

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



## A PLACE FOR YOU

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

March, 2017

### 2016 Board Members

#### CO-CHAIRS:

Pam Greden  
Nancy Mach

#### SECRETARY:

Carol VanderHorck

#### TREASURER:

Deb Eck

#### DIRECTORS:

Kim Brubaken  
Wayne Eller  
Frank Grundmeier  
Steve Hallan  
Katie Hartl  
Teresa Hasbrook  
Marsha Marcussen  
Robert Musgrove  
Vicki VanderVegt

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#### Executive Director:

Linda Cassman

#### Case Management Aide:

Cindi Nybeck

#### Staff:

Jeannie Brown  
Ann Carlson  
Cindy Gust  
Sherri Howe  
Nina Niedenfuer  
Cheri Porter  
Lisa Sawin  
Joan Sullivan  
Stephanie Vandervelden

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

“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

In 2016, the board continued to focus on providing guidance and support to staff and shelter residents. Board members contribute time and talent as well as actively participate in fundraising endeavors. Progressive dinners were held in Pine City, Sandstone and Rush City. While progressive dinners provide a small but necessary source of income, it is also an excellent opportunity to educate and inform communities about A Place for You.

The gala was successful and contributed 17% of the shelter’s income. Financial support continues to be a challenge for the shelter; however, the board is committed to researching business op-

portunities that will provide long-term sustainability. Meanwhile grants from various organizations provided washers and dryers for the men and women’s sections and a much needed freezer. We also received a HUD grant which provides 39% of the shelter’s income. In an effort to raise awareness in the communities we serve, an outreach was conducted to churches as well as several organizations. Last year we reported that the majority of our income was from Pine County and that our goal for 2016 was to obtain funding from the 5 other counties. We are pleased that all counties have joined our efforts in helping people transition from homelessness to independent

living, especially Chisago County.

More than 1,100 people have contacted A Place for You since its inception four years ago. The shelter has been a place of refuge and hope for those in a desolate place. Your support and contributions are so greatly appreciated. We continue to embrace our mission which is to “empower the homeless to transition into a more stable future.”



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#### 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.

#### VISION:

A community where everyone has the resources necessary to maintain safe and stable housing.

#### PURPOSE:

To supply the basic human need of shelter to those finding themselves homeless and to assist them with finding affordable, permanent housing. To provide a safe environment for clients to evaluate their current situation and plan for self-sufficiency.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Reflecting on the past year is empowering and insightful. In 2016 we had several successes and identified areas where we need to work harder. We served more people and received more calls for service than ever. Our budget, though tight, did balance at the end of the year. We have had many successful residents. One that comes to mind, came to us after having been homeless for 8 years. He was a hard worker and went the extra mile taking care of the grounds while he was here. He obtained a job not long after he arrived and was able to purchase a mobile home to move into when he left the shelter. The trailer needed work but I have no doubt he fixed it up and had a comfortable winter. I know he continues today with the same employer. We received calls from people in the community and businesses who had wonderful

feedback. One company called and said we are easy to work with and provide a good service and they would like to help fund us and invited me to meet with their board. Another caller asked for our address because she wants to support local missions. She had learned about our agency and wanted to support us. Our network is growing but we still have a lot of work to do. We continue to operate on a shoe string budget and have ongoing building maintenance and operating costs. In 2016 we have worked toward becoming self-sustainable. We have looked at several options to bring sustainable funding into A Place for You. Some of our ideas were great but came with too many barriers to be successful. Other ideas would not have achieved the return on investment that we need. We will continue to work toward this goal in 2017.

Another success we had in 2016 is low turn-over in staff. We have been providing ongoing training and are working hard to give staff the tools they need to be the best employee they can be. We are recognizing their strengths and building on them. We did struggle for a time with my being out on medical leave for three months. But because of the great staff we have and the supportive board of directors the shelter continued to provide excellent service. Going into 2017 our hope is to continue to gain support for A Place for You. We will continue to leverage grant dollars, Group Residential Housing Funding, FEMA Funding, HUD and other resources. Watch for the "letter to the editor" in your local paper. These letters are written to give people a feeling for what A Place for You does and why we do it.

<b>2016</b>	
Clients Served	85
Found Housing	39%
Total Calls	353
<b>Increased Need and Awareness</b>	
<b>2015</b>	
Clients Served	67
Total Calls	273

*"Service is a smile. It is an acknowledging wave, a reaching handshake, a friendly wink, and a warm hug. It's these simple acts that matter most, because the greatest service to a human soul has always been the kindness of recognition."*

*Richelle E. Goodrich*

**3 Progressive Dinners** held by 10 churches collectively raised over \$4800 to benefit operating expenses of A Place for You. First Lutheran, St John's Lutheran and Sacred Heart Catholic in Rush City celebrated with a *Mama Mia Italian dinner*. It was an evening of warm hospitality while sharing success stories of residents at APFY. A *Scandinavian dinner* was sponsored by Immaculate Conception Catholic, Our Redeemer Lutheran and Evangelical Free Church in Pine City. Shelter volunteers at each church visited with diners and provided updates on how money raised would assist specific shelter projects. Sandstone churches hosted *Around the World* with chefs from United Church of Christ, Grace Lutheran, St Luke's Catholic and Evangelical Free

Church. As in the past, there was a lot of delicious food accompanied by authentic decorations representing each country—and a whole lot of fellowship. We are grateful for the support of each of these commu-

nities of faith for their attention to the needs of those less fortunate. In our corner of East Central MN we are blessed to not only benefit from the best cooks in the area but also the most inspiring fellowship.

<b>Financials 2016</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Shelter Expenses	\$143,663
Administrative Expenses	33,891
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$177,554</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>	
Donations	\$ 60,319
Grants	79,944
Event Income	37,741
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$178,004</b>
<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>\$ 20,074</b>

## SPONSORS AND DONORS

### THANK YOU GALA TABLE SPONSORS

On October 28, 2016 our **3rd Annual Giving Gala** was held at the Grand Casino in Hinckley. It was a smashing success with over \$31,000 raised! Thank you to all the table sponsors, businesses, auction donors, volunteers, and guests for your generous support. We are grateful for your dedication to our mission.

#### FULL TABLE:

Atscott Manufacturing Co.  
Biever-Smith Family  
First Light Health Systems  
Carol VanderHorck  
Jim and Mary Kay Sloan  
Steve and Becky Hallan

Stearns Bank  
Therapeutic Services Agency Inc.  
Wayne and Nancy Eller  
Educators Financial Services

#### HALF TABLE:

New Horizon Thrift Store  
Fedder Motors  
Cloverleaf Chapter #4 Disabled American Veterans  
Byron and Nancy Mach  
Cavallin Ford  
Joe and Marge Hobson  
Coldwell Banker Burnet  
Robert Musgrove and Kevin Hofstad  
Carol and Matthew Kasinkas  
Pam Greden

Pine Eye Associates  
Pine Tax and Accounting, LLC

Thank You to the  
**John and Bonnie Schlagel Endowment, a Turn Key Fund of the Initiative Foundation**  
for support of the Gala

Thank You to Auctioneer  
**Les Stromberg**  
for donating his auctioneering services for the Gala

Thank you to  
**The Deacon Brothers and Sister Carol**  
For providing wonderful musical entertainment.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”*

*Margaret Mead*

### THANK YOU DONORS

#### PARTNERS and GRANTORS:

Central MN Community Foundation  
Central MN Jobs and Training  
Carlton County  
Chisago County  
FEMA  
Initiative Foundation  
Isanti County  
Kanabec County  
Lakes and Pines Community Action Council  
MDU Resources Foundation  
Mille Lacs County  
New Horizon Thrift Store  
Pine County  
State of MN Department of Health and Human Services  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

#### \$3000 and ABOVE

Jim and Mary Kay Sloan  
Carol VanderHorck  
Pizza Pub, Rick Herzog

#### \$1000-\$2999


John and Bonnie Schlagel Endowment, a Turn Key Fund of the Initiative Foundation  
East Central Energy Trust  
Wayne and Nancy Eller  
Andrew and Ellen Bosl  
Educators Financial Services—Kent Schutte  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Pine City  
Greg and Sherry Elliot  
Lyndon and Ann Hagestuen  
Teresa Hasbrook  
Byron and Nancy Mach  
Gene and Darlene Biever  
Liz Olson  
Stephen and Becky Hallan  
Immaculate Conception Pine City  
Dave and Mary Jo Mettler  
Tim and Dawne Erhart  
Deborah Eck  
Pine City Evangelical Free Church  
Brian and Judy Scholin

Dylan and Alicia Ascheman  
First Presbyterian Church of Hinckley Missions  
Journey North Pine City  
US Bank Foundation

#### \$500-\$999


St Mary's Church Mora  
Atscott Mfg., John Norris  
First Light Health Systems  
Stearns Bank  
Therapeutic Services Agency  
Todd Fogelberg  
WELCA Our Redeemer Lutheran Pine City  
Pam Greden  
Pokegama Lake Association  
Dihanna Fedder  
Pat and Mary Kay Brautigan  
Mary Zajicek  
Miles Smith  
WELCA of St. Anthony Park  
Steve and Kim Brubaken  
Emmaline Dunkley  
Joe and Marge Hobson


#### 2017 Fund Raising Opportunities Include:

Fishing Contest 



Progressive Dinners

Art in the Park  
Walking Tacos 

Annual Giving Gala 



# DONORS

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A Place For You  
220 3rd Ave SE  
Pine City, MN 55063

Phone: 320-438-7070  
Fax: 320-438-7071  
E-mail: [info@apfy.org](mailto:info@apfy.org)



A PLACE FOR YOU

*Addressing Homelessness in East Central  
Minnesota*



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### \$500-\$999

Pizza Hut  
Marvin and Mary Ann Nelson  
Cambridge Lutheran  
Cloverleaf Chapter #4 Dis-  
abled American Vets  
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Isanti County Family Services  
Land O Lakes Foundation  
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Zion Cloverdale

### \$250-\$499

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Tony Bacigalupi and Meg  
Hobday  
Jason Rarick

### \$100-\$249

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stone  
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Peter and Pam Matteson  
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Cary and Elaine Steeg  
Kathryn and Richard Trumble  
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Fritz and Penny Hudlow  
Pat and Richard Anderson  
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Bike & Build  
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Linda Van Der Werf

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