



“You feel a lot freer, having a place of your own.”

People Leave Homelessness Behind with Help from Housing First

▼ Linda* had an apartment of her own and a full-time job. Though she didn't have extra money, she had a warm bed at night, food to eat and, most importantly, a place to call her own.

That changed, however, when Linda's employer reduced her work hours, and her income dropped significantly. Not wanting to fall behind on her rent and face eviction, Linda voluntarily gave up her apartment.

With nowhere else to stay, she slept in her car in a parking garage. This arrangement

didn't last because the ramp managers didn't want people sleeping in the garage. "Plus," Linda says, "I was scared of getting robbed."

Linda slept in her car and at shelters for almost six months before she learned about Catholic Charities' Housing First program. Housing First helps people find stable housing and follows up with supportive services to help them address issues to maintaining their housing. Last year, the program helped 286 people move out of shelters and into housing.

Housing First's Rapid Re-housing program helped Linda find her new apartment, where she has now lived since December 2008. Rapid Re-housing works with people who have been homeless for less than a year.

Housing First also works with people who have lived on the street or in shelters for several years. These clients who have been homeless for more than a year often face



Ed Scott, Housing First worker Katie Tuione

significant barriers, such as mental health issues or a physical disability, to finding and keeping housing. They receive supportive services including veteran's benefits or transportation to and from medical appointments.

Ed Scott slept on the floor of the Dorothy Day Center for a month and at Mary Hall for seven months. He lived on the street and in shelters for several years before that. With the help of Housing First, Scott found an apartment in a senior living complex in South St. Paul, where he lives today.

"There's no comparison," Scott says of living in his own apartment compared to staying in shelter. "You feel a lot freer, having a place of your own." ♦

* Name changed

Parishes Make a Difference

St. Frances Cabrini Serves People in Need

Seven times a year, St. Frances Cabrini volunteers continue a 20-year tradition and serve meals at the Dorothy Day Center. Parishioners serve meals at three homeless shelters and collect food shelf donations weekly. "These are long-standing commitments of the parish," said Maria Rossa, St. Frances Cabrini administrator. "While the volunteers change over time, there is no question that the parish will continue with this work."

Churches Fulfill Families' Holiday Wishes

Catholic Charities' Sponsor A Family holiday program helps thousands of families who cannot afford a traditional Christmas celebration. Many thanks to the sponsoring families, individuals, businesses, small groups and parishes, including Church of the Visitation, Calvary Lutheran Church and Plymouth Creek Christian Church.

Dorothy Day Volunteer Wins Archbishop's Award

Congratulations to Dorothy Day Center volunteer Patricia Melody, the recipient of the 2009 Catholic Charities Archbishop's Award. A parishioner of Transfiguration Catholic Church in Oakdale, Melody has helped people find food and housing assistance since 1982. "Patricia does a fantastic job," says Dorothy Day Program Manager Gerry Lauer. "She's very dedicated to her job here, and the people she helps really appreciate that."

Learn how your parish can make a difference. Visit cctwincities.org/parish.

Two St. Paul parishes, diocese provide blankets for homeless

The Dorothy Day Center ran out of blankets in early fall because of the record number of people sleeping at the shelter. The Cathedral of St. Paul, The Church of the Assumption in St. Paul and archdiocesan employees collected hundreds of blankets through blanket drives. The new and gently used blankets will help provide bedding to about 250 people each night.

When Dorothy Day began providing overnight shelter in the 1990s, staff planned to have 150 people on the coldest winter nights. On most nights in 2009, the number of people sleeping at the shelter ranges between 220-250. Catholic Charities staff are working with city officials, churches and other social services providers to develop a plan to provide shelter for those who can't find a spot at the Dorothy Day Center.

Parish Volunteer Opportunities

For more information or other opportunities, call the Volunteer Line at 612-664-8600 or visit cctwincities.org/volunteer.

Provide companionship to an isolated elderly person or relief to family caregivers in their care of an elderly loved one.

As the new year begins, support new parents by organizing a drive to collect diapers and baby items for programs such as Parenting, Prenatal Services and Northside Child Development Center.

Driver needed to pick up food donation and deliver to Branch I Food Shelf Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m., van provided.

From the Interim CEO

- ▼ When we announced our search
- ▼ for a new CEO, we set a goal of
- ▼ introducing the person at our annual meeting in December.

As you have no doubt heard, we met that goal. I am extremely pleased that Archbishop Nienstedt approved the Board of Directors' unanimous choice of Paul Martodam as the new CEO of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Mr. Martodam will begin at Catholic Charities on Jan. 1 and will be the first non-priest CEO since a 1977 merger of multiple Catholic social service agencies created Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

He has a long history of outstanding service to Catholic Charities agencies in Minnesota and Arizona, where he

is CEO of Catholic Charities Community Services in Phoenix, and we know he will continue that tradition as CEO of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

It's been a pleasure to work with you as board chair and as interim CEO. And I remain grateful for your support. ♦



▶ ▶ ▶ Robert K. Spinner
Interim CEO



Mother Receives More than Medical Care from Prenatal Services

- ▼ Aimee lost her health insurance
- ▼ when her husband lost his job.
- ▼ Pregnant with her third child,
- ▼ she would have gone without prenatal care if not for Catholic Charities' Prenatal Services.

Along with regular check-ups and consistent medical care, the program provides supportive services such as counseling. Aimee met regularly with a social worker. When Aimee confided that her husband physically, emotionally and financially abused her, they created a plan to help Aimee become self-sufficient.

Aimee entered a domestic violence shelter with her two older children. She had no income or car, making transportation difficult. She brought her children with her

to appointments because she had no access to reliable or affordable child care. She applied for several transitional housing programs before moving into one for single mothers.

"She had never been on her own," says Jennifer Schnarr, a member of the Prenatal staff. "She wanted to be part of a program that would teach her life skills and help her journey to become healthy and independent."

With support from Prenatal staff and her housing program, Aimee returned to school to earn a degree in human services and small business. Her children attend daycare, and her oldest son attends Head Start. Aimee's daughter, now 9 months old, gives her hope for the future. ♦