

# News From The Road Home

Dane County

Winter 2017 newsletter

## Focusing on Housing to Help More Families

Since The Road Home's founding in 1999, we have continued to grow and adapt to best serve the needs of homeless families in our community. As we have done this, we have increasingly seen the importance of helping families secure and maintain affordable housing. Research also continues to confirm that the solution to homelessness is housing. Unfortunately, our community suffers from a documented lack of affordable housing. This has led The Road Home to play an expanding role in securing funds and support for affordable housing and providing case management to help families find and maintain that housing.

To focus more effectively on housing, we have decided to phase out our shelter program by March 31, 2018. This decision comes after

careful consideration and with the unanimous support of our Board of Directors. Homeless families needing shelter space will continue to be served by existing agencies and we will continue to provide case management to these families. "Focusing on housing does not represent a shift in The Road Home's mission," said Linda Schaack, President of The Road Home's Board of Directors. "Instead it represents an opportunity to increase our impact even further."

The efforts of our committed Interfaith Hospitality Network Shelter volunteers through the years have provided needed respite for many families experiencing homelessness. We are deeply grateful for their service. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with our donors and volunteers as we take this next step.

## Annual Homes for Families Breakfast a Success



*The Road Home's Annual Homes for Families Breakfast*

Over 400 people gathered at the Alliant Energy Center for The Road Home's 13th Annual Homes for Families Breakfast on November 9. The theme to this year's breakfast, our most important fundraiser of the year, was "Opening Doors." Money raised here helps us provide services and programs that make a difference for families experiencing homelessness in our community. This year's event was a huge success, raising \$400,000.

Danielle, a client of The Road Home, shared her story at the breakfast. She learned her baby had serious kidney problems, so she came to Madison where he could get the care needed. Danielle and her children stayed at the Salvation Army for three months and then at The Road Home's shelter for three months before getting their own apartment through The Road Home's Housing & Hope program. "I wanted to give up, but my determination wouldn't let me," Danielle said. Danielle has now maintained stable housing for almost two years. Her children are healthy and thriving in school and other activities. Danielle is working as a Neighborhood Navigator where she helps others with housing, food security, child care and safety. "Every time I open my door, I am grateful," Danielle said.

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



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## Annual Homes for Families Breakfast a Success

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Kristin Rucinski, Executive Director of The Road Home, talked about how The Road Home opens doors for families—both by providing opportunities and by helping families literally open the door of a new apartment. Kristin said, “So far this year, 84% of families have exited our shelter successfully into permanent housing. And once families get stable housing, they rarely return to homelessness. Last year, 91% of families remained in housing through our different housing programs.” Kristin encouraged everyone to “do whatever you can to open more doors for families experiencing homelessness.”

Thank you to our guests, table hosts and sponsors who made this event a success and ensured that we can continue making a difference for families in our community experiencing homelessness.

## Leave a Legacy That Will Help Families Experiencing Homelessness Into The Future

Did you know that you can maximize your giving to The Road Home by designating our organization as a beneficiary in your will, insurance or retirement plan?

A planned gift will help ensure that The Road Home maintains and expands services in the future for children and families experiencing homelessness. Your attorney or financial planner can advise you regarding the options that may be available, and can make arrangements for a gift that is designed to best meet your personal situation. The Road Home can work with you, your family, and your professional advisors to carry out your vision. If you plan to include or have already included The Road Home in your estate plan, please let us know. We would be honored to recognize your support!

## Breakfast Thanks

We would like to thank our Homes for Families Society members and all donors, sponsors, table hosts, speakers and attendees for supporting us in our vision that Every Child Deserves a Home.

2017 sponsors:

**Founder:** CUNA Mutual Group

**Gold:** Madison Investment Advisors, MetaStar, NGL, Naviant, UW Health/Quartz

**Silver:** Alliant Energy Foundation, Alvarado Real Estate Group, Frank Beverage Group, Great Dane Pub & Brewing Co., MGE, Reynolds Transfer and Storage, RSM, TASC, UW Credit Union and Wisconsin Mutual Insurance

**Bronze:** Broihahn Management & Consulting, First Weber Foundation, Foley and Lardner/Scott and Tess Klug, Terso Solutions, Wisconsin Management Company and FGS The Restoration Company, and WPS Health Solutions.

Generous leadership gifts were provided by Anonymous (2), Tim and Kathy Mazur, Jay and Katie Sekelsky and Mike and Karin Victorson



## The Road Home Receives Generous Grant Support

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

**American Girl's Fund for Children:** \$6,300 for Little Picassos art enrichment program for children living in The Road Home's Housing & Hope apartments and the Meadowood neighborhood

**Attic Angel Association:** \$20,000 for Bright Future child and family in-home counseling program

**Caritas Foundation:** \$20,000 for Housing & Hope case management services

**Courtier Foundation:** \$5,000 for Housing & Hope case management

**Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust:** \$8,000 for general support

**Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation:** \$10,000 for case management services for families living in the new Breese Apartments

**U.S. Bank Foundation:** \$6,000 for Breese Apartments case management

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

# Why We Support The Road Home

By Stone House Development

**Stone House Development, Inc.** has been developing and managing affordable housing for over 20 years. For the first time we are partnering with The Road Home on our newest apartment complex, The Breese. The Road Home provides supportive services that allow homeless families with children to find and stay in permanent housing. The collaboration of the two organizations is truly a match made in heaven.

Beyond the scope of the business operation and the physical buildings, the founders of Stone House Development - Helen Bradbury and Richard Arnesen, along with their employees- have been devoted to providing much needed support to the groups and agencies that have a similar dedication to providing homes to individuals and families in need. Not only has Stone House Development provided financial backing to supportive agencies like The Road Home, it has worked to encourage other businesses - including its commercial tenants and individuals in the community - to also provide financial and in-kind support.

We are so excited to welcome our first families to Breese Apartments this January. They will be moving into a welcoming neighborhood and



*Some of the Stone House Staff*

a new townhome that is attractive and comfortable. We are all working to ensure that “our” families are proud of where they live and will contribute to their new neighborhood in meaningful ways.

The Stone House staff has enjoyed getting Breese ready and is honored to be working with The Road Home and the families they serve.

## Become a Champion for Children

You can make a local impact on family homelessness with a donation to The Road Home.

Your gift of \$35, \$50, \$100 or any amount will help children and their families move into and stay in housing. With stable housing, children with the most barriers to education can receive the support they need to achieve.

Thank you for giving back to The Road Home!

## The Road Home's New Building

In spring 2018, The Road Home will be moving to its new office space at 890 W Wingra Dr. This move will allow our agency to provide additional programming for families. Watch our website for more information!

## Upcoming Events

Please join us this spring 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

Please check our website at [www.trhome.org](http://www.trhome.org) for tour dates starting in April. We're preparing for an upcoming office move and will not provide tours at our current office January through March.

### Mark Your Calendars:

November 8, 2018

#### 14th Annual Homes for Families Fundraising Breakfast

7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. at the Alliant Energy Center.

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

# Dear Road Home,

My family and I became clients of The Road Home a few years ago. The summer beforehand was spent sleeping in our car, camping, finding public bathrooms to bathe in, and staying in the homeless shelter. Our daughter was two years old then. We were very young with no housing history and my husband had a record for domestic violence. His controlling demeanor prevented any progression in our circumstances. I remember one time I was about to leave the shelter to go to a job interview and he punched me in the face. Nothing came of the interview. How could I promote myself when any time I tried to do something positive I was knocked down?



Eventually we were able to move into the Housing & Hope program. It was my first place and I was so grateful. The abuse, along with his alcoholism, became worse though, until the point he was taken to jail when I was pregnant with our son.

Georgie, the Housing & Hope case manager, gave me support through it all, while still trying to provide him with help. Without her love and sincere desire to help, I don't know if I would have found the strength to make it through.

I have since found permanent housing. I am still poor. I still go to the food pantry to stretch money. I still don't have a car because biking is cheaper. But I do have myself back. I have joy. My two kids don't have to watch me get hurt. I have graduated from Madison College and I'm right now procrastinating on my homework for a Bachelors at City Vision University. The Road Home helped me get on my feet. I praise God that through everything I have been refined and made stronger. Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who have helped many lives like mine.

As for my ex-husband, he claims he's going to get treatment.

-Anonymous former client

For more our this client's story, visit our website at [www.trhome.org](http://www.trhome.org)

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

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