



Note From the Executive Director

Support and Advocacy

When you read the articles in this newsletter, you will see examples of the many forms of support and advocacy.

We all need support at different times in our life. Sometimes we are giving support and sometimes we are receiving support. Support comes in different forms.

Your circle of support may include family, friends, and co-workers. You may have professional staff support such as Ministers, Doctors, Counselors and Bankers. These supports help shape us into the person we are and help us overcome our barriers.

Support also takes the form of advocacy. When you speak in favor or recommend, argue for a cause, support or defend, or plead on behalf of others, you are an Advocate.

What makes the work we do at House of Charity possible is all us working together, giving what we can, doing what we are able, in support of our clients. Donors are our bedrock; without you we would not be able to do as MUCH as we do, and the quality of life of our clients would be less.

The same is true of our volunteers, those who come to the building to serve meals, clean chairs and tables, paint, plant, teach, assist, and even just sit and talk to our clients and/or meal guest. Without YOU our clients' lives would be less!

Thank you for your support and advocacy!

Bert Winkel



Spring 2015

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Words of Wisdom

"There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help."

- United States Representative

Jan Schakowsky

Life and Lessons

Edmund's Story

"An addict, no, I'm not an addict. I'm better than this."

"I got to see and learn a lot during my travels."

From Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, and finally to Minnesota; Edmund has been many places and seen many things. Still his vivaciousness for life is infectious. Edmund's story starts in 1988.

"My mom passed away when I was 17 years old, and I guess that's really when my homelessness started. I was in the house alone and without guidance I turned to partying."

Bills started to pile up and finally his sister took over the house. The next ten years Edmund describes as "wild". Even during this time Edmund knew this was not the life he wanted to lead and that addiction did not define him.

"It was like, man, this is not me. Nobody knows who I am now; I don't even know who I am now. An addict, no, I'm not an addict. I'm better than this."

Edmund decided to go home and two years later took a job with the lumber yard that brought him to Minnesota. Unfortunately the lumber yard closed its doors and Edmund found himself back on the streets.

This time was different for Edmund. His first winter here he noticed how clean Minneapolis was and appreciated the helping hand Minnesota offered.

"I took the opportunity to say, I'm going to stay here, I'm going to do better here."

A change of heart and willingness to better his life unfortunately was not enough. For a few more years Edmund struggled in and out of overnight shelters and treatment centers. From 2008 to 2012 Edmund tried four to five different treatment centers.

In 2012 Edmund came to House of Charity. He credits House of Charity with helping him get back on his feet.

"I finally settled down my heart when I got into the House of Charity."

Edmund stayed at House of Charity for 18 months and in March of 2014 entered the Housing First program. He now has a one bedroom apartment and in 2013 started school at a local community technical college. Edmund says,

"House of Charity really was the turning point, when I came here. I made it through, and really life is just beginning."

"House of Charity really was the turning point. I made it through, and really life is just beginning."

Edmund's Story (Continued)

Edmund is working toward an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts and plans to transfer to a state university to pursue a Bachelor Degree in Social Work.

"I think about all the counseling I have received over the years, and I just want to make a difference. Hopefully I can reach one person at a time."

Edmund's experience at House of Charity has given him the tools to think about the decisions he makes and navigate hardships when they occur.

"Even though I may not create the hardships I have to learn how to deal with them as they come. If I can deal with them wholesomely, I'll make it through."

Edmund's Housing First Advocate is a believer in taking stock of small accomplishments to realize your full potential. Edmund exemplifies this motto. Since Edmund's time with House of Charity he takes on life one step at a time.

"I believe that I am still at a certain level of "homelessness". I'm not self-sustained; until I'm there I will always feel a little bit "homeless". I have a stepping stone and some breathing room and I'm moving in a wholesome direction. The day is coming to where I can call up the State and say "wow, I'm okay"."

Edmund wants to encourage House of Charity to stand by their mission statement. He believes in what House of Charity does. He believes House of Charity is here to encourage people and wants to let House of Charity know how much that means to him and to other people he knows.

"Your life doesn't have to end because you're homeless. There is a way back. I understand hardships are going to continue to come. Because of House of Charity, I now have the tools to say this is a hardship, I can get through this. I got through the gutter, I can get through this."

"Because of House of Charity, I now have the tools to say this is a hardship, I can get through this."

Legislative Agenda

Homes for All

An investment of **\$39 million** would serve communities across the state:

- Reduce chronic homelessness, hence reducing the cost of jails, emergency rooms, shelter, and detox facilities. **Every public dollar invested in supportive housing returns \$1.44.**
- Prevent and end homelessness for an additional **4,836 households** and develop or rehabilitate over **280** apartments and single family homes.
- **Improve educational outcomes for students** without stable housing.

Prosperity for All

Increase MFIP cash assistance by \$100 per month using TANF funds. This would be the **first increase since 1986.**

Call to Action

Please call or e-mail your Legislator to let them know you support the Homes for All and Prosperity for All 2015 Legislative Agendas

Script

"I strongly support Homes for All and the \$100 per month increase in MFIP. Will you join me in supporting them as well?"

To find out who represents you go to:

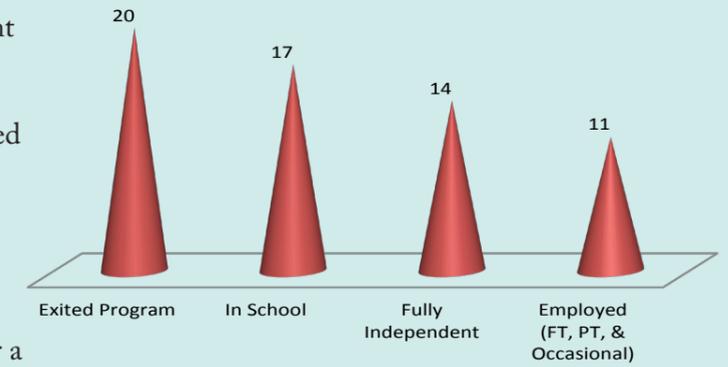
<http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts/>

By the Numbers

House of Charity's **Housing First** program is a permanent supportive housing program where our clients move into their own permanent apartments. In 2014 Housing First housed **117** people, and the program has met and surpassed our goals.

Goal from our Spring 2014 Newsletter:

"Our goal is to continue to develop partnerships and register several buildings so clients do not have to wait for a permanent place to call Home."



Moving even further forward, this past year we had **20** clients completely exit the Housing First program, **14** of which were fully independent. **11** clients are employed and **17** clients are in school pursuing an Associates or Bachelors education.

90 % of clients housed in the beginning of 2014 have stayed in their homes or have taken over their own lease



Create Your Legacy

by supporting House of Charity with a gift through your Will or Estate



One of the simplest planned gifts is a bequest through your will in which you designate either a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate after other disbursements.

In addition to supporting House of Charity, it serves as an example to your heirs of the values and ideals you hold dear.

A bequest can also reduce the amount of your taxable estate, which may increase the actual amount available to loved ones.

If you are passionate about helping individuals most in need, consider making a planned gift to House of Charity.

Make a Difference

\$20 provides one night in a Housing First Apartment
50 cents provides a meal

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ to help feed, house, and empower as many people as possible

Please make checks payable to House of Charity
Feel free to use the envelope provided

To make a credit card donation visit:
www.houseofcharity.org

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

My gift is in memory/honor (circle one) of _____

I am interested in leaving a gift to House of Charity in my will. Please contact me. Name: _____ Phone: _____

Check here if you would like to join our email list!

Did you know?

Food, Shelter, and Safety are Basic Human Needs. Without these Independence is very hard to achieve.