

# News From The Road Home

Dane County

Spring 2017

## Point-in-Time Data Creates Snapshot of Homelessness in Dane County

Homelessness is sometimes called “America’s invisible problem.” Because we don’t always see it around us, it’s easy to rely on stereotypes and misconceptions to form pictures in our heads of what homelessness looks like in our community. We may even conclude it doesn’t exist in any magnitude here.

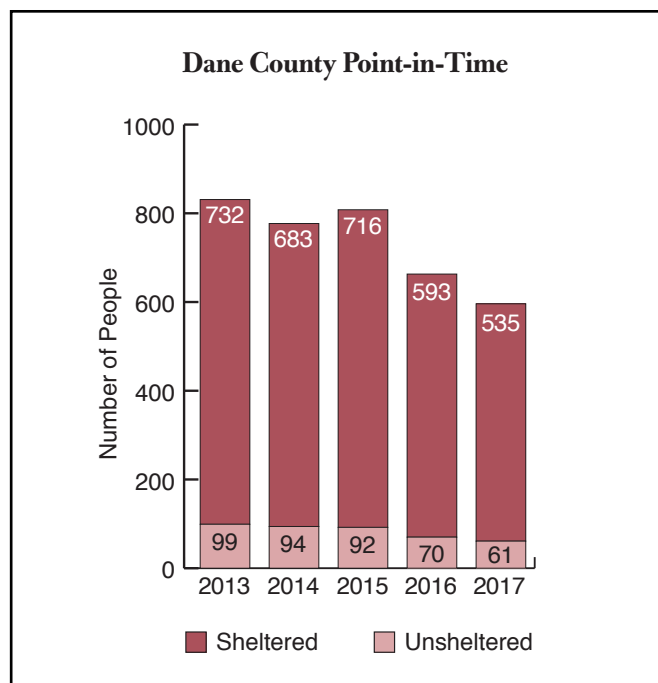
One way to get a snapshot of homelessness is by looking at the point-in-time data, data collected twice a year (in January and July) throughout the United States. On these nights, volunteers go out into the community to get a count of homeless people—both those at shelters and those who are unsheltered. These numbers don’t tell the entire story since they don’t include people “couch surfing,” doubled up in temporary arrangements with friends and families as well as in hospitals, jails and detox centers. Still, they help paint a general picture.

Preliminary point-in-time data was recently released from January 2017. The graph shows the positive trend in our community. The total number of homeless people was 596 on the point-in-time night this year, down from 663 on that January night in 2016 and 808 in 2015.

There are a number of reasons for this important progress. One is Opening Doors, the nation’s first comprehensive federal strategy to prevent and end homelessness which was introduced in 2010. It provides needed resources to communities through funding and best practice research. For federal programs to mean real progress in individual communities though, we have to all work together within those communities. In Dane County, there are several different shelters and programs focused on specific homeless populations such as single women, victims of domestic abuse, single men, mentally ill individuals, youth or families. These agencies coordinate intake as well as share ideas and strategies to address the problem. We make even greater progress as congregations, businesses and individuals join with us to end homelessness in our community.

The Road Home plays an important role in our community’s efforts to end homelessness. We are the only organization that focuses exclusively on homeless families. We provide emergency housing to families with children through The Road Home’s Interfaith Hospitality Network Shelter Program. We don’t stop with emergency shelter though. We work hard to help families find permanent solutions, providing case management services to connect families with permanent affordable housing. Last year, we helped 183 families which (included 401 children) secure and maintain stable housing.

The numbers show that together we are making a difference for the families that need it most here in Dane County—but that there is still work to do. We plan to continue to partner with other agencies, policy makers, donors, congregations, businesses and individuals to make a difference for even more families this year.



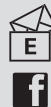
For ways you can support The Road Home visit our website.



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# Program Report: January-December 2016

## IHN Shelter:

27 families (35 adults, 52 children) stayed in shelter  
74% of families exited shelter for stable housing

## Housing Stabilization:

14 families participated  
89% 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:

6 families were housed  
100% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so.

## Rapid Rehousing:\*

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

## House-ability:

10 families served through The Road Home\*  
100% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so.

## Housing & Hope:

40 families participated in the program  
92% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so.

## New Initiatives

26 families moved from homelessness to housing in 2016 thanks to new initiatives and partnerships

## Totals:

In 2016, The Road Home has served 183 families (401 children) in all of our programs

\* Partner agencies serve additional families in these programs.

## 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!

### 2017 Tour Dates

Wednesday, May 3 at 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 7 at 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, August 16 at 5:30 p.m.

For more tour dates, check our website: [www.trhome.org](http://www.trhome.org).

### Mark Your Calendars:

#### Families Moving Forward Celebration

August 19, 2017  
Our Lady Queen of Peace

#### 13th Annual Homes for Families Fundraising Breakfast

November 9, 2017  
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. at the Alliant Energy Center.

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

## 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



## 2017 The Road Home Board of Directors

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# Why I volunteer: The Road Home Shelter Program: A Volunteer's Perspective

Written by Sandy Wright for Temple Beth El's Bulletin. Reprinted with permission.



Ellie and Marnie

Temple Beth El member Ellie Hulan loves volunteering with The Road Home shelter program. She appreciates “interacting with the people who are helped. I think that makes us a lot more aware of the impact our actions can have.”

It's easy and rewarding. Four times a year Temple Beth El is privileged to be a host site for four or five homeless families with children. One of the early pioneers 16 years ago, Temple Beth El now joins 54 congregations from all over Dane County who “buddy

up” with The Road Home to provide warm and caring shelter. Ellie pointed out: “I like the interfaith aspect as well. I feel like this also demonstrates how it's not about ourselves, our denominations, or our identification, it's truly about helping others.”

This is a great activity for families looking to volunteer together. As Ellie says, “Working with my mom has also been good because we rely on each other and I see different sides of her as well. For example, I've never seen how she speaks with a five-year-old, because I don't remember this part of my life, and seeing it reaffirms her caring nature and commitment to charity.”

There is a job for everyone. Shopping, meal prep, set-up, and tear-down are key behind-the-scenes jobs. During the week, join in serving dinner, or play with the kids. Most folks sign up for one shift, but repeaters are welcome! Ellie's mom, Marnie, shared, “Signing up for multiple shifts during the week gave us an opportunity to get to know the families better. I am amazed at their strength and am grateful for a chance to help out in some small way.”

**“It's not about ourselves, our denominations, or our identification; it's truly about helping others.”**

**-Ellie Hulan, The Road Home Volunteer**

## The Road Home Receives Generous Grant Support

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

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

**Madison Rotary Foundation: \$7,500 for shelter**

**CUNA Mutual Foundation: \$80,000 over two years for education services**

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

## Newsletter Update

In order to conserve precious resources, both paper and funds, The Road Home is moving toward providing the newsletter electronically. This will also allow us to provide more timely information to you. We will NOT send frequent email communications – only the newsletter and an occasional update. As with 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](mailto:sheilak@trhome.org).

# Dear Road Home,

This is a letter of thanks. My family and I would like to give thanks to The Road Home, Waterleaf Apartments, and the individual who donated the beautiful car that my family was given. I am especially grateful to The Road Home because I truly believe that without their help my transition from Flint, MI to Madison, WI would not have been possible. With the help of The Road Home we were able to get a new start in a new town, with access to clean water, and were able to get our beautiful apartment at Waterleaf. It is such a joy to be able to turn the key and open the door to my own apartment. My girls have their own room, that they share of course, but it is theirs. My case manager helped me get beds for my girls to sleep on, since they were sleeping on the floor. Now my girls are able to get a good night's sleep and they are able to go to school well rested and ready for the day.

The Road Home also made it possible for us to have a vehicle of our own. Previously, we had to depend on others to get to work and get my girls to school. Since they go to Verona Area Schools, they are not eligible for transportation through the schools. Thanks to The Road Home and the generous family who donated the car, I no longer have to depend on others to make sure my kids get to school and I get to work on time, and we can make it to doctor's appointments on time. Trips to the grocery store are no longer a hassle. The Road Home really helps people to help themselves. My family is so grateful for everything, and we are especially grateful for our case manager Jenna and her undying efforts to help us get all of the resources she knows will make our lives easier and help us to continue to improve. In closing, our family would like to give a big thank you to The Road Home, Waterleaf Apartments, and to the generous individual who donated the car.

Sincerely,  
Sonja and Family



*Sonja and her family*

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receive this newsletter electronically.

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