



A PLACE FOR YOU

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

Let's Change the World Together

A message from our Executive Director, Linda Thomson

How many people does it take to change the world? We all want changes in our lives and the lives of others. We want the political climate to change, we want to be healthier, we want crime in the streets to stop. I would say that each of us has a responsibility to change the world and changing the world happens one person at a time.

Since January 2017, we have already served 51 individuals. Our success rate for people moving into housing is at 49%. Statistically we have done better this year than in the past. Each year we are adding additional services and are increasing the skill set of employees to better meet the needs of the people we serve.

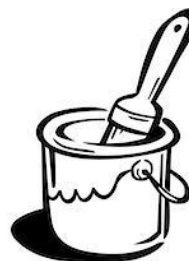
Looking forward I see us increasing services and the number of people we serve. We turn people away far too often due to all our beds being full. My vision is to use the space we have for storage to eventually add additional beds. We currently and in the future will continue to serve people who are leaving hospitals and are in crisis of

one kind or another. I see us having additional professional staff to assist the residents with the multiple barriers they are facing to better meet the unique needs of the individual.

I implore you to be a change agent and one person at a time we can make a difference. You can make a difference in the lives of others just by donating some time, money, household items, food, or skills. No one person can change the whole world themselves, but you can change the world for one person.

On a personal note, you may have noticed in the heading of this article that my last name has changed. I was recently married. My email address will soon be changed to lthomson@apfy.org.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." ~Gandhi



What's New at APFY?

It is amazing how time seems to fly by so fast. So much is happening at the shelter and we are really excited to share what is going on. We have had changes with the building, residents, staff and fundraising.

Staffing has been stable and we have had ongoing training. Topics include mental health, communication, and customer service. The employees seem

to be enjoying learning new skills and are really growing as a team. I am proud and grateful for the work they do.

Staff, volunteers and residents have worked hard to paint and organize the inside of the building. Most common areas and some resident rooms have a fresh coat of paint. Some new decorations have been donated and the shelter really looks great.

What's Happening 2017 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*
- ◆ *APFY Changes Lives:
⇒ Beyond our Residents*

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APFY Changes Lives Beyond those of our Residents

By Case Management Aid, Cindi Nybeck

My name is Cindi. I would like to tell you about A Place for You homeless shelter in Pine City, MN. APFY opened its doors in November of 2012. We are a 10 bed homeless shelter with beds for 5 men and 5 women. At that time the shelter was staffed mostly by volunteers. I started volunteering on November 26, 2013 at the front desk. At that time we had a total of 3 employees that worked the 3-11pm shift, overnights, and weekends. Day time shifts were still covered by volunteers. Today we have 10 employees who cover shifts around the clock 7 days per week.

My plan when I started was to come in to the shelter about once a week and get myself out of the house. That is not at all what happened. Once I started, I was hooked. I was here 3 or 4 days a week and loving it. I became an employee and I have never once looked back. I can honestly say that A Place for You has changed my life, and in some ways saved my life. The wonderful people I have had the honor of meeting and working with, to change the way their lives were heading, leaves me in awe at times. They work so hard to get back on their feet. To be a part of

the solution in people's lives is a feeling I can't explain. To watch someone come into the shelter scared and alone, who can barely come out of their room - to be able to come out, laugh, spend time with others, find a job, maybe a car, and a place to live in 90 days is no small accomplishment. Yet it has been done many times over.

I am proud and excited to be a part of such a wonderful place. I wish more than anything people would look at

homelessness in a new way. Things happen sometimes in life that are totally out of our control and could land anyone in this situation. A house fire, medical bills, and the loss of a job are a few examples. If you have no family to help you, what do you do? You never know if the person in line next to you in the store is homeless, you can't look at someone and pick them out. I don't think anyone grows up thinking I'm going to be homeless when I grow up.



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.



- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex
- All Purpose Cleaner
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- Coffee
- Eggs
- Non-Dairy Creamer
- Milk
- Baked beans
- Peanut Butter
- Sugar
- Hair conditioner
- Tampons
- Oil/Shortening
- Canned tuna

Thank You!!!

A Place for You would like to thank TSA for providing supervision for Linda's social work license.



We are grateful to the following organizations who have supported us with grants for shelter projects and operations:

East Central Energy, Open your Hearts to the Hungry and Homeless, GPAE, United Way, Sonshine, Salvation Army, FEMA

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 Event: Mark your Calendar

Fourth Annual Giving Gala

This event will be held October 13th at Grand Casino in Hinckley.

The gala committee chaired by Becky Hallan and Anna Reiser, is busy planning for the raffle, live and silent auctions.

Raffle tickets will be available from board members and shelter staff. Tickets are \$5 each and prizes include a modern patterned quilt from the Sew Sisters, package of assorted meats, and a gift certificate to an area winery.

Gala invitations will be available in mid-August.

Proceeds from the gala and the raffle benefit the shelter operating expenses. Last year \$31,000 was raised toward the shelter's 2017 budget.



We are Looking for Volunteer Drivers!

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.

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

Caring Goes Beyond our Walls

By staff member Nina Neidenfuer

A Place for You cares for and provides shelter and basic needs to those who find themselves in need of a hand up. I think most of you probably know what we do here. We not only provide a temporary home for up to 10 people at a time, but we also help them with very practical concerns, securing needed documents, getting the medical services they need, picking up needed medications and locating housing and/or employment opportunities.

But, it doesn't stop there. We also help the people of our community; those outside the shelter.

* We received a call one day from an occupational therapist asking if we had a mattress for a patient of hers. She had had major back surgery and was in need of a better mattress. We happened to have one in our back storage room and we were not only able to provide

her with a bed, but one of our volunteers delivered it to her home as well. We are grateful for wonderful volunteers!

* There was a woman who had just completed a treatment program, been released from the center, moved into her apartment but had no furniture. We were able to help her furnish her home with some needed pieces.

* When a person calls us asking what resources may be available to them, we provide phone numbers and information on organizations that might be able to help them.

* We also provide opportunities for volunteer work for people who need to complete community service requirements.

* We sometimes have people walk in off the street who don't need shelter, but

are hungry or in need of some toiletry items. We give them food and the basic supplies they need if we have them available at no charge.

* As you know, we can only give out what we have, so we appreciate your continued support of the work we do here in our little community of Pine City, MN. Together, we make the world a better place!

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For indeed, that's all who ever have."

~Margaret Mead

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

*Addressing Homelessness in East
Central Minnesota*



A PLACE FOR YOU

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.

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Phone _____ Email _____

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 Send me information on how to include APFY in my will

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Name: _____

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

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- 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.