



# A PLACE FOR YOU

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

## Introducing APFY's New Executive Director

**Linda Cassman** was appointed Executive Director of **APFY** effective February 1st, 2015.

Ms. Cassman earned her Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Minnesota. She has extensive human services experience in Pope, Wright, and Pine counties.

Ms. Cassman may be reached by email at: [lcassman@apfy.org](mailto:lcassman@apfy.org)

The board of **APFY** is confident that with Linda's commitment to and passion for the homeless, we have the right person to lead us in promoting our mission:

*A Place for You Transitional Shelter serves as a safe place for people in distress. We provide for basic needs and offer resources that give life-changing alternatives to residents while respecting the inherent goodness and dignity of each individual.*



## Like to Cook? Share a Favorite Meal.

We invite you to participate in **Meal Train**, a website that helps the shelter organize and schedule evening home-cooked meals for our residents.

Go to [www.mealtrain.com](http://www.mealtrain.com) and search for **A Place for You**. Our April and May calendars are now available.

Select a date and a meal and enter your information on the site. It's a nice way for "cooks" to share their talents, and it's a touch of home that's appreciated by the shelter residents.

*"When action meets compassion, lives change."* Author Unknown

## What's Happening 2015 Summer

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 2015

### Special Points of Interest:

- ♦ Don't miss our Upcoming Events
- ♦ You can Make a Difference:  
⇒ Check out our Volunteer Opportunities
- ♦ Doing some Spring Cleaning?  
⇒ We may want your gently used items

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## Wanted: Your Time and Talent

We need **VOLUNTEERS!**

There are many ways for you to become involved at **A Place for You**.

Opportunities include:

- Answering the phone at the reception desk
- Driving a resident to work or an important appointment
- Acting as a mentor for a resident with a specific need
- Share a favorite activity: Teach someone to knit or take someone fishing

If you have some time in your life to spare and share, please contact us.

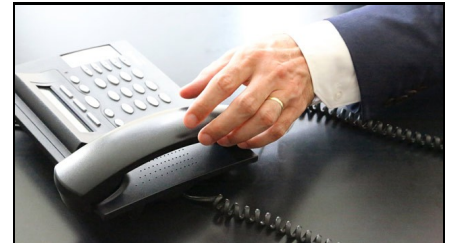
You may reach Linda Cassman:

By email: [lcassman@apfy.org](mailto:lcassman@apfy.org)  
By phone: 320-438-7070.

Volunteers will be paid in six figures:

**S-M-I-L-E-S**

~Gayla LeMaire



## Volunteer Spotlight



Ann Carlson is a Staff Support Volunteer at APFY. She is from the Twin Cities and moved to Pine City in 2013.

Ann is retired from her career in technology consulting. Her professional background also includes project management, systems development and implementation, as well as inventory and cost accounting.

Ann spends much of her time volunteering. In addition to APFY. She is

involved with another homeless shelter in the Twin Cities that serves families. She also volunteers with an organization that provides faith-based events for teens.

Ann enjoys spending time at A Place for You. In addition to her assigned duties, she will often spend time with residents in activities ranging from teaching knitting to helping write a resume.

## Wish List

**Current List of Most Needed Items:**

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Soap
- Milk
- Coffee
- Peanut Butter
- Bread
- Canned Goods—Soup, Stew, etc.

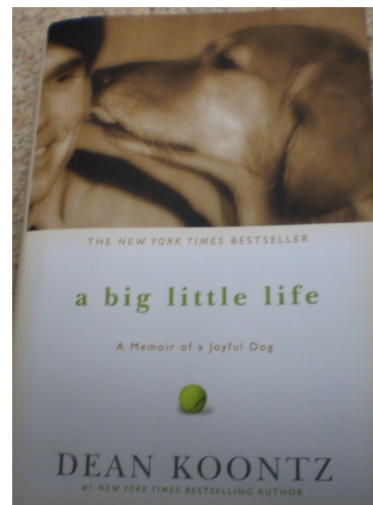
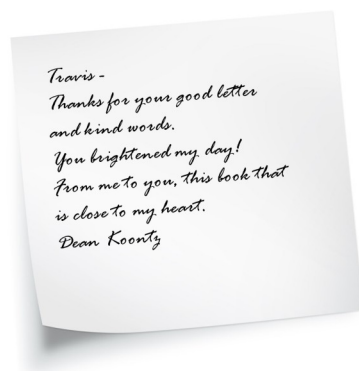


## Resident Highlight

One of our current residents is an avid reader of suspense and science fiction. His favorite author is Dean Koontz.

Recently, the resident wrote to Koontz and told him how much he enjoyed all of his books, especially one that he had recently finished reading.

Koontz responded, sending not only a letter to the resident but also enclosing a copy of one of his books autographed as shown here:



## Who are the Homeless?

Data from the 2012 Wilder Foundation report for Central MN (the area we serve) showed 605 homeless individuals on Oct. 25, 2012. Of that number, 304 were single adults—ages 22-54.

The majority of homeless people in rural MN are living in a car or in overcrowded and sub-standard housing.

Shelters are NOT available in the majority of the counties. Advocates often refer to rural homeless people as the

“Hidden Homeless”. This lack of recognition often leads to a belief that homelessness doesn’t exist in rural MN.

According to this study, 90% of homeless need more support than housing.

We have improved at smoothing pathways to housing for those with fewer obstacles. We struggle to find support for those whose starts in life included so much adversity that they haven’t developed the skills and support

needed find a path to stability. Half of homeless adults report a physical, mental or other condition that limits either the work they can do or their daily activities.

Between Nov. 2012 and May 2015, APFY has served 115 men and women from 5 counties. In that same time, we have had over 700 requests for service, turning away 230 people due to no room, failed background check or lack of follow through.

## You Make a Difference



“Sometimes it’s easy to walk by because we know we can’t change someone’s whole life in a single afternoon.

But what we fail to realize is that simple kindness can go a long way toward encouraging someone who is stuck in a desolate place.”

~Mike Yankoski



## A Place for You

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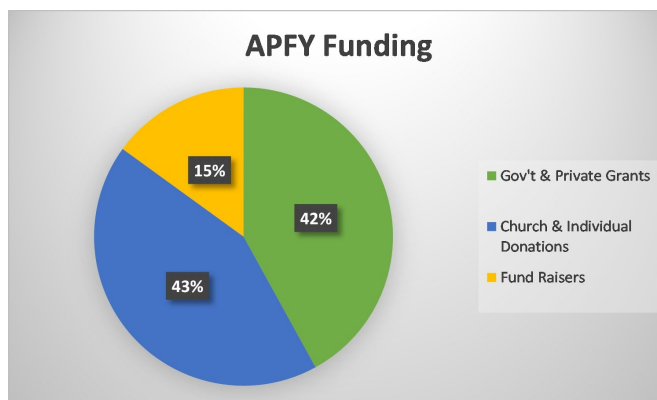
**We've Updated  
our Website:  
[www.APFY.org](http://www.APFY.org)**

*Addressing Homelessness in East  
Central Minnesota*



### ***Did You Know . . . How We are Funded?***

*42% of our 2014 budget was funded by government and private agency grants. Locally, the Greater Pine Area Endowment Fund has supported us with 2 grants in the last 2 years. We have also received funding for specific capital projects from Operation Round-up (ECE) and the Gannett Foundation. 43% of the budget came from area churches and individual donations, an area in which we are truly blessed! The balance of our budget (15%) is earned through several fundraisers, the biggest of which is our Annual Gala. This fall the gala will be held on October 9th at the Grand Casino in Hinckley.*



## Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars

July 18: We will be at the **Pine City Art Fest**. Check us out at the Walking Tacos booth. The tacos are a delicious addition to your walk through the arts and crafts fun.

August 1: Gala raffle begins. Prizes include a queen size quilt from the Sew Sisters; a Bountiful Thanksgiving package; and an iPad. Tickets will be \$5 each and will be available from APFY board members and available at local businesses and churches.

October: We will be participating in **Give to the Max** month through Razoo.com

October 9: We will be holding our Second annual **Giving Gala** at Grand Casino in Hinckley. This event will be an evening of fine dining, awareness building and charitable giving. 175 people attended last year's gala and \$23,000 was raised to support 2014 and 2015 shelter operating expenses. Tickets will be available in August.

