

Operating Hrs.
5 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Phone Numbers
Office: 920.832.1479

**Executive Director/
Brad Vivoda:**
920.832.1479
Mobile: 920.277.1968

Operations Manager:
Dawn Kasten
920.832.1479

Volunteer Coordinator:
Eric Butters
2-6 pm: 920.832.1479
Mobile: 920.419.0928

Curtains and fireplace radiate warmth



Kathy Miller and her *Among the Oaks Ministry* group from Grace Christian Fellowship donated and installed curtains.

By now, many of you have already seen the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, with numerous, favorable first impressions...at least that is what we have heard. It is a well thought out, functional and suitable building, reflecting the purpose for which it was built.

Staff members continue to find better ways to utilize the space given them to best shelter the homeless; for instance, the common area also serves as a dining room. Screens were purchased to provide for some privacy for women.

Curtains and fireplace donated

The living room and sleeping area are now accented with curtains, which radiate the warmth from the fireplace. Kathy Miller and her *Among the Oaks Ministry* group from Grace Christian Fellowship donated and installed the new curtains and have also volunteered to provide lunch on Sundays during March. (The shelter stays open on Sundays during January—March because so many places are closed.)

The fireplace insert was donated by Chuck and Kathy Hartzheim, parents of Dawn Kasten, who is

the shelter's manager of operations. Tom Oudenhoven built the surrounding cabinet. The bathrooms, showers and laundry are especially appreciated by our guests. How good it is, as well, to have a partial basement with needed storage space.

Anonymous donors provide for kitchen

We are excited to be making progress with plans for the kitchen. FVWS received two generous, anonymous donations specifically for installing a commercial kitchen. Although the shelter will still need food donated and prepared for the evening meal, this will give volunteers the choice of preparing it at home and bringing it in, or bringing it in and working together preparing it at the shelter.

Now we face the challenges of meeting our operating expenses. But let us not forget that it is to the credit of volunteers, donors and staff, that this building ceases to be just a shelter and becomes a warm, welcoming place to be. **Thank you** to all of you for your warm hearts and continued welcomed support.



Chuck and Kathy Hartzheim donated the fireplace insert. Tom Oudenhoven built the surrounding cabinet.

~ Gary Crevier & Penny Robinson

In partnership with
St. Vincent de Paul



Goodwill Industries NCW

Goodwill NCW
Serving North Central Wisconsin Communities

Collaborating with

Fox Cities Housing
Coalition Continuum of
Care System

Supported by

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

The average length of stay for clients has decreased from 19 days last season to 14 days this season.

**FOX VALLEY
WARMING
SHELTER INC.**

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Editor
Penny Robinson
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MISSION

Fox Valley Warming
Shelter, Inc. seeks
to provide overnight
temporary shelter to
homeless adult men
and women.

Planning for ongoing operations and sustainability

The Board of Directors has a strong sense of responsibility to put shelter operations on a sound and sustainable financial footing. Our newsletter enables us to keep our volunteers and supporters up to date on operations and changes as well as the opportunity to encourage those who are able, to continue to support the shelter and provide basic needs to homeless adult men and women.



A tree with engraved leaves will recognize those who can sponsor at least one day of shelter operations. Choose your own date!

Homeless live one day at a time

One day/night of shelter operations, including heat, lights, phone, insurance, transportation, supplies and a minimum of paid staff, costs approximately \$600 a day. The *One Day at a Time* Campaign suggests that individuals, churches, civic groups, businesses and foundations commit to supporting at least one day of shelter operations. Some organizations and foundations can obviously be more generous, as they have shown. Specific dates may be chosen by sponsor(s). One payment or monthly installments may be made.

In recognition of this support, a copper tree will be mounted to a wall, with attaching leaves. The leaves will be personalized with up to 70 characters of text. This campaign is off to a good start, with sponsors for 71 days at press time.

Gold Leaf	7 days	\$4200
Silver Leaf	3 days	\$1800
Brass Leaf	1 day	\$600

Churches sponsor awareness project for youth during Lent

To raise awareness among children in faith formation programs during Lent, St. Mary's and St. Joseph Churches in Appleton are promoting

the *One Day at a Time* campaign. Warming shelter volunteers will speak with religious education classes on the life and challenges of a person who has no home and will ask how Jesus would respond. The children will also be involved in a fundraising opportunity to sponsor the shelter for a day or more.

Free gift cards available

Because numerous donors have made gifts in memory of a loved one, we now have special gifts cards available. In addition to funerals, cards are also available for birthday gifts and even for a special mother on Mothers' Day.

Samples of these gift cards will soon be on the shelter website. They can be picked up at the shelter, but call (920-832-1479) before you come.

For more information ...

You can find more information on the *One Day at a Time* program and gift cards at the website: www.foxvalleywarmingshelter.org (under donating tab) or by calling 920-832-1479 or email: warmingshelter@gmail.com.

For more information on the Youth Lenten Project, call 277-1968 .

~ Tom Jadin and Penny Robinson

Overnight volunteer experiences nurturing joy

"I took the midnight to 4 a.m. shift three times this week, once combined with an 8 p.m. to midnight shift. I love the new facility they



Beth Lepinski

have. Though the churches were kind and generous, moving from church to church each week did not allow for things like laundry, showers and movies, all of which are available at the new Warming Shelter.

I did laundry, made snacks, and packed brown bag lunches for those who needed them for work. It was a lot like being a mom. I appreciated the ability to add some creativity to the food preparation. My favorite change was the opportunity for people to come in after work, even if it was after midnight. Making a late supper for one of these people was a nurturing joy."

~ Beth Lepinski

Gary Crevier named FVWS 2010 Volunteer of the Year



Gary Crevier

At its February 8th meeting, the Board of Directors of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. named Gary Crevier *Volunteer of the Year* for 2010. The Board gratefully recognized Gary for his varied contributions to the organization during his years on the board, starting in 2007, but especially for the leadership role he took during 2010.

"Gary did an incredible job working with Miron Construction and many volunteers to help make the construction of the shelter a reality." ~ Tom Jadin

the homeless population that FVWS serves and has an amazing ability to see the bright side of things when others become tense.

"I respect Gary and his judgment and ability to work with people as much as anyone I know." ~ Penny Robinson

Gary's efforts, more than any other individual, were responsible for keeping the building project on track, while providing leadership in many areas of the shelter's operation. The organization

"I've known Gary for years but to be working with him on what we both feel so passionate about is a real thrill for me." ~ Peter Bekkers

owes him a deep debt of gratitude. ~ Bill Guilbeault

In 2009, the board elected Gary vice president, and he chaired the Building Committee, which supervised the construction of the new building last year. He put in countless hours in meetings, on the phone, and even provided

"Gary's gifts of time and expertise, so generously given, are represented in every square foot of FVWS's new home for the homeless." ~ Therese Janssen

manual labor in making sure that

"Gary is always ready to help—always ready with a smile—and he's funny, too. He's a fellow who honors our God by living a life in an ordinary manner with extraordinary kindness. I'm so glad to call him friend." ~ Carol Burns

the building would serve the needs of the homeless individuals who make use of the shelter each night. He has also chaired the Operations Committee for the last two years.

Gary's judgment is one of his main assets, and his advice is sought by board members as well as staff. He has shown himself to be a strong advocate for



Gene Wulf (2nd from R), vice president, BEMIS, and family tour the shelter. He delivered a \$13,000 Bemis grant for part-time staff, a \$40,000 year-end Bemis grant, and a very generous personal gift. L-R: daughter Ashley, wife Barbara, Gene, and son Benji.

Coordinator helps volunteers transition to new building

When asked why he wanted to work for the FVWS, Eric Butters writes, "The homeless have been near and dear to me for some time, and as a result of experiencing hardships of my own, I feel called to "be my brothers' keeper. ... I feel called to compassionately empower them toward self-sufficiency..."

With a B.S. in speech communications from UW Oshkosh and a Masters of Divinity, emphasizing urban ministry, from Moody Bible Institute, Eric has a variety of experiences working with the homeless and related populations. From night supervisor at the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley and program coordinator at COTS in Green Bay (currently St. John's Emergency Shelter), Eric also served for a short time as pastor at a North Dakota church.



Eric Butters

outreach, both in Chicago; Inner City Youth Ministry in the Twin Cities; participation in Katrina relief; and an African mission trip to Kenya.

Eric writes, "During the recent recession, I experienced firsthand the harsh realities of being unemployed, the piling up of unpaid bills, even losing hope." At the same time, he experienced firsthand "God's gracious provision."

The board of directors welcomes Eric as part-time volunteer coordinator and congratulates him for helping our many volunteers make the transition from serving the homeless in their own churches to volunteering at our new shelter building. Eric has also recruited three new churches, all in Seymour, and has been working with local businesses and students as well.

His numerous volunteer experiences include evangelistic homeless outreach and Chinatown

~ Penny Robinson

MISSION

Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. seeks to provide overnight temporary shelter to homeless adult men and women.

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.



PO Box 1261
Appleton, WI 54912-1261

From the Executive Director

New building facilitates efficiency and collaboration

I'm very pleased to announce that we are pretty much settled into our new shelter. The capacity to provide a full range of *basic needs* (safe, warm shelter; supper and breakfast; laundry, showers, and comfortable sleeping arrangements) in one location has greatly increased our efficiency.

Opening at 5 p.m. instead of 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. provides more time to interact with clients and collaborate with other agencies. This has translated into improved services and shorter average length of stay for our clients—from 19 days last season* to 14 days so far this season**.

Since Oct. 2010 we have already served 14 veterans. Housing vouchers have allowed several to move into individual apartments. Other veterans have accessed substance abuse programs sponsored by the Veterans Administration.

Outreach workers from the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley continue to assist our clients in filing for disability

benefits, case management and housing options.

Every client is required to participate in *Food Share Wisconsin*, which then qualifies them for *Food Share Employment and Training* (FSET). FSET helps with career counseling, job search and retention, GED/HSED, tuition for certain technical

Staff have more time to interact with clients and collaborate with other agencies.

programs, DMV fees, bus passes, work boots/ clothing, personal

hygiene needs, and referrals to other agencies.

We have made great strides in only five months of operation this season. Our volunteers and staff look forward continued improvements in our efforts to end homelessness in the Fox Valley.

* (Oct 2009 to May 2010)

** (Oct 2010 to Feb 2011).

~ Brad Vivoda

For volunteers, everything is different, but not really

Our volunteers remind me of Irene Peter's quote: "Just because everything is different doesn't mean anything has changed." In the last few months our volunteers have witnessed many differences: new location and building, a different kitchen, more choices in service times, new staff, and more service opportunities.

"Just because everything is different doesn't mean anything has changed."

~ Irene Peter

In spite of the differences, Irene Peter was right...*nothing really has changed*. We still focus on our mission of providing temporary shelter to homeless men and women, and we still recognize the importance of our volunteers in making it

happen. They truly are the heart and soul of what we do. Their time, energy, and compassion help restore clients' dignity and respect .

No longer do clients need to worry when they'll eat their next meal—our volunteers continue to prepare and serve a homemade supper every night. Our volunteers also offer a listening ear to our clients when so many might bypass those feeling lonely and helpless. They continue to watch over clients as they sleep safely every night.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your unchanging commitment to the Fox Valley Warming Shelter.

~ Eric Butters