

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

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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

Shelter stays open all year More volunteers needed for summer

For the first time in its four-year history, the Fox Valley Warming Shelter is not closing for the summer, but is now operating a full 12 months. This, of course, requires more financial resources and especially more volunteers.

As a rotating shelter, most of the volunteers came from the churches. Today we are also recruiting from businesses, civic organizations and other groups.

As the warming shelter's volunteer coordinator, I often get asked two questions:

- ◆ "What do volunteers do at your shelter?" and
- ◆ "What are the shelter's greatest needs this summer?"

Volunteer tasks mainly include **preparing and/or serving meals, washing clothes, sorting in-kind donations, packing lunches, and watching over our clients while they sleep.**

However, I feel this list does not do justice to the role our volunteers truly fill. To a casual observer, these tasks may appear minimal, but in reality they are anything but. The lives of the men and women who stay with us are in crisis, and by washing their clothes, making sandwiches early in the morning, or watching over them as they sleep, our volunteers

play a significant part in helping restore their lives.

Alice Strom says it best: "Volunteers polish up the rough spots in our communities." Those who find themselves in a homeless situation may appear a little rough; and volunteers who share their time and presence, and show that they care, make this community a more beautiful place.

Regarding the second question, our greatest needs this summer are **evening meals, breakfast helpers, receptionists and assistance with our overnight hospitality. Whereas an evening meal requires three to five people to provide and serve a simple, balanced homemade supper, our Hospitality Team members fill one of our nightly four-hour shifts.** From a casual perspective, these may appear to be unwarranted during our warm evenings, but to those who stay with us, an evening meal and a safe, secure place to lay their heads reassure them that we care, even during summer.

In addition to church groups, we are recruiting businesses, civic organizations, and individuals. Groups or individuals can volunteer one evening or any part of a week. For more information, please call Volunteer Coordinator Eric Butters. at 920-419-0928.

~ Eric Butters



Benjamin Ritschel, St. Joseph Parish, hands Brad Vivoda \$182.00, all of his birthday money, which he requested instead of toys. He turned eight June 4.

The number of clients served increased 35% during the recent seven months over the previous season. See page 3.

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WARMING
SHELTER INC.**

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Volunteering feeds her soul and renews her spirit

I began volunteering at FVWS when its home was at St. Joseph Parish in Appleton, and I continue to volunteer at the shelter's new location behind the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store on West College Avenue. I find volunteering at the shelter feeds my soul and renews my spirit.



Volunteer
Annette Hovie

I volunteer when a shift is not filled or someone forgets to show up. The shifts are four hours in length. My duties range from serving meals,

kitchen clean up, to laundry duty. However, my favorite time is visiting one-on-one or in a group setting with the guests who are staying for the night. Together, we've played cards, watched movies, shared stories, found laughter and even shed a few tears.

When I leave, I take with me a part of each one of the guests, and I say a prayer for them to find peace, shelter and strength. I also thank God for all I am blessed with and that God graced me with new friends for the day. I understand why it is called the warming shelter, because when I leave, my heart is always warmed.

~ Annette Hovie

UPDATE on One Day at a Time program

To help meet the basic needs of the homeless, the shelter spends approximately \$600 a day to provide heat, lights, insurance, transportation, gas, maintenance, supplies and a minimum of paid staff.

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

The response from individuals, churches, civic groups, businesses and foundations to support daily operations has been terrific. Over \$40,000 in donations has been received for this program,

providing for over two months of shelter operations. A copper tree has been mounted to the wall in the shelter to recognize donors, with engraved leaves as indicated.

A group of individuals may even jointly donate to sponsor a day for \$600. In addition to mailing, donations may be made online at www.foxvalleywarmingshelter.org (donate tab). For more information, call Brad at 277-1968. Thank you for all your help.

~ Tom Jadin

Goodwill collaboration helps clients with jobs

Earlier this year staff from FVWS referred Chuck Klitzke to Goodwill Industries NCW. He was interested in working in the Goodwill program collaboration with the warming shelter that had been developed late last year.

Goodwill quickly noticed that Chuck had a great deal of potential, and he was eager and willing to work all shifts. Goodwill even provided him a \$25 gift certificate to buy some necessary work clothes. Chuck did a wonderful job and was subsequently hired by the Grand Chute Goodwill Retail Store and Training Center.

The program was developed after a meeting of Brad Vivoda, FVWS; Joe Thibodeau, Community Development Coordinator, Goodwill; and Keith Wilk, Goodwill's Chief Operating Officer of Programs and Services.

The concept is a simple one. Offering meaningful paid work experience to individuals from the warming shelter, the program allows them to

learn the skills and behaviors necessary for competitive employment. They also earn a paycheck to assist with obtaining other housing.

During the eight-week program, participants work in Goodwill's retail stores and training centers throughout the Fox Valley. They learn the importance of punctuality and reliability as well as appropriate customer service skills and more specific job skills related to the retail environment.

They also may use Goodwill as a reference for future employment. It is also possible for them to be hired by Goodwill after the eight-week program is completed. That is exactly what

happened with Chuck. This is truly a win-win situation for all involved. Congratulations Chuck and welcome to Goodwill! We are pleased to have you as a team member.

~ Joe Thibodeau, Work Services Team Leader
Goodwill Industries NCW



Chuck Klitzke

From the executive director

Client numbers increase over last season

As the executive director, I compile the statistics for the warming shelter. I was surprised, though, with the numbers for the first seven months of shelter operations for this season. Last season (Oct 2009 to May 2010) we served 212 clients, for a total of 4,131 shelter nights during those seven months. During the first seven months of this season (October 2010 to May 1st) we served 280 clients, for 6,298 shelter nights. That's a 48% increase in shelter nights and 35% increase in clients served.

For the first time, we are open year-around and expect to have a very busy summer. The number of homeless in the Fox Valley traditionally is greater in the summer than in the winter months, which is one of the reasons we agreed

to become a year-around shelter.

With the help of fellow agencies that we collaborate with, clients are spending fewer days in shelter. Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin, The Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley (ESFV), ESFV Outreach Workers, State of Wisconsin FoodShare and FSET programs have been especially helpful.

ON ANOTHER NOTE

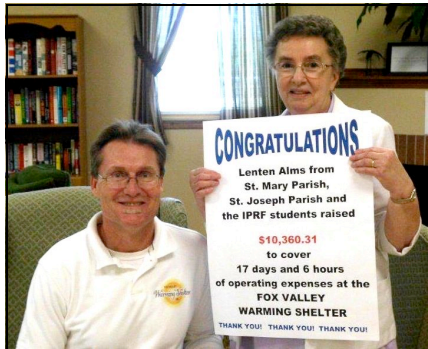
The men's group from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Seymour blessed us with two round picnic tables this spring. The project was headed by Gary Kostrzak, an old friend. Thank you Emmanuel Lutheran! We could use some volunteers to stain them.

~ Brad Vivoda

Two churches focus on homeless awareness

During Lent St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishes in Appleton focused on homeless awareness. Working with Sr. Joanne Goessel, Pastoral Associate, several volunteers spoke on why someone might be homeless, about their limited possessions, and how their day might be spent.

The comments and responses from everyone



Sr. Joanne Goessel delivers to Brad Vivoda Lenten donation from St. Mary and St. Joseph parishes.

were incredible. One eight-year-old boy asked for birthday gifts of money so he could take it to the shelter and donate it to the homeless.

In just a couple of months, the two parishes and the religious formation classes raised \$10,960 to provide over 18 days of shelter operations.

Unbelievable!

~ Tom Jadin

Volunteers help transform shelter kitchen

Volunteers will soon have the option of bringing in prepared meals or bringing the ingredients and cooking in our new kitchen.

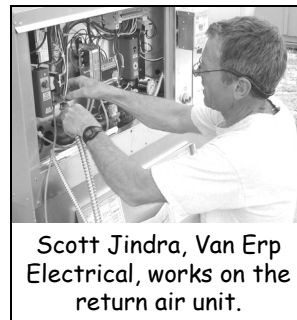
At press time, the major part of the kitchen transformation is well on its way. A dishwasher, six-burner gas stove with appropriate hood, stainless steel center prep table, updated refrigerator and freezer are all part of our new kitchen. Of particular significance is the dishwasher which will allow us to become a "greener" shelter, with no more Styrofoam or plastic cups and utensils going into our landfill.

We are grateful for the donated services of Van Erp Electrical, through the United Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; and Bassett Mechanical, through Local 400 Plumbing and Pipe Fitters. It is

that kind of generosity that has always been so much a part of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter's short history. A special thank you to all who have contributed to making this kitchen become a reality.

With this upgrade from a warming kitchen to a commercial kitchen, volunteers will now be able to provide a meal for our clients with the option of either bringing in the meal already prepared or bringing in the ingredients and cooking it here on site.

~ Gary Crevier



Scott Jindra, Van Erp Electrical, works on the return air unit.

CHURCHES INVOLVED

APPLETON:

All Saints Episcopal
Appleton Alliance
Appleton Gospel
Emmanuel United Methodist
Faith Lutheran
First Congregational UCC
First English Lutheran
First United Methodist
Grace Lutheran ELCA
Memorial Presbyterian
Pathways Church
Sacred Heart
St. Bernadette
St. Bernard
St. John UCC
St. Joseph
St. Mary
St. Pius X
St. Therese
St. Thomas More
Trinity Lutheran
Zion Lutheran

COMBINED LOCKS:

St. Paul

GREENVILLE:

Christus Lutheran

KAUKAUNA

Holy Cross
St. Katharine Drexel

KIMBERLY

Holy Spirit

MENASHA:

Christ the Rock
St. John the Baptist
St. Mary
St. Patrick

NEENAH:

Calvary Bible
St. Gabriel
St. Margaret Mary

SEYMOUR:

Emmanuel Lutheran
St. John the Baptist
United Methodist

"Volunteers polish up the rough spots in our communities"
~ Alice Strom



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Need a speaker?

FVWS staff and board members are working on a speakers' bureau for such topics as the following:

- ◆ **Why a person might be homeless**
- ◆ **What is it like to be homeless?**



If you need a speaker for your next event, call Brad Vivoda at 290-419-0928 to set something up.