



Warming Works

Sheltering the "poorest of the poor"

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August 2008

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Volume 1 Issue 1

FVWS and SVdP partner in joint venture to shelter poorest of the poor

Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. (FVWS) and St. Vincent de Paul of Appleton (SVdP) are forming a new

partnership to address the increasing needs of the homeless in Appleton. Board members of both organizations unanimously approved a joint venture to shelter the poorest of the poor, who do not qualify for other types of short-term shelter or housing in the Fox Valley.

operated a temporary safe haven at St. Joseph Catholic Church for those who, for whatever reason, had no place to spend the night. During those 83 nights, the agency sheltered 61 different people for a total of 667 serviced nights. Of those, nine were women; 52 were men. Included among these were seven veterans, six transients, nine chronic homeless, and 13 with reported mental illness.

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Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. Board of Directors

Don Stoegbauer
President

William Guilbeault
Vice-President

Carol Stoegbauer
Secretary

Peter Bekkers
Treasurer

Therese Janssen
Volunteer Coordinator

Carol Burns
Gary Crevier
Penny Robinson
Miles Sutter
Deacon Bob Vincent
Tom Wolf

SUCCESSFUL TEMPORARY SHELTER AT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
February through April of this year
Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc.

Warming shelter aims to purchase permanent site

Pending city approval and sufficient funding, Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. (FVWS) hopes to purchase, for its new permanent site, the former Mr. Roy's Bridal & Formal Salon on Wisconsin Avenue, which closed in 2006.

"Pre-purchase inspections indicated the building is in good condition, and we are working on the funding. Once the deal closes, we will need to do a little remodeling to meet all the codes," he said.

Property owners near the site were invited to meet the board to address any neighborhood concerns. Fr. Larry Abler of St. Joseph Catholic Parish said the guests did not cause any problems while staying there.

Warming Works is a periodic publication of Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. If you wish to be added to our mailing list (or removed) please email your wishes to FVWS@new.rr.com. Thank you. ~ Penny Robinson, Editor

"We have submitted our application to the city planning department for a special use permit, and we are waiting on that process," said FVWS President Don Stoegbauer.

Introducing the Board of Directors

Listed on the front page is the Board of Directors of Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. Some are founding members; other have only recently joined the group. We will gradually introduce them in this and future newsletters.

PRESIDENT: IT'S A SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUE

President Don Stoegbauer retired as assistant superintendent of an Illinois school district after 38 years in school administration. With some work in alcohol and drug abuse, he helped start Community Outreach Temporary Services (COTS) and serves in numerous other local groups, including ESTHER, Fox Valley Peace Coalition, and Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

When asked why he helped start this group and is a board member, Stoegbauer responded: "I believe anybody lacking adequate food and shelter deserves to be cared for. It is a social justice issue for those who 'have' to take care of those who 'have not'."

VICE-PRESIDENT VALUES PERSONAL CONTACT

After a career in human resources at such companies as Gilbert Paper, Banta Healthcare, and as HR manager at Schenck Business Solutions, Bill Guilbeault



President Don Stoegbauer and Secretary Carol Stoegbauer

opened his own business as senior consultant for Guilbeault Consulting LLC. Recently completing the Commissioned Ministry Leadership Program of the Green Bay Diocese, he still finds time to serve on St. Vincent de Paul's Board of Directors and is active in programs at St. Bernard's Catholic Church.

When asked why he is on the board, he stated: I believe that everything we have is a gift from God, and that we have an obligation to share with those in need. I have learned that what I was able and comfortable



Vice-president Bill Guilbeault

doing has changed over time, and that my satisfaction has grown as my efforts brought me closer to those in greatest need.

At Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc, I have met homeless people as individuals, and I have learned that the

differences between us are mostly circumstantial. I have been able to help administratively as well and believe that my efforts truly make a difference.

SECRETARY WITH A LOT OF LOVE BELIEVES IN PROJECT

Working her way up from waitressing and driving a school bus to coordinator of accounting and personnel services for a school district in Cook County, Illinois, Carol Stoegbauer, also a founding member of FVWS, has many leadership experiences with COTS. In addition to Girl Scout leader, she has been a caregiver for five elderly women.

Following her husband's social justice leadership, when he asks "Have you a lot of love in your heart?" she finds herself in another project—this time as secretary. "A fervent prayer is that I would know how to do something before a project is mine. So far, it's been 'hurry up and learn'." Carol especially believes in this project—"there but for the grace of God..."

TREASURER STAYS ACTIVE AND YOUNG

After an accounting career in several companies and part time for his own business, preparing individual and corporate taxes, Peter Bekkers retired early to work only for himself until he sold his business. He is a charter member of the National Association of Tax Professionals, for which he has traveled the country teaching tax preparation. At their 25th anniversary conference, he received several awards and was recognized as one of the founders.

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FVWS Inc. Trucker of the year award goes to volunteer Arnie VandenBoomen

With a smile that wouldn't quit, he appeared each Saturday and Sunday morning at 6:00 AM and reappeared each Saturday and Sunday evening at 8:30 PM.

Each time he loaded or unloaded (with assistance offered by FVWS clients and volunteers) the large bags containing each client's belongings. This unique exercise was required by the FVWS's temporary use of the Great Hall at St. Joseph Parish. Although Father Larry Abler and the parishioners were very welcoming and generous, on weekends they needed the

worship and social space provided in the Great Hall.

During February, March, and April (with exception of two weekends when he found his own substitutes), Arnie VandenBoomen appeared each weekend to fulfill his duties. Frequently he brought "treats for the guys" — licorice was his specialty.

Although he has lost this "unique job" due to FVWS's planned transfer to a permanent location, he has assured us of his



Arnie VandenBoomen

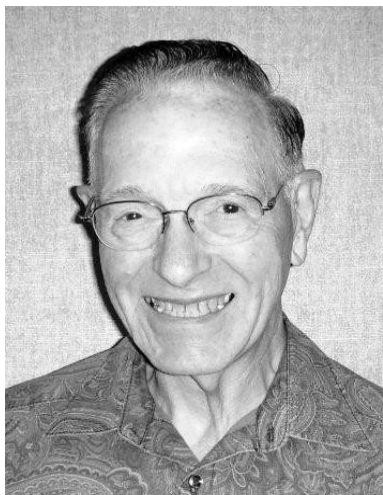
continued interest and support.

~ Therese Janssen

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Board of Directors

When asked why he serves on the board, Treasurer Bekkers replied: "I volunteer whenever I can and am currently treasurer for five different non-profit agencies. This way I can do as much good as God calls me to do. I feel the best way to stay young is to stay active."



Treasurer Peter Bekkers

Our Volunteers, the ♥ of FVWS

Fabulous, friendly, faithful

Valiant volunteers,

Wonderfully

Sincere, they earn gratitude from the guests, staff, and board members for sharing their great gifts of time, energy, generosity, and multiple talents. These were displayed daily in the culinary delights consistently provided each evening of our 83 nights of initial operation in the Great Hall of St. Joseph Parish.

FVWS would not have had a successful birthing without each and every one of our more than 150 volunteers. On any given night our volunteers could be observed multi-tasking: welcoming guests, engaging them in board games or cards, assisting with

settling in. But by far, the most appreciated by clients was having someone to listen to them and engage in meaningful conversation.

The staff and board members are most impressed and very grateful for the volunteers' reliability during the nightly 12 hours of operation, covering three shifts of four hours each. Equally admirable are the volunteers who spent daytime hours preparing and delivering food, collecting items, encouraging friends to join in the adventure, providing gifts in kind, and contributing generously to monetary needs.

Only with you and a tripled corps of volunteers will we be able to continue to serve the poorest of the poor at Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. in the years ahead. ~T. Janssen

Appleton, WI 54912-1261
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Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc, St. Vincent de Paul of Appleton join in new partnership

St. Vincent de Paul of Appleton, most commonly recognized for the thrift shop that bears the same name, has had a presence in Appleton for close to thirty years. The thrift shop functions as a fundraiser for the community by generating funds for its mission. This includes cash allocations to other area organizations and helping individuals and families with rental and energy assistance, gas vouchers and bus tickets.

Both St. Vincent de Paul and Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. recognize they can serve the community better by this collaborative joint venture. SVdP will help with many of the financial aspects of the shelter, along with basic necessities such as bedding and hygiene products. FVWS will help SVdP broaden volunteer opportunities and staff experience, along with providing a possible site for vouchers and donations.

HISTORY – CONTINUUM OF CARE

The Fox Valley Continuum of Care was established in the early nineties through the efforts of the mayor, police department, Salvation Army, Emergency Shelter and Community

FVWS focuses its mission on services and assistance in the context of the furtherance of human dignity, with the primary goal of a safe haven for the night.

Outreach Temporary Services (COTS). It consisted of three levels:

1. A warming shelter, providing a safe place to sleep;
2. Emergency Shelter (includes families);
3. COTS transitional housing (no children).

After the warming shelter on North Street closed, leaving the Continuum of Care without level one, a group of citizens, realizing the need,

reopened the shelter during February through April of this year at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.

Awaiting official 501 (c) (3) status as a non-profit organization, Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. is not part of the \$886,000 grant through the Basic Needs Giving Partnership, a joint initiative between U.S. Oil and the J.J. Keller Foundation.

MISSION

Accepting all who seek a temporary place to stay, FVWS follows the Gospel of Matthew in which Jesus states "...I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers [and sisters] you did it for me," (25:40). FVWS focuses its mission on services and assistance in the context of the furtherance of human dignity, with the primary goal of a safe haven for the night.

Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc.
is grateful for all donations.