

News from the road home

Spring 2016

Strategic Partnerships Expand Housing Access and Services for Homeless Families

The Road Home ended homelessness for 164 families in 2015 and we are excited about the impact we'll have on homelessness over the next 12 months by working with community partners to provide additional services. The following are just three examples of innovative new programs we are implementing:

Truax Park Apartments: The Road Home was approached about a potential opportunity for 28 vacant units of housing through the City's Community Development Authority at the end of 2015. Although we were interested, we knew we could not do it alone. United Way has been instrumental in organizing hundreds of volunteers to paint and freshen up the units. Meridian Group agreed to manage the units, similar to our partnership in our Housing & Hope

apartments. The Road Home, YWCA Madison and The Salvation Army are all providing case management services. We are working with the East Madison Community Center, the neighborhood Joining Forces for Families office, the Madison Metropolitan School District and others to provide housing stability and a warm welcome to the community. At time of print, the first six families have already moved into these units!

Partnership with Stone House Development: Again recognizing the shortage of affordable housing in our community, we are thrilled to partner with Stone House Development on a project that will add nine units of permanent supportive housing for homeless families. The location of this project is ideal – near a school, close to a grocery store, in a mixed-income neighborhood close to downtown and on many bus lines. These nine units will be part of a larger project that will include almost 200 apartments in addition to commercial and office space. The Road Home will provide case management services to the nine units for families experiencing homelessness in 2017.

Education Specialist: Our case managers work very hard to help families set goals to move forward. The work is often directed toward adults in the family, but we also work with every child in every family as well. We have recently created a new position to specifically work with the children in our Housing & Hope program to ensure they are getting the proper support needed while in school. We hope this will help increase high school graduation rates and ultimately help prevent children today from becoming homeless in the future.

The Road Home will continue doing everything we can, with the community's support, to help reach the national goal of ending family homelessness by 2020.



Truax Apartment Complex

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



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 firsthand. This is not a fund-raiser and we guarantee it will only last 59 minutes!

2016 Tour Dates

Tuesday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 10 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Mark Your Calendars:

August 21, 2016

Families Moving Forward Celebration

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Warner Park Community
Recreational Center

November 10, 2016

12th Annual Homes for Families Fundraising Breakfast

7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Alliant Energy Center

Interested in hosting a table? Contact
Peggy Halloran, Development Director
at 608-284-7998, ext. 311.

Program Report: January-December 2015

IHN Shelter:

23 families (31 adults, 40 children) stayed in shelter

85% of families who exited shelter in 2015 are now stably housed

Housing Stabilization:

13 families participated

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

Second Chance Apartment Project:

17 families participated in the program

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

Second Chance Leasing Project:

9 families were housed

88% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so

Rapid Rehousing:

47 families served through The Road Home*

95% of families successfully maintained stable housing for one year or longer

House-ability:

10 families served through The Road Home*

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

Housing & Hope:

45 families participated in the program

88% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so

Totals:

In 2015, The Road Home has served 164 families (385 children) in all of our programs

** Partner agencies serve additional families in these programs*

Teaming Up To End Homelessness

We're looking to expand our network of volunteers, donors, sponsors and future board/committee members.

There are many opportunities for you, your company, your employees, your congregation or your organization to team up with The Road Home to end homelessness for families with children.

If you would like to find out more about ways that you can get involved or grow your involvement with The Road Home, contact Peggy Halloran at peggyh@trhome.org or 294-7998, ext. 311.

THE ROAD HOME RECEIVES GENEROUS GRANT SUPPORT

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

BMO Harris Bank - \$2,500 to provide services for a family moving from homelessness to housing.

Madison Rotary Foundation - \$6,829 for shelter

Magic Pebble Foundation - \$10,000 for education services

In addition to these grants, MIG has selected The Road Home as the beneficiary of its **2016 Charity Golf Classic**. The event will be held Thursday, July 21 at University Ridge Golf Course. For more information, visit www.migcharitygolfclassic.com or contact Tara at tsaleh@migllc.biz or 509-1006.

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

Why I Volunteer(ed)

– dedicated in memory of Steve Wood, volunteer for The Road Home, who recently passed away.

Steve wrote in 2012...

It was a wonderful day in early October two years ago.

As the furniture coordinator for The Road Home, I had a truckload of furniture to deliver to a new family. Four college students from UW were helping. We pulled up to the building. The apartment in the building was on the second floor. I rang the doorbell and we all waited until someone came to open the outside door.

When the door was open, we were surprised to see a girl no older than five years, who wanted to hold the door open for us. When we got furniture inside the building, the little girl would close the outer door behind us and then she ran up the stairs to open the apartment door for us on the second floor. This went on until the

truck was empty and all the furniture was inside the apartment.

I brought my toolbox upstairs so I could put a headboard together on the girl's bed. I talked to the mother for a few minutes before I left. When I got downstairs and close to our truck, I realized that I left my toolbox upstairs. Once again, I waited for the outside door to be opened. The little girl opened the outer door and then raced up the steps to open the apartment again. I got my toolbox and started to leave. When my hand was on the door, the little girl asked me if she could tell me something.

Her question was, "Can I hug you?" I looked at her mother who nodded yes. I got down on one knee to be eye level with the little girl. She ran to me and got her arms around my neck and she wouldn't let go. After half a minute she said "Thank you for my first bed." I looked at her mother and she had tears in her eyes. After the goodbyes were said, I got into our truck and shed a few tears of my own because nothing like this had happened before.



Steve, on the right, during one of his many furniture deliveries for The Road Home

Remembrance from Steve's funeral: "One of the things we hope for in funerals is a sense of the person whom we honor. Steve's volunteer activities meant a great deal to him. For about four years, Steve was the volunteer coordinator to collect and deliver furniture donations for The Road Home. Steve loved to help people. He did what he could to help make the world a better place. His gentleness, kindness and caring of others will be missed by us all."

"Little Picassos" Brings Art to Children in Meadowood Neighborhood

Pablo Picasso believed that "every child is an artist." Unfortunately, many low-income children do not have access to art education. Thanks to the vision of Leora Saposnik, a long-time volunteer of The Road Home, and Jade, a teenager who benefited from Leora's art instruction (when she and her family were clients of The Road Home), a new program is giving the children we serve a chance to experience and explore art in new ways.

Funded through a start-up grant from **American Girl's Fund for Children**, a component fund of Madison Community Foundation. The Little Picassos art enrichment program debuted in January for children in The Road Home's Housing & Hope apartments and the Meadowood neighborhood. Leora and Jade now spend Saturday mornings in space provided by the Meadowood Community Center teaching children printmaking, ceramic sculpting and tiling, painting in acrylics and pastels, fabric resist, papier maché, and other creative techniques.

The program will conclude with a community gallery event to showcase the children's projects. The gallery event will be on Saturday, May 14, from 12:30 pm-2:00 pm at the Meadowood Community Center.

"Art can be a universal language, and art education can be a way to reach out, to create bridges, to create nurturing communities," says Leora. "Art education is not only fun, and culturally enriching; it is our belief that every child deserves to be exposed to multiple means of expression."

Adds Jade, "Art inspired me to see things in a different way."



Jelidah and Lolita display self-portraits they made at the Little Picasso's art program.



Wish List

Diapers/pull ups
Baby wipes
Cleaning supplies
Paper towels
Toilet paper
Feminine hygiene products
Hair-care products designed for African-American hair
Gifts cards for gas and groceries

Dear Road Home,

I am writing this letter as a way to show thanks to our wonderful case manager Georgie. The Housing & Hope program was the last hope that we would be able to get housing. My family and I were on the streets and spending the night in encampments for years. When we had our son, we then got accepted into the night-by-night warming shelter and then a family shelter where we stayed for three months. When our son was only four months old we were accepted into The Road Home's Housing & Hope Program.

The Road Home is such an awesome program, they help you with anything and everything. They are more than just another three month shelter; honestly they truly care about the children that are in their program, let alone they care about everyone, and it is not just about the children. Everyone who has a chance to live in one of the apartments that The Road Home funds are very lucky, because it took us three months to get into this program since they didn't have any apartments open. Rent is affordable and we get on-site case management. I have been able to get back into school to earn my high school diploma and earn college credits. I want to become an occupational therapy assistant. My son just turned one-year old in our new apartment last month. Georgie goes out of her way for all of her clients.

Many people only hear about The Road Home but don't know the people that work there and what they do. My family is very grateful for the people that are willing to work with us.

THE ROAD HOME IS A BLESSING THAT CAME TRUE!!!

Sincerely,
Rose and Robert



Rose, Robert and Robert Jr.

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