.

\* Partner agencies serve additional families in these programs

## The Road Home Receives Generous Support

These foundations, businesses and organizations have recently awarded grants and major gifts in support of The Road Home's programs.

**American Family Insurance Dream Foundation:** \$20,000 for Housing & Hope case management

**CUNA Mutual Group Foundation:** \$50,000 for The Road Home's Capital Campaign toward the purchase and renovation our new office building

**Demco Foundation:** \$15,000 in-kind donation for our new building

**Evjue Foundation:** \$10,000 for case management for families living in The Breese Apartments

**Madison South Rotary:** \$2,000 for children's activities, backpacks and schools supplies for Housing & Hope Phase II.

**MGE Foundation:** \$50,000--\$25,000 for the Capital Campaign and \$25,000 for general support

**National Guardian Life Insurance Company:** \$50,000 for the Capital Campaign

**Old National Bank Foundation:** \$7,500 for rental assistance

**Dan & Patti Rashke (TASC) Foundation:** \$25,000 for the Capital Campaign

**The Cap Times Kids Fund:** \$3,000 for children's activities

**UW Health, UnityPoint Health - Meriter & Quartz:** \$25,000 for general support

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

## Why We Give

### Have You Ever Had A Mary Poppins In Your Life? I did!

I remember it was summertime and the days were long and warm. There was a knock on our door. Fearing it was another bill collector, my mother ordered me to open it. There stood the kindest face I have ever seen. It was Mary, our neighbor. My mother smiled and said, "Oh Mary, come in!" Her stress momentarily melted off her face. With hugs and kisses, Mary sat down and talked with my mother. It was a difficult time for our family. With the divorce and a different home, we were drowning in pain and sorrow. Especially my mother. With unconditional love and kindness, Mary listened as my mother poured her heart out. Her family had recently bought a farm and she offered to take my younger brother and me to spend two weeks with her family while my mother recuperated. I was about nine years old and my brother was four. We grabbed a few clothes and off we went! Even the drive to the farm was exciting. Mary and her husband had five children, a huge farm with cows, chickens, cats and dogs- it was heaven! I shared a room with her daughter, as we were close in age. My younger brother bunked with the boys in the family. Everyone had a job on the farm. Mine was feeding the chickens. I remember their farmhouse was large with big open windows, beautiful hardwood floors, wonderful family trinkets, colorful, warm, clean and safe. We began each day early in the morning, ate three meals together, and lived this life. I learned how to milk a cow and tastes its warm milk. It was two glorious weeks without pain, without suffering.



*Kathy and Tim Mazur*

I wish I could tell you that when we returned all our family problems were fixed. They were not. But what I will share with you is that this moment in my life permanently changed me. From this experience, I realized that I had choices, I was an equal member of my community and I had responsibilities. To expect justice for myself, I must work towards fairness, and thus I must engage with society. The Road Home is one vehicle by which I can carry out these obligations. My husband and I have long been supporters of this wonderful organization. And now, through our contribution to the Capital Campaign, we hope to inspire others to fulfill their obligations toward strengthening our community through creativity, caring and kindness.

Kathy and Tim Mazur

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## Upcoming Events

Please join us at our new 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!

### 2018 Tour Dates:

Tuesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, November 14, 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 4, 5:30 p.m.

### Mark Your Calendars:

November 8, 2018

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Homes for Families Fundraising Breakfast**  
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. at the Alliant Energy Center.

Interested in hosting a table or attending? Contact Peggy Halloran, Development Director at 608-294-7998, ext. 311.

## Dear Road Home,

My name is Shameka and I am a 36 year old mom of four beautiful kids - 1 girl (16) and 3 boys (14, 7, and 5).

I had my first child when I was 19 years old. It was hard raising a kid with no help. By the time I had my baby boy I was going house to house doubling up with friends with no stable place of our own. I decided I needed to try something new, so I packed myself and my kids up and moved us out of my brother's house, and drove.



Shameka and family

I drove until I ran out of gas, which happened to be in Madison. I was lucky to have a friend here to help me navigate a new city. My babies and I stayed in shelter for 9 months. I was working hard and doing everything I was supposed to do, but it felt like I was getting nowhere.

I was just about to give up and go back to my old life of living on people's couches when I got the opportunity to move into an apartment through The Road Home's Housing & Hope program. I have been here since November 19th, 2013, and my baby had his first birthday in a home, in our home.

The Road Home has helped my family out a lot, and has helped us get to where we are today.

Shameka