



# Fox Valley Warming Shelter

The dignity of each person is at the heart of our mission.

Sheltering the poorest among us—All are welcome.

**Operating Hrs.**  
5 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

**Phone Numbers**  
**Office:** 920.832.1479

**Brad Vivoda**  
920.277.1968

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
920.419.0928

**Location**  
1928 W. College Ave.  
Appleton, WI 54914

**Website:** www.foxvalleywarmingshelter.org

**Email:** warmingshelter@gmail.org

## MISSION

Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. seeks to provide overnight temporary shelter to homeless adult men and women and to address other needs by collaborating with community resources.

## PHILOSOPHY

1. All human beings have the right to meet their basic human needs for food, clothing and shelter.
2. Each person should be treated with respect and dignity.
3. The presence of God dwells in every person.

## Volunteers needed for homeless shelter

The Fox Valley Warming Shelter provides overnight temporary shelter to homeless adult men and women who do not qualify for any other shelter. For three seasons beginning in Feb. 2008 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, the shelter rotated through partner churches in the Fox River Valley. On Oct. 24, 2010, the doors of the newly built shelter opened for the first time at 1928 W. College Ave., Appleton, behind the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store.

**Volunteers are needed for the following tasks:**

<b>Team Leader</b>	<b>Meal Provider</b>	<b>Meal Server</b>
<b>Hospitality (5-8 p.m.)</b>	<b>Overnight Hospitality *</b>	<b>Special Service Project</b>
<b>Kitchen Manager</b>	<b>Receptionist**</b>	<b>Custodian</b>

\*8 p.m.—Midnight, Midnight—4 a.m., or 4 a.m.—8 a.m.

\*\*Receptionist: 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

People can volunteer in teams of five to seven or individually whenever your schedule allows. The shelter maintains the highest standards of ethics and confidentiality. We're looking for business and civic organizations as well.

For more information, contact the volunteer coordinator at 832-1479.

## The homeless: who are they and where do they come from?

One may wonder where the homeless we serve come from and who they are. Eighty percent of our clients come from the Fox Valley area, with 79% being male, 21% female, and 11% of them are veterans. Most are white (73%), with African Americans and Native Americans representing only 14% and 5%. The majority of people served are between the ages of 31 to 50 years (45%) followed by 18 to 30 years (31%) and 51 and older (24%).

Many clients have a diagnosis of mental illness (43%), followed by a physical disability (33%), and then alcohol (20%) and drug abuse (10%). Some individuals may have more than one disability.

Where were they previously? Seventy-four percent are in a short-term homeless situation. Of these, 37% spent the previous night with family or friends, whereas 19% said in another homeless shelter, 18% in a rental apartment/hotel, 11% in a place not meant for habitat, and various other responses.

~ Tom Jadin, February 2010

**NOTE: Many people with a mental health diagnosis are able to lead satisfying, productive lives, especially those who adhere to treatment.**

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/statistics/index.shtml> 1-31-2010

## CHURCHES INVOLVED

### APPLETON:

- All Saints Episcopal
- Appleton Alliance
- Appleton Gospel
- Emmanuel United Methodist
- Faith Lutheran
- First Congregational UCC
- First English Lutheran
- First United Methodist
- Grace Lutheran ELCA
- Memorial Presbyterian
- Pathways Church
- Sacred Heart
- St. Bernadette
- St. Bernard
- St. John UCC
- St. Joseph
- St. Mary
- St. Pius X
- St. Therese
- St. Thomas More
- Trinity Lutheran
- Zion Lutheran

### COMBINED LOCKS:

St. Paul

### GREENVILLE:

Christus Lutheran

### KAUKAUNA

Holy Cross

St. Katharine Drexel

### KIMBERLY

Holy Spirit

### MENASHA:

Christ the Rock

St. John the Baptist

St. Mary

St. Patrick

### NEENAH:

Calvary Bible

St. Gabriel

St. Margaret Mary

### SEYMOUR:

Emmanuel Lutheran

St. John the Baptist

United Methodist

# Primary reasons for seeking shelter

From Oct. 2010 through May 2011, FVWS served 249 individuals, for 5,175 shelter nights. Below are listed their primary reasons for seeking shelter. Some may have reported more than one reason.

**Our churches and supporters are the lifeblood and heart of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter.**

# Beautiful people serving beautiful people

In partnership with  
St. Vincent de Paul



and  
Goodwill Industries  
NCW



Collaborating with  
Fox Cities Housing  
Coalition Continuum  
of Care System

Supported by  
numerous  
foundations; civic,  
corporate, and  
religious  
organizations, and  
individuals

PRIMARY REASONS FOR SEEKING SHELTER	
Addiction	20
Can't find affordable housing	13
Denied/delayed/term public assistance	1
Discharge-hospital or detox	1
Eviction	19
Family/Domestic Violence	12
Family/Personal Illness/Injury	5
In Transit	1
Jail/Prison - Criminal history	38
Low or no income	46
Moved (not work related)	6
Moved to Seek Work	10
Needs Better Environment	1
Non-renewal of Lease	1
Other	15
Physical/Mental Disabilities	29
Roommate or family conflict	35
Transient	4
Unable to Pay Rent/Mortgage	13
Unemployment	48

*They came each night for 182 nights to share 12 hours.*

*Each one with a unique story.*

*Each walking a unique path.*

*Some bringing food to share.*

*Others bringing their sole belongings in a bag.*

Those who came intending to serve often left with an overwhelming sense of having been served. With the opportunity to share their time, conversation and/or food, they left with renewed gratitude, new insights, and deeper compassion.

Those who were served expressed sincere gratitude in a variety of ways but were more than likely unaware of their gift to the valiant volunteers who assisted in staffing the shelter over 26 weeks, 182 nights, and 1,984 hours\*.

One more significant example of what makes the Fox Valley an inspiring place to live—its BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE!!!

~ Therese Janssen, \*May 2009

## Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. 1928 W College Ave, Appleton

