



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.*

Mentoring

What is mentoring? It is an opportunity to invest in another person's life, a friendship that assists another toward success. This is the type of relationship that Randall and Jeff have created. Returning to school studies as a 40-something year old man has it's anxieties, as one can imagine. Randall has done that with the assistance of Jeff. Jeff is mentoring with Randall, assisting him with studying for his GED, General Education classes. Getting to a point of regular study habits has been a challenge, but a challenge that Jeff and Randall have addressed together. They meet weekly to go over the week's lesson as well as homework. They are enjoying each other's company, and through this process they have developed a relationship and have built a respect for each other.

A Technology Committee is Established

EPH made a decision early in 2010 to set up a Technology Committee. This was spurred by the receipt of six laptop PCs donated by Camera Corner/Connecting Point. These PCs are being installed in homes for EPH residents who are pursuing further education. Later in the year, we received ten laptop PCs from an anonymous donor. Along the way, we discovered a link to an organization that offers software to non-profit organizations at a very reduced rate. We've taken advantage of this new find, and have saved EPH a considerable amount of money. And last but not least, we launched a completely redesigned website in Spring of 2011. Please check it out at the link at the bottom of this newsletter.

New Lead Coordinator

I want to introduce myself, Julie Maccoux, as the new EPH Lead Coordinator. To give you a little history about myself, I have been married to Neal for coming on 28 years, have three daughters 24, 21 & 18, and have lived in the Green Bay area most of my life. For the past 20 years and present, I work part time in State public health setting up conferences and providing staff with software training and computer support. My husband and I have assisted the Pulaski High School Music Booster program in chaperoning, fundraising efforts, and uniform repairs/alterations. We've been members of St Elizabeth Ann Seton parish where I serve as team lead & Eucharistic ministry trainer and serve on the parish council. Thank you for this opportunity to further utilize my talents and work with this new ministry to assist in making a difference one family at a time.

Beer Belly Run



EPH is encouraging participation in the 2011 Beer Belly Two on Sunday, June 26 10:30am at Idlewild Park 2999 Lakeview Dr., Suamico

EPH is one of the recipients of charitable funds from the run.



Steve Meyer



Rosie Jonas



Steve, Rick Roder, Lee Harmon

Annual Spring Dinner

On Mon., May 2, at St. Norbert College, EPH celebrated its Annual Spring Dinner. Each annual dinner provides the opportunity for member congregations to gather together and reflect on the growth and accomplishments of the past year, how we can continually better serve the needs of the community, and future directions. Deacon Steve Meyer, President of EPH, clearly illustrated the impact EPH has on the Green Bay community, especially in light of the rising numbers of children locally who are experiencing homelessness as reported by the Green Bay Area School District. As is well established, the stability of a home fosters a sense of security, safety and comfort that every child longs for and needs. Children in a homeless situation are known to be at higher risk for repeating grades because of poor classroom performance, experiencing anxiety, experiencing delayed development, and more frequent episodes of illness.

EPH continues to grow, with the addition of five new member congregations including St. Anne's Episcopal in De Pere, St. Bernard Catholic in Green Bay, St. Paul's Episcopal, Suamico United Methodist and Green Bay Community Church. They are all welcome additions to the work of EPH.

Special recognition was given to Lee Harmon, Rosie Jonas, Linda Higgins and Robert "Woody" Wolslegal for their significant contributions to EPH. An EPH client, Veronica, shared her family's story, and their gratefulness for assistance with budgeting help, mentoring services and housing that have given her the opportunity to experience success in many new areas of life. The importance of mentoring & support from the Salvation Army is crucial in the efforts of EPH to transition families into permanent, stable situation where they can flourish. Veronica's story echoes the stories of many families assisted by EPH. And because EPH continues to strengthen and grow, stories such as Veronica's will continue long into the future.

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

It is very easy to get bogged down in the whats. What's on the to-do list? What's next? What's needed? What's the problem? What are the plans? What are the outcomes? The everyday whats demand attention and absorb energy, and if we're not careful, they become overwhelming.

The problem with the whats is that they're all external. They steal focus away from the whys, our real motivation. Why is something important? Why are we doing this? Why would I invest time, energy or resources into something? The struggle between whats and whys is something EPH clients, donors and volunteers all share in common. Whether it is a client focused on what needs to be done to meet case management goals, an EPH house coordinator going through the list of what needs to be done to get a property ready for a new family, or a donor wondering what EPH is doing with the money, we all expend a lot of brain energy on the pragmatic and logical questions which do, in fact, need to be addressed.

But it is life-giving to also expend some heart energy on the whys. The whys give meaning to the whats. We encourage clients to focus on case management goals because it's how they love their children, because it builds a sense of self-worth and accomplishment, and because it provides healthy parental role-modeling. We encourage our coordinators to be enriched by why they're getting a house ready – to welcome a hurting family into security and hope, to build a nest for love to grow, to provide a dwelling for Christ cleverly disguised as a homeless child. And we invite our generous donors to ponder why they give – to fulfill the great commandment to love others, to share their own gifts with those in need, to make a positive impact on lives that will ripple for generations to come.

We cannot escape the whats, nor would we ever want to. But I hope you find time or make time to step back and remind yourself of the whys. EPH is an excellent organization with impressive collaboration and amazing results not because of what we do, but because of why we do it. Together, we raise people up, give them hope, believe in the dignity of each person, and put love into our community. Thank you!

Visit the EPH website at www.ephgb.org.



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