

News From The Road Home

Dane County

Summer 2016

The Road to Success for Housing & Hope Students



The statistics of school success for homeless children can be hard to read: children who do not have stable housing suffer significantly in their health and education, are nine times more likely to repeat a grade and are four times more likely to drop out of school (according to the National Center on Family Homelessness).

Factor in the disparities in education and employment experienced by families of color, and the challenges for children served by The Road Home can seem almost impossible.

The launch of our Student Enrichment Initiative in late 2015 addresses the individualized education needs of 40-50 children residing in Housing & Hope apartments and attempts to close some of the disparities that our families face in education and employment.

Families residing in our Housing & Hope apartments have the highest barriers to housing and require intensive case management services. On-site case managers at two locations each work with 15 families on plans to sustain housing through employment, financial stability, education,

medical needs and other strategies.

Based on the families' many needs, there is not enough time for case managers to adequately focus on the children's educational goals and ensure that they are on track. Our Education Specialist, Qiana Holmes-Abanukam, now provides direct service in the areas of school attendance and preparedness, assessment, referral, case planning, advocacy, transportation, emotional support and practical assistance.

The outcomes of this initiative are to:

- Increase student school attendance
- Increase # of referrals to programs such as Birth to 3
- Increase # of children connected with mentors/tutors
- Increase graduation rates



Student receiving backpack and school supplies

Long-term goals for the program are aligned with the United Way's Schools of Hope focus on increasing the number of children reading at the 3rd grade level and completing algebra by the 10th grade.

Many partners have joined us to launch the first year of this program. Thank you to CUNA Mutual Foundation, Exjue Foundation, Magic Pebble Foundation and Covenant Presbyterian Church for your generous grants. Additional funding will be sought to continue and expand this important work in 2017, incorporating several existing education-related projects: a children's activities fund and school supplies.

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



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(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, September 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Mark Your Calendars:

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 2016 - July 2016

IHN Shelter:

17 Families (23 adults, 36 children) stayed in shelter.
80% of families who exited shelter since January 2016 moved into housing.

Housing Stabilization:

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

Second Chance Apartment Project:

12 families participated.
88% of families that could have reached two years in housing did so.

Second Chance Leasing:

6 families participated.
100% maintained or increased income.

Rapid Rehousing:

50 families participated.
13 of these families are living in our new Truax housing.

House-ability:

11 families participated.
100% of families that could have reached three years in housing did so.

Housing & Hope:

34 families participated.
100% of families that could have reached three years in housing did so.

Totals:

From January 2016-June 2016, The Road Home has served 147 families (316 children) in all of our programs.

Generous Grant Support

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

American Family Insurance: \$22,500 for Bright Future in-home counseling program
Cap Times Kids Fund: \$3,000 for children's activities
CUNA Mutual Foundation: \$40,000 for education services
Evjue Foundation, Inc., the charitable arm of the Capital Times: \$10,000 for education services
Leadership Greater Madison Alumni Association: \$300 for school supplies
Madison South Rotary Foundation: \$1,000 for summer children's activities at Housing & Hope
The QBE Foundation: \$10,000 for beds for families moving into housing
West Madison Kiwanis: \$1,500 for rental assistance

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

The Road Home Receives Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Organization

The Road Home Dane County received the Outstanding Non-Profit Organization of Madison award by the City of Madison's Department of Civil Rights, Affirmative Action Division. The Road Home was presented this honor on Monday, July 18 at their awards ceremony.



The Road Home staff, board and staff from the City of Madison's Dept. of Civil Rights

Why We Support The Road Home

Covenant Presbyterian

Covenant Presbyterian is a Founding Host Congregation, providing space, meals and volunteers for The Road Home's Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) evening shelter since the program began in 1999. The congregation generously supports The Road Home with annual financial contributions and donations for special projects such as the Housing & Hope Capital Campaign for affordable housing and, most recently, the addition of an education specialist. Members have also provided wish list items and school supplies to help families as they move into housing.

Charlie Berthoud, Covenant Presbyterian pastor, recalls that when interviewing with Covenant in 2012, he was excited to learn that the church has a long relationship with The Road Home, as the church he served in Pittsburgh was also a host church. He notes that there is a natural connection with the mission of The Road Home and the church's mission.

"As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors, particularly those that Jesus had special concern for: the lost, the least, and the last," he says. "The IHN shelter program helps us to carry out this calling, and more importantly it does a wonderful job serving people in need and building bridges among diverse populations."

Lynne Tosseff, Covenant shelter volunteer who also volunteers on The Road Home events committees, says she "loves" being at Covenant "because I know there is lots of support from all areas" for the shelter program. "Thank you, coordinators, for going many extra miles to make The Road Home work for Dane County. The efforts are so appreciated by the guests as well as the hosts."

These sentiments are echoed by other Covenant volunteers. Chris Barden says, "I like volunteering because it is good exposure for our kids that there are other children less fortunate.



Covenant The Road Home IHN Shelter volunteers and their pastor Charlie Berthoud (right)

It also teaches them the importance of giving time for others in need."

Lisa Cantrell will never forget the connection she made with a mom and her children in shelter. "I had the privilege of holding her sick baby and getting her to sleep, which gave the mom the opportunity to focus on her other children."

Thank you Covenant Presbyterian for supporting The Road Home!

MIG Golf Outing Raises \$20,000

The Road Home is the recipient of \$20,000 in proceeds from the third annual MIG Charity Golf Outing on July 21 at University Ridge Golf Course. The heat did not deter 36 foursomes from enjoying the day in support of our organization. Thanks to Tara Saleh and Brad Hutter from MIG, the wonderful planning committee, participants, sponsors and volunteers for a successful event. We are grateful for your generosity!

The Road Home Celebrates Family Success at 6th Annual Families Moving Forward Event

What happens to families when they leave The Road Home? Our volunteers, board, staff, and contributors celebrated the accomplishments of our families on Sunday, August 21, 2016. This celebration acknowledges our 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 and good company.

This year's celebration was proudly sponsored by: CUNA Mutual Group, UW Health & Unity Insurance, National Guardian Life, Alliant Energy Foundation, Frank Beverage Group, RSM, Madison Investment Advisors, MetaStar, and Naviant.



The Road Home's Executive Director, Kristin Rucinski (left), accepts \$20,000 of the proceeds from the MIG Charity Golf Classic from MIG Commercial Real Estate's Owner & President, Bradley Hutter, and Tournament Organizer & MIG Director of Business Development and Communications, Tara Saleh.

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 you to say thanks. I really, really appreciate your agency from the bottom of my heart. My family and I were in a situation where we had nowhere to go, but you saved my life for real. The Road Home helped me a lot. Since we moved into our apartment, we have a case manager who works with me and checks on me and the kids to make sure we are doing okay, physically and mentally. Any problem we have had, she had the resources to fix the problem. The Road Home is truly a blessing to us.

Thanks to the support of The Road Home, I was able to finish my cosmetology instructor class this past May. I am now going to do my supervised teaching and then take the state board exams. I'm on my way to reaching my dream of teaching beauty school. My daughter has graduated from high school, my son graduated kindergarten, and my eight year-old daughter is going into third grade. We feel so grateful that The Road Home helped us get on our feet. They helped me build my confidence up to move forward and stay strong for my kids.

We are forever grateful. If you have faith in yourself, they'll have faith in you. Keep your head up because there is a God.

Sincerely,
Theresa and family



Theresa and family

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

Address Service Requested

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