



Warming Works

Sheltering the poorest among us—all are welcome.

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.

Email: warmingshelter@gmail.com (920) 832-1479 www.foxvalleywarmingshelter.org
PO Box 1261, Appleton, WI 54912-1261 Autumn 2011, Vol 3, Issue 3 1928 W College Ave, Appleton, WI 54914

Annual meeting to celebrate anniversary by honoring contributors and volunteers

OPERATING HOURS
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.
Sunday hours may vary.

PHONE NUMBERS
Office: 920.832.1479

Executive Director
Brad Vivoda:
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Dawn Kasten
920.707.3897

Volunteer Coordinator
Connie Raether
920.419.0928

Celebrating the warming shelter’s fourth season of operation and the first year in the new building, the annual meeting on October 25 will honor all the volunteers and donors who have made this possible.

At a recent meeting, some volunteers were recalling our first season, at the invitation of Fr. Larry Abler, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Appleton. We struggled just to keep the operation going, let alone think about having a building. Rotating the operation from church-to-church for two seasons, we dreamed of a permanent home for the shelter.

After St. Vincent de Paul (Appleton) offered to lease land behind their thrift store, the board took a leap of faith and committed to a contract with Miron Construction to build a shelter. It took most of the third season to plan the project, help design the building, and raise the funding. Finally, in October of 2010, we accepted the keys to the new building at 1928 W. College Avenue. Our clients state that they really appreciate the stability of a permanent shelter. As an organization, we were able to concentrate on improving our policies and procedures and put more energy into facilitating the process of getting our clients transitioning into more stable situations. Benchmarking with similar shelters, staff members, through Individual Support Plans

(ISP), help clients develop goals, identify and overcome obstacles. ISPs have significantly reduced the average length of stay. Recently showing off our shelter to some visiting

family, I was reminded of how the laundry facilities, showers, fully-equipped kitchen, and air conditioning all help make the shelter reasonably comfortable, without being “too comfortable”. It is still a warming shelter, but we are able to offer our guests some of the basic amenities that we sometimes take



Frequent volunteers prepare to serve supper; l-r: Diane Guckenberger, Becky Fickel, Sue Johnson and Evie Guckenberger.

for granted.

The new building enabled us to continue operating though the summer for the first time. The “warming” in warming shelter may imply it is only needed during winter. It is as important to provide the homeless with a safe place to stay as it is to shield them from the cold weather.

The biggest challenge has been recruiting individuals to fulfill all the volunteer needs for each night. Our tremendous volunteers are really the heart of this operation.

It has indeed been an exciting first year in the new shelter home, and we sincerely thank all our supporters and volunteers for making this possible.

~ Bill Guilbeault

In partnership with St. Vincent de Paul

Goodwill Industries 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

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WARMING
SHELTER INC.**

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From the Executive Director

Homeless numbers continue to grow

From the intake form all clients complete upon entering FVWS, a State of Wisconsin program, Service Point, compiles this data and produces statistics for tracking shelter activities. After operating for ten months this season (Oct. 3rd 2010-July 31st 2011) I was surprised at the growing need for the resources the warming shelter provides.

During this period we served 424 individual clients, for a total of 9595 shelter nights. This averages 32 clients per/night. This is close to a 50% increase from our 2009/2010 season, during which we averaged 19 clients per/night. Generally 20% of our clients are women and almost 12% are veterans.

For the first time, we remained open for the summer and discovered that demand for services remained high. In fact, several times we were near our building's capacity of 55 clients a night.

Similar to our 2009/10 season, mental health continues to be the number one long-term disability clients report. This is followed by physical/medical problems and alcohol abuse as the number two and number three disabilities reported. According to Service Point statistics, 75% of our clients have lived in the surrounding five-county area for at least five years, and 90% have been Wisconsin residents for at least five years.

Thus, homelessness continues to grow in the Fox Valley. With the support of our volunteers, donors and professional staff, we will continue working hard to make our community a quality place for all of us.

~ Brad Vivoda



Brad Vivoda

Water fountain donated

When warming shelter guests requested a water fountain, Bassett Mechanical agreed to donate one. Todd Schroeder scoped out the project and provided the drawing for Chad Kolasinski, a journeyman plumber with Absolute Plumbing, for installation. Chad's time was donated by Nick Jackels, owner of Absolute.

Bassett Mechanical also donated all of the plumbing materials and labor for the kitchen, including the grease trap.

~ Tom Jadin



(left) Todd Schroeder, of Bassett Mechanical delivers water fountain.

Donors continue to provide necessary items



Chuck Vanden Boom (left) delivers to Gary Crevier lawnmower donated by Ariens Co.

We again give a special thanks and appreciation to Mike Ariens and the Ariens Company, Brillion, for their continued support to our warming shelter by donating a new 13 hp, 34-inch, Zoom-Zero-Turn riding lawn mower. It is a needed addition for our adequate lawn care. Thank you so much.

Our kitchen now has cupboards, a freezer, commercial cooking stove and refrigerator, warming cart, stainless steel working table and dishwasher. On order are other custom built stainless steel working areas with suitable shelving.

These improvements truly help volunteers in their food preparation services. Again, all of these additions are made possible through the kindness we have seen from the very beginning of the FVWS.

Thanks to all.

~ Gary Crevier

Connie Raether brings experience, commitment and energy as new volunteer coordinator

The Fox Valley Warming Shelter welcomes Connie Raether to the staff as the new part-time volunteer coordinator. When asked why she wants to work for the shelter, Connie writes:

"I feel very fortunate to be coming to work for the warming shelter and to further the mission and vision of Don Stoegbauer, a man I respected and loved. I believe strongly in the infinite worth of every human being; that was the first of the five value statements that guided our work at Lutheran Social services (LSS) and one of the reasons I stayed with LSS for many years....Through my work with the Health WatchCoalition and Urban Threads, I had the opportunity to meet many shelter clients. Each is a person with unique gifts and strengths, all of them struggling with very difficult situations.



Connie Raether

Each of them needs not only a warm bed, but to be treated with respect and dignity that all of us need and deserve. ..."

With a U.W. Oshkosh bachelor's degree in social work, including a "detour" for marriage and children, Connie spent the majority of her working years at Lutheran Social Services. From Program Coordinator of Urban Threads (an Appleton clothing bank), she moved to HealthWatch Wisconsin Tri-County Coalition and helped people gain access to health care through programs such as BadgerCare and Wisconsin Well Woman.

As a volunteer herself, she serves ESTHER (an interfaith justice organization) in several capacities and also as secretary of Wisdom (ESTHER's state parent organization).

Connie also serves on the boards of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Citizen Action Wisconsin, as a member of the Citizen Review Panel of Outagamie County, on the steering committee of CASA of the Fox Cities (a program that provides volunteer advocates for children in the county human services system), and a volunteer tutor with Fox Valley Literacy Coalition. She has also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity Global Village trips to Alaska and Guatemala, and with Semillas de Amor, a children's home in Guatemala.

Welcome Connie!

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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.

*You are invited to the
 Fox Valley Warming Shelter
 Annual Meeting and Celebration
 Tuesday, October 25, 2011
 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
 Monarch Gardens Banquets & Catering
 2311 W. Spencer St, Appleton
 RSVP (Yes only) 277-1968*

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

Thank you to our many volunteers and contributors

The homeless in the Fox Valley thank the many volunteers and the donors for making the Fox Valley Warming Shelter a reality. The shelter is completely furnished with a large sleeping/dining area, kitchen, laundry room, and shower and bathroom facilities. Its success lies in the homemade meals and warm greetings from the volunteers, the financial support from so many, and a dedicated staff that strives to understand each homeless person's goals and challenges, and provide resources the homeless need to help themselves out of a crisis situation.

The board would like to invite you to the shelter's one year anniversary celebration on

Oct. 25 at Monarch Gardens. It's time to celebrate the success of everyone's efforts, the newly completed kitchen, and the *One day at a Time* donation tree and leaves.

We look forward to seeing you and your continued support .

~ Tom Jadin

One Day at a Time Tree displayed



Development Committee Members Tom Jadin and Carol Stoegbauer show off the *One Day at a Time Tree* with leaves commemorating those who sponsor a day of shelter operations.

Donations can be made online at this URL: www.foxvalleywarmingshelter.org/donate.html

Or by sending a check to: FVWS, PO Box 1261, Appleton, WI 54912

THANK YOU !!!!

Mark your calendar to vote for FVWS at cffoxvalley.org

October 16-25, 2011

25 for 25 Charity Challenge

As part of its celebration of 25 years of Helping Donors Share, the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region invites **YOU** to help give a total of \$187,500 to 25 charitable organizations serving people in the Fox Valley area. For 10 days in October, **YOU** get to determine which nonprofit will benefit.

PLEASE VOTE on the Community Foundation website every day between October 16-25, 2011. **Please VOTE for the Fox Valley Warming Shelter at www.cffoxvalley.org**

25 charitable organizations

serving people in the Fox Valley region that will share in **\$187,500** in grant money, including:

five **\$25,000** endowments

to be invested permanently within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and

25 grants of \$2,500.

Winners will be announced on Nov. 22.

THANK YOU !!!

HOW TO VOTE

1. Go to the website:
www.cffoxvalley.org
2. Click on this icon:



3. Vote for the Fox Valley Warming Shelter once every day October 16-25. Mark your calendar NOW.

THANK YOU !!!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1. RSVP to attend the FVWS Annual Meeting/Anniversary Celebration 4 to 6 p.m., Oct. 25, 2011, at Monarch Gardens.
2. Remind yourself to vote Oct 16-25 for FVWS at www.cffoxvalley.org

Inside this issue



Part-time staff Richard Gallagher is ready to ride lawnmower donated by Ariens Co.

Chad Kolasinski of Absolute Plumbing installs water fountain.

Need a speaker for a meeting or event?

FVWS staff and board members can speak to your group on such topics as:

- ◆ Why a person might be homeless
- ◆ What it's like to be homeless



If you need a speaker for your next event, call Brad Vivoda at 290-277-1968 to set a date.