

# News From The Road Home

Dane County

Spring 2019



## 1999-2019: Twenty Years of Working Together to Ensure Every Child Has a Home

This April marks 20 years since The Road Home Dane County, then known as Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Madison Area, first opened our doors at our location in the basement of United Methodist Church. We began as an overflow shelter in which families stayed at 12 rotating “host” congregations with 22 “buddy” congregations to support them.

A lot has changed in 20 years. Here are some highlights:

- We’ve gone from serving 29 families, including 65 children, our first year to last year serving 175 families with over 400 children.
- Last year, we phased out shelter to focus on permanent housing. We now operate 10 housing programs with another one opening soon.
- We continue to expand our supportive and wrap-around services. All families meet regularly with a case manager. We provide educational support and classes on a range of topics as well as match people with appropriate counseling and other resources. Bilingual staff are able to work effectively with Spanish-speaking families.
- We moved first to a rented space on East Olin Avenue and then last June to our very own building on W Wingra Dr.

In the past 20 years, we have continued to grow and adapt to meet the needs of our community and implement best practices from across the country. Even as we make these changes, our mission and vision remain the same. The Road Home came into existence to address family homelessness. Recent local point-in-time numbers have shown we are making a difference, with family homelessness decreasing by 50% in Dane County the past five years. Yet our work isn’t done. We remain committed to ending family homelessness and ensuring every child in our community has a home.

The other aspect that hasn’t changed in 20 years is our reliance on the community for our success. We began at the initiative of a group of congregations that provided financial and volunteer support. We continue to rely on the generosity of congregations, individuals, businesses and other organizations. Thank you for helping us grow!

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



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Madison, WI 53715



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(608) 294-7998



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#TRHomeMadison

## Program Report: January-December 2018

### IHN Shelter:

6 families (11 adults, 16 children) stayed in shelter  
IHN shelter program ended March 31, 2018

### Housing Stabilization:

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

### Second Chance Apartment Project:

23 families participated in the program  
100% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so

### Rapid Rehousing:

50 families were housed in three programs\*  
90% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so

### House-ability:

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

### The Breese Apartments:

10 families participated in the program  
90% remained stably housed

### Housing & Hope:

36 families participated in the program  
86% of families that could have reached one year in housing did so

### Totals:

In 2018, The Road Home served 175 families, including 407 children in all of our programs.

\* Partner agencies serve additional families in these programs

## The Road Home Provides Interim Supportive Services at Tree Lane Apartments

The Road Home Dane County is providing interim supportive services to 45 families living at Tree Lane Apartments. This housing development, which opened in June of 2018, is part of the City of Madison's long-term initiative to increase affordable housing and end homelessness. The contract of the service provider, the YWCA, has ended. The Road Home agreed to provide interim services until a new service provider is identified by the City and Heartland Housing.

"The City is grateful that The Road Home was able to respond to our request to provide interim services at Tree Lane Apartments," said Linette Rhodes, City of Madison, Interim Community Development Supervisor. "The Road Home has a very high success rate in helping households maintain stable housing by offering case management and supportive services that best fit each household's needs. We are confident they will provide quality services at Tree Lane as we recruit a permanent service provider."

The Road Home is providing supportive services at Tree Lane Apartments similar to those we provide at other housing programs. Case managers will meet regularly with families to help them determine goals and set plans to achieve them. Meetings will cover a range of topics including employment, education, mental and physical health, relationship building and securing basic needs such as food, clothing and transportation. Providing services at Tree Lane will not impact the level or frequency of services The Road Home provides families in other housing programs

"At The Road Home Dane County, we are committed to our mission of providing opportunities for children and their families to achieve self-determined goals and affordable, stable housing," said Kristin Rucinski, Executive Director of The Road Home Dane County. "We believe that when housing programs aimed at formerly homeless families are successful, the entire community benefits. Research has confirmed that supportive services are essential for this success. With the families living at Tree Lane Apartments facing a possible gap in services, The Road Home agreed to step in to fill the gap. We look forward to supporting more families in maintaining stable housing."

### Help us make a difference for families living at Tree Lane Apartments.

By working with families at Tree Lane Apartments, The Road Home will be increasing the number of families we serve by nearly 25%. While the costs of the case management services are being covered by the City of Madison, United Way of Dane County and Heartland Housing, our need for wish list items and funds to cover specific family needs will increase. We are particularly in need of toilet paper and cleaning supplies such as laundry detergent, disinfectants, paper towels and dish detergent.

Financial support is also needed to purchase new beds for children and parents moving into housing. Please contact Peggy Halloran at [peggyh@trhome.org](mailto:peggyh@trhome.org) or call 608-294-7998, ext. 311.

## Wish List

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

*For sanitary and safety reasons, please note that we can only accept unopened items. We also prefer full-sized (instead of travel-sized) items when possible.*

## The Road Home Receives Generous Support

These donors have recently donated gifts, grants and sponsorships (\$2,500 and above) in support of The Road Home's programs and services (through 3/31/2019). For a list of additional grants and sponsorships please visit our website.

**Alvarado Real Estate Group:** \$3,000 for event sponsorship

**Anonymous:** \$10,000 for general support

**Blue Tree Network:** \$2,500 for general support

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

**CSM Companies, Inc.:** \$5,000 for event sponsorship

**Madison Community Foundation:** \$25,000 grant for technology, security and transportation funded by the Ecumenical Fund for the Homeless, a field of interest at Madison Community Foundation

**Madison Rotary Foundation:** \$5,608 grant for rental assistance and transportation

**Tim and Kathy Mazur:** \$135,000 to support our mission

**Naviant:** \$5,000 for event sponsorship

**Messiah Lutheran:** \$7,749 for general support

**The Cremer Foundation:** \$20,000 grant for transitional case management and rental assistance for families in the Moving Up program

**Anonymous:** \$4,000 for case manager fund

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

## Midvale Community Lutheran Church's Ongoing Commitment to the Mission of The Road Home



Midvale Community Lutheran Church's (MCLC's) commitment to serving those most in need is grounded in the Christian faith and reflected in its mission: Midvale Community Lutheran Church is a Community of Believers in Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit to Praise, Live and Share God's Love. As a community of believers, MCLC seeks opportunities to serve the Madison area, the state, the nation, and the world. None of MCLC's Christian call to service would be possible without the support of its congregation and pastors.

It is no surprise, then, that in 1999, when MCLC was invited to join with other Madison-area churches and synagogues in forming the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Shelter Program, the congregation and its pastors actively supported becoming involved in the program. MCLC was one of the initial 12 congregations involved in creating IHN. Along with MCLC's Buddy Churches Prairie Unitarian, Glenwood Moravian, St. James Lutheran, and Beth Israel Congregation, MCLC provided food and shelter for three to five homeless families over four separate one-week cycles each year for 19 years. In January 2018, MCLC hosted its final rotation as The Road Home Dane County phased out the shelter program and launched a new structure for engaging volunteers from local churches and synagogues that once comprised the IHN Shelter Program.

In addition to providing shelter to families as part of IHN, the MCLC congregation chose to become involved with The Road Home's Second Chance Apartment Project. Since 2013, MCLC has partnered with The Road Home, the YWCA, and the Madison Community Foundation to provide housing to homeless families. From 2013 to 2019, MCLC has welcomed a total of four families into the church-owned house on Wakefield Street.

The congregation provides rent, utility support, and mentorship to assist families as they transition from homelessness to having a home.

MCLC also provides household items including furniture, dishes, and appliances.

MCLC is pleased to be a partner with The Road Home and shares its belief that every child deserves a home. MCLC looks forward to supporting the The Road Home in the years ahead as we work together to serve homeless families in the Madison area.

- Greg Lampe, Ambassador for The Road Home  
*Midvale Community Lutheran Church Congregational Council President*

## Upcoming Events

Please join us at our new office for a **Homes for Families Information Session** to learn more about how The Road Home changes the lives of homeless families. During these short, powerful, and informative presentations, 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!

### **2019 Information Session Dates:**

Wednesday, May 22, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11, 4:30 p.m.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

#### **Families Moving Forward Celebration**

August 3, 2019, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish

#### **15th Annual Homes for Families Fundraising Breakfast**

November 7, 2019, 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Alliant Energy Center

# Dear Road Home,

I am writing this letter to share with everyone how amazing this year has been for me and my family. I am a 29-year-old, single mother of four children. Life has not always been easy for me or my children. In 2015, my children and I were homeless for months, staying at The Salvation Army and other family shelters in Madison. At times it felt hard. I was working a full-time job with four children on my own. Then right before the holidays, my family and I finally got a break. We were approved for a permanent housing program at The Road Home called Housing & Hope. It felt really good to be able to spend Christmas in our new place, cook Christmas dinner and watch my children open their presents.

Our blessings didn't stop there. This year I had a very strong motivation to buy my own house. I spoke to Belinda, a case manager from The Road Home who connected me to a great team of people who could help me. Belinda referred me to the Home Buyer's Round Table where I attended a two-part class on the process of buying and maintaining a home. After attending these classes, Belinda connected me to Sara from Old National Bank. She gave me a list of

recommended realtors. I decided to go with one of the recommended realtors, Sharmara. I met with Sharmara and right away we started to make a plan on what I was looking for in a house. That's when it started to become more real to me that this was actually happening for my family. I looked at so many homes but one particular home caught my eyes and I just had to have it! I called my realtor and we wrote up an offer—which was accepted!

On October 19th, I closed on my home. I know it's possible for someone like me to actually reach their dreams and buy a home. It feels so amazing to know that I have this house that my family and I can call our own. I wake up in my new home every day and I still can't believe it. I know it has happened for us and it can happen for anyone who follows their dreams.

Sincerely,  
Amber\*

\* name has been changed.



Amber\*

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receive this newsletter electronically.

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