



Ecumenical Partnership for Housing

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2012

Our Mission: As faith calls us to minister with our neighbors in need, Ecumenical Partnership for Housing seeks through partnership with religious organizations and social services agencies to provide transitional housing and support services for homeless families.

Our Vision: Through transitional housing, extensive case management and support services, families achieve the knowledge, skills, and "Wholeness" for a self-sufficient future.

In Their Own Words

My Journey in Life, by Amanda E.

I was introduced to TSA & EPH Transitional Housing Program through Golden House, a local domestic violence shelter. I had a very troublesome relationship with my children's father & lost our housing & our ability to make it on our own. I was down & out, depressed & homeless. I didn't foresee a bright future for my kids & myself; I felt like giving up at times. When the program was brought to my attention I was clueless as to what it was or even how it could benefit my family. When my time was up at Golden House, we moved into a home provided for us through the Transitional Housing Program. My children & I were extremely pleased with the home! I was so happy to have a space for me & my children to be safe and start to rebuild. We were ecstatic! We lived there for 1 yr & during that time I met some of the most wonderful, helpful, caring people. I managed to pay off all of my debt & enroll in very beneficial classes throughout the process. I learned new entrees to prepare for my family, how to budget my money & how to treat myself with the respect I deserve along with great parenting skills. I was privileged & blessed from one of the magnificent role models to move further in the program into a 2 yr stay on Jefferson St. This person coached me through struggles in my life & I don't think I could have made it through without her. I continued my journey through life succeeding by saving money in my account with The Salvation Army & moving forward with a good work history and enrollment in college. I am now looking forward to moving into my own home provided by Habitat for Humanity with a secure job to be able to provide for my family. My future 2 1/2 years ago looked dark, gloomy & miserable. Now with Transitional Housing, my future looks bright, fulfilling, and happy; without this program we would not have as promising of a future as we do now!

SNC Day of Service

Four St. Norbert volunteers spent a morning helping build a storage area within one of our homes. This project & their support of EPH, was part of the SNC Day of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.



We Need Your E-Mail Address!

Interested in a "Monthly Minute" about EPH and our families? Please provide us with your e-mail address so you can receive these updates! Send your information to Lori Ver Boort at lander7915@aol.com.

Thank You!



Fall Clean-Up at St. Paul's



Kitchen at Upper Luke ~ Before and After

PACKERS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION GIVES THE GIFT OF GIVING

The Packer's Women's Association contacted EPH looking for an opportunity to provide Christmas decorations for one of our families. "Kathy Clements & I are both Interior Designers, and thought what better way to put our skills to good use?" said Laura Hawk, the PWA chairperson who was instrumental in making this project a success. "We wanted to give it a traditional holiday feel & make it bright, fun & cheerful for the children living there." After wreaths, garland, & decorations galore were purchased or donated, a few members even visited the home to help put their own holiday touch on the decorating process. "We really just wanted to help brighten up the family's home during the holidays," Hawk said. "There were a few women that helped decorate but everyone in the PWA contributed to making this holiday a reality for the family. We were humbled during the experience & so appreciative for the opportunity to make a difference." "The family really appreciated everything that the PWA did for them this past holiday season," said Dave Pietenpol, Executive Director of EPH. "The PWA created memories for the family which will last a lifetime."

Focusing on Why *By Dcn. Steve Meyer, EPH President*

Sometimes when I need depth, I go to the well. So last spring, when I was seeking perspective and vision for EPH, I met with clergy from our member churches and posed this question: What is EPH's obligation in response to the growing number of homeless families in our community? At the time, we had fourteen housing units and typically had about twenty-five families on our waiting list.

It's a more complicated question than it appears on the surface. We were already stretched beyond our capacity. Should we seek simply to stabilize ourselves within our comfort zone – don't bite off more than we can chew? Or should we look to expand our capacity in response to the need, knowing full well that it would take resources and finances we didn't have?

Through discussion, I came to the realization that what seemed like a practical question was really a faith question. Should we play it safe or take a leap of faith? We were advised to stay true to our mission to serve homeless families in the community, and to size and shape the organization accordingly.

The result has been a year of loaves and fishes. Somehow, somehow, the talent, resources and support we've needed keeps presenting itself. The Spirituality Group which appeared out of nowhere with a burning desire to donate and raise money to purchase additional housing units has been a Godsend. Unbelievable! The people who keep showing up as coordinators, volunteers, case managers and board members bring talent and commitment that blows my mind. And the generosity of donors who support the work of EPH feeds the multitudes!

If anyone is looking for evidence of God's hand in our world, I invite them to look at the people who support and carry out the work of EPH. You are all changing lives and giving the world something to believe in. Thank you!

Visit the EPH website at www.ephgb.org.



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