



A PLACE FOR YOU

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

April, 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

I'm always profoundly moved by the writings of Maya Angelou. The quote that has always stuck with me is,

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

In terms of A Place for You, these words are even more profound. APFY strives to be the organization that makes our residents feel valued, cared for and important. With this at our core, residents will have every opportunity to work their plan and hopefully move permanently out of homelessness.

As we review the program year 2019, our primary focus besides fundraising was looking for alternatives for our current

location. The City of Pine City approached us about potentially purchasing the building and land that APFY sits on to develop the block into affordable housing. We spent much of 2019 looking into several vacant buildings and meeting with many leaders both locally and at the state, to help us work out a plan.

At the time of this annual report, after much work and consideration, the City has decided to build on land they own that is near the shelter, but it will not include our site. With this said, we know that our building is in need of repairs and we will have to move forward with some of them now that we know we are not going to relocate.

With our fundraising efforts of the Gala, Progressive Dinners and the Art Fest in 2019, it al-

lowed us to assist with operations, update our technology at the shelter and set aside funds to help purchase donor software. Without these efforts and success each year, we could not keep our doors open.

As we embark on 2020 with all its uncertainty, we would once again like to thank all the folks who have helped the shelter. Between meals, donations, business support, fundraising efforts and Furnishings for You, it has made a difference in the lives of the residents we serve. Without this outpouring of support, we would not be able to continue the important work that we are doing.

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RESIDENT ADVOCATE: MATHEW VINEY

I advocate for services on behalf of residents by creating relationships with other service providers and learning the ins and outs of programs available across the gamut of poverty.

I help the residents find the best fit for services and resources that are available to them. This extends to many areas of their life beyond housing and employment.

Activities Include:

- * County assistance and navigation
- * Maintain relationships with other professionals in the field
- * Build policy and advocate for

change within our Continuum of Care

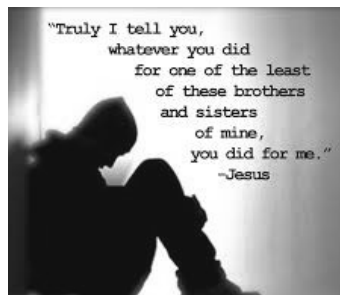
- * Maintain relationships with landlords
- * Partner with county workers
- * Maintain a resource list and publish on www.apfy.org

My overarching job is recognizing the road blocks the resident faces (whether or not they recognize it) and helping them find the resources required to overcome that road block. This is different for each person.

The biggest struggle is when clients choose not to take help that is offered. Success for a client is sometimes not what we

traditionally would consider success and seeing people stumble is hard.

My favorite part of the job is watching clients grow and being part of their success.



SHELTER NEWS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

As I sit to write the Director's portion of APFY's 2019 Annual report, I am hearing a portion of the lyrics to "Somewhere" from the movie "Westside Story" reverberate in my head. The first few lines go like this:

"Someday, Somewhere, We'll find a new way of living. We'll find a way of forgiving. Somewhere, There's a place for us". Since 2012, APFY has been providing a place of safety where those experiencing homelessness are able to imagine a new way of living and potentially work on forgiving trauma in their lives and being forgiven for actions that have not been positive.

People who are experiencing homelessness face many chal-

lenges, both emotional and physical, that make it difficult for them to get back on their feet. Some of the challenges that the residents of APFY have faced include: **Food and Shelter Insecurity**, The lack of shelter, coupled with food insecurity (not knowing where the next meal is coming from), only makes it more difficult for those experiencing homelessness to get back on their feet; **Income Insecurity**, Many people who are experiencing homelessness do have some sort of income. However, their income might come infrequently, making it more difficult to save money to find an apartment or home to rent; **Healthcare Insecurity**, Since many people experi-

encing homelessness do not have a regular income, healthcare is more difficult to obtain. The lack of medical attention that those experiencing homelessness receive adds the potential for increased levels of disease and health complications; **Basic Need Insecurity**, Experiencing homelessness, whether it is on a one-time or chronic basis can leave basic needs ignored. Warmth, dry clothes, water and food are never guaranteed each day. At APFY, we offer those experiencing homelessness a hand up through access to mental health services, assistance with housing and employment applications, as well as referrals to medical and substance

abuse treatment. This day-to-day activity is supported through the generosity of all our donors, known and unknown! Each gift is vital in turning "someday, somewhere" into "now, today".

In the last year, APFY served 81 individuals from five different counties. The youngest residents were between the ages of 18-25 and the oldest between 70-90. Thirty of our residents left for their own housing, with the others making different choices.

Thank you for your commitment to A Place For You and to the mission of ending homelessness, one life at a time!

Vicki VanderVegt
Executive Director

MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER: KAMA HILL

My name is Kama Hill, I am the newly hired Mental Health Practitioner at A Place for You. I started at APFY on-1/27/20, and I am very happy to be on board to work with the both the residents and staff of the shelter.

People with poor mental health are more susceptible to the 3 main factors that can lead to homelessness: poverty, disaffiliation, and personal vulnerability. Because they often lack the capacity to sustain employ-

ment, they have little income. Delusional thinking may lead them to withdraw from family and friends. This loss of support leaves them fewer coping resources in times of trouble. Mental illness can also impair a person's ability to be resilient and resourceful; it can cloud thinking and impair judgment. Homelessness, in turn, amplifies poor mental health. The stress of experiencing homelessness may exacerbate previous mental illness and encour-

age anxiety, fear, depression, sleeplessness and substance use. The needs of people experiencing homelessness with mental illnesses are similar to those without: physical safety, education, transportation, affordable housing and affordable health care. When providing care for our residents, it is essential to create a non-threatening and supportive atmosphere, address basic needs and assist in providing accessible care and treatment.

Whether a resident has or does not have a mental health diagnosis the mental health practitioner offers a safe space for the resident to talk about their situation and express their feelings and needs. During this time I can offer coping strategies and offer community support to assist the resident in their time of need. Having this opportunity supports the resident and can assist in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

GIVING GALA

Our 5th annual gala was a huge success!

Our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and to those who made the event possible. The gala brought in **\$38,300** which will support our work and our mission offering life changing alternatives for the homeless in our area. Because of your generosity, we can continue to provide a safe place for those in distress where dignity and respect are the foundations of our services.

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Thank you to **Jim Jorgenson** for his outstanding auctioneer services, **Caleb and Brooke Anderson** who provided the musical entertainment, **Sheila**

Hughes for taking photographs and to all the **Volunteers** who contributed valuable resources to make the event a wonderful success.



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THANK YOU!

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*"Encourage
one another
and
build each other up"*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

A Place For You
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Pine City, MN 55063

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E-mail: info@apfy.org



A PLACE FOR YOU

Addressing Homelessness in East Central Minnesota

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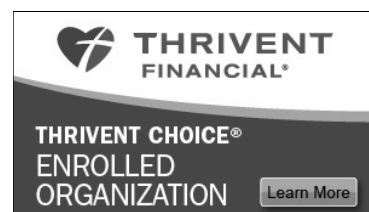
A Place For You Transitional Shelter serves as a safe place for people in distress. We provide for basic needs and offer guidance and resources that give life changing alternatives to residents while respecting the potential and dignity inherent in each individual.

VISION:

Our vision is to create a community where there is no homelessness.

PURPOSE:

To supply basic human needs for those finding themselves homeless. In partnership with other organizations, we offer individualized, supportive services to assist those persons to find affordable, permanent housing and work toward self-sufficiency.



FURNISHINGS FOR YOU UPDATE

Furnishings for You LLC opened in May of 2018. Several board members from A Place for You had completed a financial resiliency training program offered by the Initiative Foundation designed to help nonprofits develop alternative revenue sources.

We converted a storage area in the back of the shelter into a store that sells gently used, donated furniture and decor at reasonable prices.

Residents moving out of the shelter receive free furniture to furnish their apartment.

Our social enterprise is entirely run and supported by nearly 40 volunteers who tend the store, repair furniture, move furniture and provide seasonal décor with style. A big, "Thank you!" to

all of our wonderful volunteers and our donors! All of our profits go to support the shelter. Since opening, FFY has given **\$15,000** to the shelter! We are very thankful for the community support of our store to help provide stable, sustainable financial footing for the shelter and to support its mission.

GRATEFUL
thankful
BLESSED

Financials 2019

Expenses:

Shelter Expenses	\$181,972
Administrative Expenses	42,355

Total Expenses	\$224,327
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Revenue:

Donations	\$ 66,860
Grants	117,299
Event Income	44,111

Total Revenue	\$228,270
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In-Kind	\$ 41,493
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Capitalized Costs	\$ 1,905
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