Several years ago, Kip was introduced to the Food Centre through a volunteer opportunity with his employer, Wells Fargo. The experience volunteering at House of Charity, combined with Kip’s long-time passion for giving back to the community, led him to build a team of his colleagues to begin serving on a monthly basis.

Kip was drawn to the organization because, in his words, “They have their doors wide open” to the public. Additionally, one reason Kip has continued volunteering at the Food Centre is the structure. He states, “It gives people a good meal, and a safe place to eat it.” Kip explains that recipients of meals are always very polite and appreciative.

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Kip also explained that as volunteers, “you are ambassadors to the organization.” He challenges volunteers to get to know others they serve with and develop a sense of community. Kip explains, “As volunteers, we get as much out of the experience of serving, as we put into it.”

Phillip, a devoted father and husband, moved with his wife and children from Chicago to Minneapolis on November 12, 2013. The move was meant to provide a better life for all of them. Unfortunately, the move on its own, did not provide the opportunity to change the family’s circumstances. While initially Phillip and his wife had a goal of moving to Duluth, financial circumstances forced them to stay in Minneapolis. Though he was committed to seeking out a better life for his family, alcohol and drug use interfered with Phillip’s efforts and eventually led to a domestic assault charge.

Following that charge, Phillip was required to attend treatment beginning in January of 2014. He was initially skeptical about the Day by Day program, but eventually became committed to the program. When asked about the change, he explained, “Counselors and case workers will help you the first few times, after that, you have to help yourself.” Phillip realized the importance of changing his habits in order to better himself and his family. While he was attending the program, he also lived in House of Charity’s transitional housing facility.

By mid-2014, Phillip had completed the court ordered treatment through the Day by Day program. When reflecting on his treatment, Phillip gives credit to his case worker and counselor for their genuine care and support. He commented that staff at House of Charity, “really put things together to help support you,” and having support had been previously been absent from his life since the passing of his parents. Following his completion of the Day by Day program, Phillip and his family were able to move back together into a permanent housing solution.

Since completing the program, Phillip has completed two programs through Urban Ventures. The eight week programs focused on areas of Responsible Parenting, Healthy Relationships, and Marriage. Phillip received certification for these programs on June 18th and July 3rd, respectively. Additionally, he has voluntarily continued ongoing support through the Continuing Care program at House of Charity, which he completed on August 6th.

Since moving to Minneapolis, he has also become very actively involved in the Inner City Church of Minneapolis. Phillip was recently baptized- and in addition to attending service with his family every Sunday.

(Continued on page 2)
Phillip’s Story (Continued)

he also has begun volunteering with the church. In such a short time, Phillip has accomplished many things which show his determination; not only that, but he has also shown a greater commitment to raising his growing family.

When asked about how this journey affected his family, Phillip said “I had to get better for myself, and my kids can look up to me now.” Phillip’s counselor shared that during the time he was attending the continuing care program, he would sit at his kitchen table - and while his children completed their homework, he would complete his assignments as well. He is grateful for the ability to spend more time with his family as prior to his treatment, he was often absent from the home.

Phillip plans to work towards completing his GED and eventually a Culinary Arts degree. The family is also a current candidate for a new home with Habitat for Humanity. Phillip remains grateful for the support of House of Charity and its staff. He is an advocate of programs at House of Charity because, in his words, “It works!” He gives recognition to his case manager and counselor for their commitment to him and the other clients. Phillip explains that at House of Charity, “They didn’t need me, I needed them.”

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Hunger: By the Numbers

In recognition of Hunger Action Month, House of Charity seeks to bring awareness and action toward the issue of hunger in our own community. House of Charity’s Food Centre has been providing meals for those experiencing hunger in Hennepin County for over 60 years. During this time the organization has grown to provide many additional services to assist those in the most need; as the organization grows, relieving hunger is still at the core of House of Charity’s mission.

Feeding America reports that over 11% of Hennepin County residents have low food security, meaning these individuals and families often times do not know when they will have their next meal. When surveyed in 2013, about 31% of Food Centre diners stated that the meal they received at House of Charity would likely be the only one they would eat that day. This means that, of our average Food Centre diners, 108 or more would have gone without food for the day without the meal provided at the Food Centre.

As reported by Feeding America, the average meal cost for Hennepin County for the food insecure population averages at $2.89 per meal. Through an ongoing relationship with Second Harvest Heartland, House of Charity’s Food Centre is able to provide almost 6 meals for that same cost. Just 50¢ provides an individual with a meal through the House of Charity Food Centre.

The ongoing support for the House of Charity Food Centre will allow us to continue our mission of feeding those experiencing hunger in our area.

Sources:
Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap 2012 & Hunger in America Survey 2011
Hunger Solutions: State of Hunger in Minnesota, 2013

Did you know?

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Create Your Legacy

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

House of Charity recently received two bequests from donors who had supported House of Charity with modest annual gifts during their lifetime, but wanted to leave a lasting legacy to House of Charity through their wills.

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 also can 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.

Sources:
Harvest Heartland, House of Charity’s Food Centre.
Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap 2012 & Hunger in America Survey 2011
Hunger Solutions: State of Hunger in Minnesota, 2013

Double your gift now! Thanks to Mosaic’s matching donations
Mosaic will match all new or increased donations up to $20,000!

Support House of Charity by shopping at smile.amazon.com
Amazon will donate a portion of your eligible purchases to House of Charity, Inc. whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

Happy National Recovery Month!
Recovery Month highlights individuals like Phillip, who have reclaimed their lives and are living happy and healthy lives in long-term recovery. Millions of Americans have had their lives transformed by recovery. Recovery Month provides an opportunity to recognize these accomplishments.

Make a Difference

Your gift has a profound and immediate impact.

- $20 provides one night in a Housing First apartment and just 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, please visit: www.houseofcharity.org

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