

Providing homes, hope, and healing to Madison's homeless neighbors with mental illness



WINTER 2016

HOUSING INITIATIVES



Paul and Julie are two of the first people we've assisted through our new project, *A Place To Call Home*. We launched this project to permanently end homelessness for our veterans like Paul.

"We had it all. Jobs, a home, a life."

But as Paul and Julie prove, homelessness can happen to anyone.

Paul and Julie both worked for 30 years, and unfortunately, they both lost their jobs at the same time. Paul, a Vietnam War veteran who still struggles with PTSD, could no longer

Continued, page 2

Housing Initiatives will house 50 more homeless neighbors over the next year

housinginitiatives.org



1110 Ruskin St. Madison, WI 53704

Mark your calendar!



Conference to Create 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

March 8-9

9am - 5pm

Lakeview Lutheran Church (4001 Mandrake Rd.)

Community Feedback Session on

10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

March 11

8:30 - 10:30am

The Villager Community Room (2300 S. Park St.)

RSVP for both events: swallinger@cityofmadison.com

Pizza and a Movie

Join Housing Initiatives for pizza and Richard Gere's amazing perfor-

mance as a homeless man struggling with mental illness in *Time Out*

of Mind. Many thanks to Roman Candle for providing tasty pizza!

March 30

6pm

Central Library (201 W. Mifflin St.)

RSVP is not required but appreciated online at

www.housinginitiatives.org or rawhite@housinginitiatives.org

Housing Initiatives Golf Outing

July 10

12pm

Bridges Golf Course (2702 Shopko Dr.)

For more info: tcastenada@housinginitiatives.org

Housing Initiatives will house 50 more homeless neighbors over the next year

Continued from page 1

physically do his life's work as a furniture mover. They were evicted from their home of 18 years. Over a year later, Julie finally found a part-time job, but it wasn't nearly enough to pay for rent. After 5 years living on the street (and under a local park bridge), Housing Initiatives moved Paul and Julie into an apartment home.

"The thing I missed most was a hot meal. We ate mostly out of cans for nearly 5 years. We are so grateful for our home. I've been cooking up a storm," says Julie.

Permanently ending veteran homelessness is much easier than you may think. Today in Madison, there are around 100 veterans living on the streets, many struggling with PTSD and other mental illness. Over 75% of these vets have a federal subsidy to pay for their rent, yet they remain homeless because they can't find an affordable apartment in our community. They deserve better. ❖



"The thing I missed most was a hot meal. We ate mostly out of cans for nearly 5 years.

We are so grateful for our home. I've been cooking up a storm!"

- Julie



Many veterans describe homelessness as being lost in a dark tunnel that they can't find their way out of

Housing Initiatives currently houses 45 formerly homeless veterans. Through *A Place To Call Home* we're raising \$3,000,000 in private and public support to house an additional 50 veterans and other homeless neighbors over the next year. This project enables us to permanently end homelessness for at least 40 to 45% of vets living on the streets.

We're making progress housing our vets! In 2015, we raised \$1.1 million from the city and county to purchase 4 buildings

that will provide desperately needed affordable housing to 22 more homeless neighbors.

Too many of our neighbors are sick, without hope, and have no one to turn to. With your help, we can provide the housing needed to guide them out of the dark tunnel toward healthier, more stable lives. Please consider giving the gift of a home to those most vulnerable in our community. ❖



Housing Initiatives

1110 Ruskin St.
Madison, WI 53704

(608) 277-8330

housinginitiatives.org

Visit www.housinginitiatives.org to give.

100% of your donation will go towards *A Place To Call Home* project.

Left to right: Ron Arm, Steve Acheson, and Dean Loumos



Veggies for Vets provides our clients with healthy, local CSA Shares

Housing Initiatives is proud to partner with Veggies for Vets, a local Warrior Songs initiative that raises resources to connect area veterans and their families to locally grown, organic produce.

Veggies for Vets provides weekly CSA (community supported agriculture) food shares through a partnership with Peacefully Organic Produce and CSA, a local farm co-owned by Steve Acheson, an Iraq War veteran. Peacefully Organic Produce aims to provide a peaceful place for veterans to return home, learn about organic agriculture, and build a stronger base of support around local food.

Thanks to Veggie for Vets and Peacefully Organic Produce, Housing Initiatives is receiving CSA shares this spring for delivery to four of our veteran clients.

“We already know Housing Initiatives is providing housing to vets working on recovery. We know they can help us connect with the vets in most need,” says Ron Arm, Veggie For Vets coordinator.

“This is an excellent opportunity to help some of our newly housed vets who are struggling with their physical and emotional recovery. Not only will the CSA’s provide important nourishment, but connecting these vets with Peacefully Organic is a chance for them to visit the farm, meet other vets, and get introduced to an important support system,” says Tony Castenada, Housing Initiatives Property Manager. ❖

A huge thank you to Veggie for Vets and Peacefully Organic Produce for their support of Housing Initiatives’ and our community’s veterans!

Supportive Partner

“Journey Mental Health Center has worked closely with Housing Initiatives for two decades to bring supportive housing to individuals with complex behavioral health problems. During that time, we’ve seen numerous lives altered for the better because of Housing Initiatives’ common sense, client focused approach to addressing homelessness.”

William Greer
President & CEO, Journey Mental Health Center, Inc.



Thank you community heroes!

We are grateful for the community leaders who believe in Housing Initiatives and provided the first foundational gifts of our our *Place To Call Home* project:

Alliant Energy Foundation

Apartment Association of South Central Wisconsin

Dr. Bob Beilman

Mary Botham

Lau and Bea Christensen

Dona Childs

Aubrey Fowler

Ed Gleason

Duncan Highsmith and Ana Araujo

Martin Glass

Mary and Scott Kolar

Dr. Ken & Leslie Kudsk

Madison Gas & Electric

Madison Homebrewers & Tasters Guild

Dr. Kathy Nichol

Bill Perkins

Chris Prestigiacomo

Paul Reckwerdt

Tom Ripple

Steve Brown Apartments

Steve and Kristine Vaughn



Wish List

Help us make our newly acquired apartments a home for someone in need! We need the following items:

Newer, efficient refrigerators

Newer, efficient stove/ovens

8x10 rugs in good condition

Odorless, nontoxic all purpose cleaning products

Email Amanda at

awhite@housinginitiatives.org

if you have an item(s) to donate.

We brought home 23 more homeless neighbors with mental illness in 2015

Because of the generosity of our supporters like Forward Community Investments, Home Savings Bank, BMO Harris, WHEDA, and members of the community, Housing Initiatives ended homelessness for 23 more people who were living on the streets with severe mental illness in 2015. Eight were veterans and five of them were living on the steps of the Madison Municipal Building over the summer.

Stan, pictured at right, was one of the people Housing Initiatives helped last year. We brought Stan in from a local men's homeless shelter.

Stan spent his adult years as a construction worker, but was let go after he developed severe arthritis and could no longer do manual labor. Unable to find another job, he became homeless. While living on the streets and struggling with both physical and mental illnesses, Stan learned his younger brother was murdered. With no help or support, he turned to drugs to numb his pain.

After being homeless for a few years, Stan knew he needed help. He went to a men's shelter and started going to church again.

"Every day that went by, I tried doing one positive thing no matter how big or small. At



night in the shelter, I would plan out my day on how I was going to do at least one thing to get my life back."

Last November, Housing Initiatives offered Stan a permanent, supportive home to continue his path to recovery. Stan has turned his life around. He's been drug-free for 15 months. He's now employed at the men's shelter where he stayed during his time on the streets. Most importantly, Stan is rebuilding a strong relationship with his daughter and grandchildren.

"I'm home now. People know me here. If I have a problem, I know I can go to Dean or Mike. With no hesitation they will run to help." ❖

Get connected with us!

Housing Initiatives is taking significant, bold steps in ending homelessness in Madison. Stay connected to our work and get updates on our progress!

Like us on Facebook! (search for Housing Initiatives)

Sign up for our monthly eUpdate at: <http://housinginitiatives.org/subscribe/>