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"St. Vincent de Paul Society of Appleton, Inc. has been pleased to partner with Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. for the last year. For us, it is an important step to increase awareness about our mission and to remind the community that we are more than a store."

Andrew Wilson SVdP
Executive Director,
www.
svdpappleton.org

FVWS grateful for Stoegbauer's leadership

In early April Don Stoegbauer was diagnosed with a brain tumor that required extended hospitalization.

Don has been a pillar of the social justice community in our area for a many years. He was one of the founders of the warming shelter; and as president of FVWS, he had an amazing amount of energy and cracked a joke and a smile whenever things got difficult.

A couple of years ago, he and a small group of concerned citizens became aware that the Salvation Army planned to discontinue operating their homeless shelter. Don formed a group to try to fill the void, and that was the origin of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. We have now operated the shelter for two seasons, and thanks to Don and his friends, the organization is going strong.



President Emeritus and
Founder Don Stoegbauer

He was also one of the founders of Community Outreach Temporary Services (C.O.T.S.) ten years ago, and has been serving on that Board of Directors as vice-president.

He has demonstrated for peace both locally with the Fox Valley Peace Coalition and many times travelled to Georgia to protest at the School of the Americas. Many people know Don from his participation at Monday and Friday Bible study groups.

Don has also served as a member of ESTHER, Circles of Support of Ex-Felons, Interfaith Coalition against Violence, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and as coordinator of Meal Ministry for the Homeless

Don has enjoyed receiving cards from friends and family. Please join us in keeping Don and Carol in your prayers.

~ Bill Guilbeault

FVWS finds location for permanent shelter

FVWS has found a location and is exploring options to build a permanent home for the shelter on land to be leased from St. Vincent de Paul Society of Appleton, Inc. (SVdP) behind their store, located at 1924 W. College in Appleton.

"We are very grateful to SVdP, which is a wonderful partner and is supporting us in many ways," states Bill Guilbeault, newly elected board president of FVWS.

"The building committee has been meeting with contractors and hopes to move forward on this within the next year", reports Gary Crevier, vice-president and committee chair.

Don Stoegbauer, president emeritus and founder, has envisioned a permanent home for

FVWS from its inception in July 2007. Over the past two years he has led an intensive search for an acceptable permanent location, with no results. The present offer from St. Vincent de Paul Society of Appleton, Inc. to lease land for a building brings a very exciting conclusion to the permanent location search.

"By offering space on our land for such a wonderful program as the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc., we will be constantly reminded of our purpose and what it is we are striving to achieve in the Appleton area. With this collaboration, we can join together in this fight against poverty," says Andrew Wilson, SVdP Executive Director.

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FOX VALLEY WARMING SHELTER INC.

Board of Directors

President Emeritus
and Founder
Don Stoegbauer

President
William Guilbeault

Vice-President
Gary Crevier

Secretary
Carol Stoegbauer

Treasurer
Peter Bekkers

Volunteer
Coordinator
Therese Janssen

Carol Burns
Lee Davis
Penny Robinson
Miles Sutter



New volunteer
model emerges at
churches.
Volunteers take
ownership.



Warming Works is published 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 Thank you.

~ Penny Robinson
Editor

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FVWS finds location

The initial opening of FVWS was at St. Joseph Church from February through April, 2008, at the invitation of Fr. Larry Abler and his parish council. Unable to find a suitable permanent location by November, 2008, the board decided to operate a rotating shelter during November, 2008, through April, 2009.

"We are immensely grateful for all our churches opening their doors, or lacking space, providing volunteers in partnership with hosting churches, to assist with feeding and sheltering our clients," says Carol Burns, board member and liaison to churches. "In fact, we have churches already scheduled for 25 of the 30 weeks of the coming 2009-2010 season."

"The rotating warming shelter is a learning experience for the clients and the staff, but primarily for the corps of valiant volunteers who give generously of their time, compassion, and culinary delights," says Therese Janssen, board member and volunteer coordinator.

A permanent location will allow FVWS to extend the hours of service. Opening before 9:00 PM will provide an earlier time to eat the evening meal and get protection from the cold, as will extending the 8:00 AM closing time on frigid



St. Vincent de Paul to lease land behind their store for FVWS permanent location

mornings before other facilities open. On-site shower and laundry facilities will also assist us in carrying out the heart of our mission—to treat each person with respect and dignity.

~ Penny Robinson and Therese Janssen

All donations may be made out to FVWS, Inc, and mailed to the following address:

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

Valiant Volunteers of FVWS Inc. **F**aithful, **V**alued, **W**elcoming, **S**hining Stars Culling the past—Creating the future

Over the first 12 months of FVWS Inc. operations, our volunteer ranks have grown exponentially, not only in numbers, but of equal importance, in commitment, in experience, and in empathy.

The final months of the 2008-2009 cold season saw a dramatic increase in *ownership* on the part of volunteers at a number of sites. This voluntary *ownership* of the mission of FVWS Inc. for a given week expressed itself in different ways at different venues, but it involved taking responsibility for recruiting and/or scheduling volunteers for the assigned week.

Most often, the persons who came forward to assume this responsibility were involved in some way with the social concerns committee of the hosting parish/congregation. At several locations, the recruiter/scheduler also took on the task to meet with the volunteer food providers and servers when they came to work

between 8:00 PM—10:00 PM each night.

Because this model was so well received and successful, we are planning to implement it throughout the 30 weeks of operation during the up-coming cold season: October 2009 through April, 2010. Congregations and parishes have already committed their facilities to the majority of these weeks.

We are in need of a volunteer or two from each site to coordinate the volunteer activities during the week of hosting FVWS, Inc.

Thank you in advance for your generous gift of time. I look forward to working with you and providing you with appropriate lists, guidelines, and suggestions as well as answering questions.

I can be reached at 739-8692.

~ Therese Janssen
Volunteer Coordinator

From the President

FVWS Inc. moves ahead with new leadership

For those of you who may not be aware, Don Stoegbauer recently had surgery for a brain tumor. (See article: *FVWS grateful for Stoegbauer's leadership*, page 1.) Due to his extended recovery, he is prevented from functioning as president of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc.

In accordance with our By-Laws, the board elected me as president of the FVWS Board of Directors. I am honored by this election and, at the same time, awed by the responsibility. Gary Crevier was voted in as vice-president.

Thanks to Don and his friends, the organization is going strong. We will continue to build on that momentum. Currently we are working hard to create a permanent home for the shelter, which Don has envisioned from the beginning.

After looking for over a year and not finding a suitable structure for sale that could be inexpensively remodeled and located in an acceptable area, we are now exploring options to build. We hope to move forward on this within the next year.

~ Bill Guilbeault

From the Executive Director

FVWS shelters 140 during 2008-2009 season

Reflecting upon the Fox Valley Warming Shelter's (FVWS) previous season, I feel a sense of profound gratitude to all those volunteers and churches that made the operation a success. With no permanent shelter, minimal funds and winter fast approaching last November, we trusted that our mission was being guided on its proper course.

Out this dilemma, a sanctuary was created at Fox Valley churches for 140 different individuals, including 22 women. This amounted to a total of almost 2400 shelter nights, (each person X number of nights) from November 1, 2008 through May 3, 2009.

We were successful in transitioning over 40 % of our clients into more permanent housing situations. Clients included 111 Caucasian, 21 African American, four Native American, and four Other/Multi racial. For those who self reported,

46 suffered from mental illness, and 35 reported a physical disability. In addition, 46 also reported that they were struggling with an addiction. (Some may have more than one disability).

Many I frequently see downtown in Appleton, and I try to encourage them to maintain stability in their lives. Every one of them offers heartfelt thanks for rescuing them from one of Appleton's most brutal winters.

As the executive director, I have not stopped thinking about ways and means of providing even better services next season. My goal is for all members of our community to be living in a safe and secure environment this coming winter. There is no reason for a member of our community to go without adequate shelter during the long, cold winter months. With your continued support we will achieve this goal.

~ Brad Vivoda

A heartfelt *thank you* to supporting congregations

Having reached the end of the 08-09 FVWS season as of May 3, we look ahead to the next; and the next season could not come to fruition with the support we continue to receive from our valley congregations. The gratitude we have in our hearts for each church in no way expresses the gratitude spoken by those who have benefitted from your kindness.

Some of the guests you housed spoke to me about how appreciative they are to the churches for providing them a safe, warm, clean haven each night. They spoke about how grateful they are to all the volunteers who gave of their time to

prepare and serve the meals, as well as to those who worked the night shifts.

Each of you has contributed to the growth of the shelter, as you have cared for the poorest among us. You have looked upon these strangers and welcomed them; you have given them the comfort of a warm, clean room. You have fed them wonderful meals. Some of you spent time speaking with them and giving counsel. You are each

living the tenets of the gospel message. Did you see Jesus when you looked into their eyes? Did you see His sore feet in those that you served?

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is now active on five continents, in 135 countries. There are more than 750,000 members, or Vincentians.



OUR CHURCHES

APPLETON:

All Saints Episcopal
1st Congregational UCC
Emmanuel Methodist
First English Lutheran
Memorial Presbyterian
Sacred Heart
St. Bernadette
St. Bernard
St. Joseph
St. Mary
St. Pius X
St. Therese
St. Thomas More
Trinity Lutheran
Zion Lutheran

COMBINED LOCKS:

St. Paul

KAUKAUNA

Holy Cross
St. Katharine Drexel

KIMBERLY

Holy Spirit

MENASHA:

St. John
St. Mary
St. Patrick

NEENAH:

St. Gabriel

920-277-1968
FVWS@new.rr.com
www.foxvalleywarmingshelter.org

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Thank you to all our wonderful congregations

As we look ahead to the future, to raising money for a permanent building and eventually having a home for the homeless, we again look to you. We look to you for your prayers and support, and we look to you for your continued enthusiasm to serve. For it is only with the warm hearts of the volunteers that we are privileged to provide a warm haven of support to those in need.

The next season begins on Sunday, October 4, and runs through the end of April, 2010. Existing congregations have already committed to fill 25

of the 30 available weeks. This gives us the opportunity to invite new congregations to join in this outreach. At press time, we were speaking with five new churches who are enthusiastic about learning more about the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. Thank you to all for saying YES.....

"Whatever you do to the least of these brothers [and sisters] of mine, you do for me." (Mt 25:40).

~ Carol Burns

Strategic planning: focus on mission, philosophy, goals

For four weeks the Board of Directors and Executive Director focused, with the help of the U.W. Fox Valley Office of Continuing Education, on our first formal attempt at strategic planning. Facilitated by Dan Anhalt, (director of Training and Business Development, U.W. West Bend) we specifically identified such factors as our internal/external stakeholders, various mandates; mission, vision, goals and philosophy; as well as a plan for prioritizing our goals and of course, a process for self-evaluation.

MISSION: Out of this process emerged a simpler statement of our mission: **"Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Inc. seeks to provide overnight temporary shelter to homeless adult men and women."**

PHILOSOPHY: Our mission is based in part on the philosophy that all human beings have the right to meet their basic human needs for food, clothing and shelter.

Another tenet of our philosophy is that each person should be treated with respect and dignity. In fact, **human dignity** is at the heart of our mission. We also believe the presence of God dwells in each person.

Sheltering our clients in the Fox Valley churches is an eye-opening experience. It helps us realize that this is part of what being church is about—relating to God by recognizing God's presence in others and helping those in need.

GOALS: A permanent building would allow us to extend our hours and services, such as on-site shower and laundry facilities. That is why we will be asking our donors, our volunteers, in fact, all of our stakeholders and the community at large to help us raise the funds to build a shelter designed with the homeless in mind. This will enable us to more easily carry out the heart of our mission—treating each person with respect and dignity.

~ Penny Robinson



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



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 human being.