



A PLACE FOR YOU

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA
220 3RD AVE SE PINE CITY, MN 55063

Homelessness: A Personal Perspective

From one of our residents as shared with Nina, APFY Staff

(In order to protect the privacy of the resident, we are using the name "Sally".

Sally is one of the homeless. She came to **A Place for You** one afternoon in tears having finally made the decision to leave her abusive husband after 31 years of marriage. It was a very tough day for her, as you can imagine. I asked Sally if she ever thought that one day she would find herself in a homeless situation. Her response was, "Never, ever. It was totally unexpected".

Within her previous life, Sally had often volunteered her time and talent to other homeless shelters. Asking her what has given her hope as a resident of **APFY**, she shared that the support of this place (APFY) and the support of her family have sustained her.

Sally said living in a homeless shelter has opened her eyes to the *variety of people* who are homeless. "It's also made me more independent and self-sufficient. It's made me more aware of the generosity of our small-town communities". Living in the Twin Cities,

Sally had never experienced that. "It's caused me to be more compassionate toward people in general. Now, when I look at people, I tend to wonder more about their lives".

Sally is 58 years old, a mother and a grandmother. She is compassionate, loving and giving. She loves her family. When she leaves the shelter, she plans to come back and volunteer her time at **APFY**.

The homeless are everyday people, from all walks of life, hard-working adults who have experienced a problem (s) in their lives that have thrown them off track temporarily. They are any age - and every age. In the 3 1/2 years since **A Place for You** has been open, the shelter received 951 calls for service from the "Sallys" in our 6 county area. We exist to be a blessing to these less fortunate. We exist to be **A Place for You**.

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.
Be kind. Always." ~Anonymous

It's Grilling Season!

Do you know about Mealtrain? It's a great way for people who like to cook to provide a home-cooked dinner for our residents.

Just go to www.mealtrain.com and search for "**A Place for You**". Choose the date that you would like to bring in a meal and enter the information on the calendar. It's that simple!

It's finally grilling season here in Minnesota, so maybe you'd like to bring in some grilled burgers or hotdogs and a salad to bless our residents with a great summer meal.



What's Happening
2016
Spring/Summer

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Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ *Don't miss our Upcoming Events*
- ◆ *You can Make a Difference:
⇒ Check out our Shelter Wish List*
- ◆ *Help spread the Word:
⇒ Become an APFY Story-teller*

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APFY in the Spotlight

By Katie Hartl

In March, Pastor Vicki Vandervegt and I, as representatives of **A Place for You**, were invited to be spotlighted on the Fox 9 Morning News. During the news segment, we were able to educate a broader audience about the opportunities at **A Place for You**.

We visited with host Tom Butler who was very welcoming and interested in our mission. We were able to speak about how we are different from a traditional shelter, explaining that we offer support including job searching, transportation, and case management services. We also allow our residents to use the shelter address on job applications. In the interview we were able to talk about what homelessness looks like, and that for many of our residents it is their first time being homeless, and not a chronic situation.

Tom asked us how we were funded, and we explained that federal grants cover less than half of our expenses. He was impressed by the support we have received from our community members. We also received some donations as a direct result of our exposure on the morning show.

All in all, it was a great experience for which we are very grateful. It really does take a community to keep our doors open and we thank all of you who continue to support us.



Shelter Wish List

Here is the current list of our most needed items. We also update this list on our website on the **"How Can I Help?"** page.



- Brother TN660 Toner Cartridge
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex
- All Purpose Cleaner
- Window Cleaner
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- Black Lawn & Leaf Bags



- Coffee
- Eggs
- Jam
- Non-Dairy Creamer
- Milk
- Sliced Cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal



Thank You!!!

A Place for You would like to thank Pizza Pub and Pizza Hut for providing free pizzas for our residents on a weekly/monthly basis.



We would also like to thank our area Churches; there are too many to name all of you, (but we want you to know you are appreciated) and Individual Donors for providing regular meals and making much needed financial and food donations.

Last, but not least, we'd like to thank our wonderful Volunteers, without whom we would not be able to do what we do. You are Appreciated!



Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendar

Mark your calendar and join us:

June 24:

Rush City Progressive Dinner

- 5:30pm Salad at St John's
- 6:15pm Pasta Dinner at First Lutheran
- 7:15pm Dessert at Sacred Heart

Proceeds will go to **APFY**.

Ticket information will be available soon on the "News and Events" page of our website.



July 16:

We will be at the **Pine City Art Fest**. Try one of our Walking Tacos while you are enjoying the music and visiting the arts and crafts vendors.

First week of August:

Restock the Pantry

APFY will be accepting freezer and non-perishable food items. THRIVENT FINANCIAL will be aiding in this endeavor with an additional \$250.

October 28:

Third Annual Giving Gala

More details will be posted on the "News and Events" page of our website.

We are Looking for Volunteers!

We are in need of Volunteer Drivers on occasion to help our residents get from point A to point B. Some of our residents have a personal vehicle and some do not, so there are times when our residents need transportation to a medical appointment or a ride to/from work.

If you'd like to help out, just come in and fill out a volunteer application so that we can get you started!

If you are 55 or older, you may be able to get reimbursed for your mileage through the RSVP program in Mora, MN.

To find out more, you can reach them at 320-679-1080.



We would also love to have Volunteers to assist residents looking for employment. Help is needed for resume writing, interview skills, and job application tips.

Call us at 320-438-7070 or email us at info@apfy.org

APFY Stories

By Vicki VanderVegt Outreach Coordinator

What's your favorite type of story: romance, history, biography or maybe an old-fashioned western? 2016 at **APFY** is the "Year of the Story". As the Outreach Coordinator it is my privilege to help **APFY** Board Members, friends and community members in our 6 county service area "tell the story" and "hear the story" of **A Place for You**.

We have 5 types of stories to tell:

The Nature of our Challenge Story:

This story describes the challenges that **APFY** encounters in its mission to encourage positive change in the lives of our clients. If we want those outside of **APFY** to understand what we're doing, we need to tell them a story about people, families, and the communities we serve, which illustrate the challenges.

The Creation Story:

This is the "how we started" story. It's primarily for those familiar with **APFY**, but everyone needs to know it. This story shares the who, what, why, and when of **APFY**'s beginning.

The Emblematic Success Story:

Are we having an impact? This story is the story that says "Yes" but also that **APFY** makes a difference in a particular way that's unique. How are we different?

The Values Story:

These are the stories through which **APFY** shows how it lives into its core values. Many organizations have the same set of core values - collaboration, integrity, respect, etc. - so to be unique we need to describe how **APFY** specifically lives into those values and expresses those values.

The Striving to Improve Story:

This story says, "sometimes we fall short, sometimes we outright fail, but we always learn from our mistakes and do better next time".

Telling our story to others helps to build and sustain meaningful relationships, which in turn is foundational for long-term financial health. I invite you to join me in becoming an **APFY** storyteller this year!



A Place for You

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**Find us online:
www.APFY.org**

*Addressing Homelessness in East
Central Minnesota*



Mailing Label Here
Name
Address
City, State Zip

Thank you for your support of APFY—we could not do it without you!

YES! I want to support APFY with a gift of:

- Surprise us! \$_____ \$1000 \$750 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50
 One Time - OR - Sustaining Contribution (\$5/mo. Minimum)*
 Enclosed is my check

To donate by credit card, please use the **GiveMN.org** link on our home page at **www.apfy.org**

- Please make my donation anonymous.

A Place for You is a 501(c)3 organization. Your gift is tax-deductible.

DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- Add me to your enewsletter list
 Send me information on how to include APFY in my will

Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program

This gift is given:

- In Honor of In Memory of

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please include full address of honoree if you would like them to be notified of your gift

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Your Giving Simplified: Make a Recurring Gift!

- You are in control - you can change or stop your payments at any time.
- We will not solicit you for annual giving during your giving period. However, to keep you informed, we will send you our newsletter
- You get an annual summary of your gifts at tax time.
- Budget friendly saving you time and money. No checks to write or postage to buy.
- Your sustaining gift provides a dependable source of funding while reducing costs.