

## Creative solution for location a temporary success FVWS Inc. rotates through area churches

Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc., has discovered a community of support in

### FOX VALLEY WARMING SHELTER INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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area churches which stepped forward to host the homeless this winter. At press time, 18 different Fox Valley churches had hosted the Warming Shelter or committed to do so for at least one week. A couple of churches opened their doors a second time when the shelter needed a "home."

The host churches include the following:

- Sacred Heart Catholic Parish,
- St. Joseph Catholic Parish,
- St. Pius Catholic Parish,
- St. Bernard Catholic Parish,
- St. Thomas More Catholic Parish,
- St. Patrick's Catholic—Menasha,
- St. Paul's Catholic—Combined Locks,
- Trinity Lutheran Church,
- St. Bernadette Catholic Parish,
- First Congregational UCC,
- St. Therese Catholic Parish,
- First English Lutheran Church,
- All Saints Episcopal Church,
- Holy Cross Catholic—Kaukauna
- St. Mary's Catholic—Appleton
- St. Gabriel Catholic—Neenah
- Holy Spirit Catholic—Kimberly
- St. John's Catholic—Menasha

In addition, Memorial Presbyterian Church partnered with Trinity Lutheran to provide volunteers. This temporary solution has resulted in some very concrete benefits. Many more volunteers have stepped forward from

these churches so the same few don't have to volunteer every week.

This rotating plan has also helped tremendously to raise awareness and support, not only among the participating churches, but also among the wider community. Board Officers Bill Guilbeault and Therese Janssen, have spoken at most of the churches.

Becky Fickel of St. Thomas More reported that this has also been a blessing for her parish. A secretary from another parish was surprised that she did not receive a single negative phone call from parishioners. In fact, hosting the shelter has opened the eyes of many detractors.

Led by Bill Guilbeault, the board created this temporary rotating plan after deciding not to resubmit an application to the city planning commission for a zoning waiver because of lack of community support for the location at the former Mr. Roy's bridal salon, even though plumbing, heating, electrical, and roof inspections showed the building to be in very good condition.

Of course, we experience the hassle of moving out of one church every Sunday morning and into the next one every Sunday evening; and we had to buy a van to transport clients and all the supplies and equipment.

~ Penny Robinson and Bill Guilbeault

**Warming Works** is published periodically by 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](mailto:FVWS@new.rr.com). Thank you.

~ Penny Robinson, Editor

## From the President's pen: FVWS starts a building fund

If someone would have said a year ago we would have our homeless sleeping in 18 different churches a week at a time, we would have questioned their sanity. Because of the lack of community support for locating our homeless shelter at the former Mr. Roy's bridal salon, we realized we had become a homeless shelter without a home.

Over the past few months, it has been extremely gratifying to see the churches of the Fox Cities step forward to offer shelter to the homeless. We borrowed money to purchase a van to

transport our clients from downtown to the current host church.



Don Stoegbauer

Each week the Warming Shelter operation must pack up everything into the van as we leave the host church and move to the next host church and unpack everything. Our operation would become much less complicated if we had a permanent building: The clients could be fed at 5 p.m. instead of 9 p.m., and they could be returned to the streets later than 8 a.m. Clients could be contacted by employers and families. We would be able to store supplies, food, and bedding. We could provide showers for bathing and a washer/dryer facility for washing bedding and client clothing.

Although we appreciate the

tremendous support from our host churches and their volunteers, the Board of Directors has agreed to cease being homeless and aggressively pursue a building for the Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. (FVWS). We are establishing a BUILDING FUND and are asking friends of the warming shelter to help us raise funds for our future home, to end our *shelterless* posture, and acquire a place we can call our own.

~ Don Stoegbauer, President

As usual, all donations can be mailed to the following address:

**FVWS, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 1261,**  
**Appleton, WI 54912-1261**

## Introducing the Board of Directors Gary Crevier is just the person we need

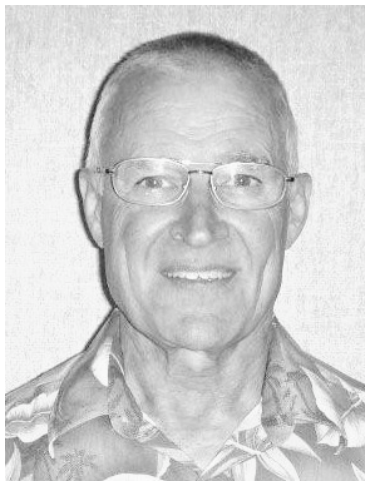
Certified as a social worker and substance abuse counselor, Gary Crevier brings a wealth of experience to the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. When asked why he serves as a volunteer and a member of the board of directors, he writes:

"I believe that I am particularly called to help the Fox Valley provide a warming shelter for those with no place to rest, especially during the cold winter season. My spiritual belief is to respond to the basic needs of the moment regardless of the reasons or causes of why these people are caught in this predicament ....

"I also believe that I am called to be in a caring relationship with all people, especially the poor, the sick, homeless, elderly and foreigners in the Fox Valley. As

a spiritual person, I am called to live not just for myself, but rather for the good of others and society."

In fact, Gary's whole life has been dedicated to the service of others, including six years as director of a



Gary Crevier

retreat house, ten years in missionary work in the Dominican Republic, and ten years as a social worker and Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) treatment provider. He has worked on the Menominee Indian Reservation and is retired from the Department of

Corrections (Oshkosh Correctional Institution).

Gary is bilingual in English and Spanish and also currently serves on the ESTHER Immigration Task Force.

### FVWS receives grant from Community Foundation

The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, Inc., has awarded a grant of \$5,100 to the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. The grant will be used to implement Safe Food Handling Training, OSHA Risk/Safety Health Training and Red Cross and Fire Training.

This award is part of a project grant from unrestricted funds within the Community Foundation. A total of 13 organizations received project grants totaling \$56,450.

## Director is proud of Fox Valley community FVWS part of community's continuum of care

As the Executive Director of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc., I have seen an increase in the demand for our services, along with an approximately 25% successful transition rate out of the shelter. As of press time we have served 62 individual clients, for a total of 770 shelter nights. Over the course of 80 days (The shelter re-opened with no clients on the night of November 2, 2008.) we have successfully transitioned 14 clients into functional living situations.

### **MOST ACCESSIBLE ENTRY POINT**

We determine a client's success if he or she moves upward in the Fox Valley Housing Continuum of Care (FVHCC) toward a more stable living situation. The Warming Shelter is the **most accessible entry point** to the FVHCC, followed by the Emergency Shelter and then the Community Outreach

Temporary Services (C.O.T.S.) programs. Other successful transitions would also include moving into an apartment or other stable living situations.

Also included in the FVHCC are the Mooring Programs, an Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse (AODA) treatment facility for men in Appleton. We work closely with Mooring staff and refer to them shelter clients who are seeking assistance for drug and alcohol problems. Conversely, those who choose to leave treatment before successfully completing the program may end up at the Warming Shelter.

### **CLIENTS REFERRED TO OTHER SERVICES**

The policy of the FVWS Inc. is designed to refer clients who may be seeking further assistance for a wide variety of needs. These may include health and dental problems, refilling of prescriptions, bus passes, AODA issues,

directions to county offices and potential job locations. We also provide vouchers for showers and for clothing and furniture at St. Vincent De Paul. In addition, we have a system set up with a local laundry facility for the clients to wash and dry their clothes.

### **PART OF ENTIRE SYSTEM OF SUPPORT**

In closing, I would like to stress the point that the Warming Shelter does not function in a vacuum. We are a part of an entire system of support for those in our community in need of assistance. The support that the shelter has received from the community has been overwhelming. I am proud to be member of this community. a community that truly believes that energy spent on serving those in need is never wasted.

~ Brad Vivoda, Executive Director

## FVWS volunteers swell to almost 700 Work more than 1000 nighttime hours

Vigorous, vital growth in the **Valued Volunteer Nocturnal Angel Band** has marked the second trimester (Nov. 2, 2008 to Jan. 31, 2009) of Fox Valley Warming Shelter Inc. (FVWS) operations.\*

### **SENSATIONAL INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS**

The current swelling in our volunteer ranks is as sensational as this season's snowfall! Our volunteer numbers swelled from just over 100 in the spring of 2008 (when we temporarily suspended operations) to almost 700 by the end of January, 2009. Our volunteers come from various life stages and occupations. They learn of us from a variety of sources, including their home of worship.

### **91 MEALS PREPARED AND SERVED**

This growth represents an energy, excitement, enthusiasm, and eagerness to serve those who are without any other warm place to be. The FVWS

volunteers have given over 1000 hours to the guests at FVWS during the past three months. This does not include the cumulative hours given by volunteers who generously prepared 91 meals in their homes, delivered them, and in many cases, stayed to serve them. The volunteers express a certain shock at their newly found awareness of this need in our community.

### **TOO MANY VOLUNTEERS?**

Since the shelter's slow re-opening on November 2, 2008, we have been warmly welcomed by more than 17 different parishes/congregations. In each weekly setting, the number of congregants willing to give of their time and talent often exceeds the number of volunteer opportunities for any given week. It is encouraging to know that volunteers are willing to serve in any setting and are flexible within their personal commitments to serve as needed and when needed.

The FVWS Board of Directors, along with each guest who has spent one or many nights, are very deeply grateful to all FVWS volunteers, the lifeblood of the operation!

~ Therese Janssen

Director of Volunteers

*\*Note that St. Joseph Parish graciously hosted our initial trimester (Feb. 1 to Apr. 30, 2008). Parishioners generously provided both the space and the majority of the volunteers for our fledgling endeavors.*

### **United Way awards FVWS grant**

United Way Fox Cities has awarded the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. a grant of \$20,000 to help with some of the expenses for the four salaried positions within FVWS, Inc. Thank you from the Board of Directors, the staff, the volunteers and all the clients.



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Appleton, WI 54912-1261

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FVWS@new.rr.com  
www.foxvalleywarmingshelter.org

## Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc., is most grateful for generous donations/grants from the following organizations

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|--|---|--|
| Appleton Noon Lions Club                       | N. E. W. Printing                             | St. Mary Catholic 5/6th Grade Religious Education—Appleton |
| Appleton United Girls HS Hockey Team           | Neenah/Menasha Elks Ladies                    | St. Patrick’s Bookstore, Inc.                              |
| Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region | Presto Products Company                       | St. Pius X Catholic Congregation                           |
| Competitive Strategies Inc.                    | Quad Graphics                                 | St. Vincent De Paul - Appleton                             |
| First Presbyterian Church - Neenah             | Schmerein Family Fund                         | St. Vincent De Paul - Neenah/Menasha                       |
| Fox Communities Credit Union                   | William and Barbara Schmidt Family Foundation | St. Vincent De Paul - New Holstein                         |
| Fox Valley Catholic Bible Study                | St. Bernadette Catholic Congregation          | Students, Sacred Heart Faith Formation                     |
| Goodwill Industries                            | St. Bernard Catholic Church - Special Fund    | Theda Care   |
| Grand Meridian                                 | St. Edward Religious Education                | Thrivent Financial for Lutherans                           |
| Immaculate Conception Church—DePere            | St. Francis X Fraternity SFO                  | UBS Financial Services Inc.                                |
| Kirby Vacuum - Appleton                        | St. Joseph M.S. Home School Assoc.            | United Way Fox Cities                                      |
| Knights of Columbus Nicolet Council 1838       | St. Joseph Catholic Congregation              |  |

**If we made a mistake ...**  
Please forgive us if we missed your organization’s name. It was either the result of an oversight or was not

processed by press time. If you will kindly email us at FVWS@new.rr.com, we will make every effort to include your name in the next newsletter. We

could not operate without all your generous donations.

**THANK YOU !!**