Looking Forward While Looking Back

There is consensus that House of Charity will grow significantly to meet rising demand for all of our services. We also are in agreement that we will continue to seek out and implement best practices supported by research in order to provide our clients with the highest possible quality of care. Because we consider you partners in our work, I will share our 2013-2015 Strategic Plan with you once it’s finalized.

Thank you for your interest in and commitment to House of Charity.

Bert Winkel, Executive Director

Two Minutes With...

Board Member Dustin Chapman

This November, at their annual meeting, the Board of Directors will recognize outgoing Board member Dustin Chapman’s six years of service to House of Charity. Dustin, who is currently Behavioral Services Liaison with Fairview, was recruited to the Board because of his knowledge and experience in chemical dependency treatment programs. Dustin started out with Fairview twenty-eight years ago as clinical supervisor of an inpatient chemical dependency unit. His current role involves community outreach, licensing and regulatory compliance, and public policy. Dustin monitors legislation to keep Fairview informed of laws that may affect how they deliver services. He is working with other community groups to monitor the impact of health care reform on chemical dependency programs. In addition to his commitment to House of Charity, Dustin chairs the Board of Directors of Minnesota Recovery Connection, which advocates on behalf of the recovery community and provides recovery coaching. He also serves on the board of Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Health.

Bethany’s Story

On September 6th, House of Charity participated in Operation Recovery 2012: Erasing Stigmas, an event held on the campus of Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) and sponsored by their student-led Addiction Counseling Club. We were delighted to take part, especially since the invitation came from one of our former residents!

Bethany had lived at House of Charity for several months in 2010. She regards House of Charity and her time here as a nice stepping stone.

Having housing and food allowed Bethany to stabilize her life, “I looked for work. I didn’t have to look for a safe place to live. I was fed here.”

As an undergraduate at Bethel University studying on a vocal scholarship, Bethany was viciously attacked while running on campus. Soon afterward, she left the school.

“I lost my faith,” Bethany stated simply.

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Bethany’s Story (continued)

Bethany began using drugs. She was in a long-term relationship with a man who also used. Together, they had four children, including one set of twins. Because she was found to be using in the home, Bethany’s children were taken away. To allow her children to move out of the foster care system, Bethany voluntarily gave custody to the children’s paternal grandmother, but kept her parental rights. Bethany expected the grandmother to maintain communication between her and her children, but Bethany has not seen nor heard from them in nearly four years. All of the cards and letters she has written to them have been returned. Bethany is pursuing legal assistance, but it takes time and resources. In the meantime, her children are growing older – now 11, 10, and 9 (the twins).

While she was using, Bethany broke the law for money. As a result, Bethany was imprisoned in 2009. She had a year of sobriety in prison. Soon after she was released, she came to House of Charity. Now, two years later, Bethany is taking classes at MCTC to become a licensed alcohol and drug counselor, with an emphasis on art therapy. An artist herself, Bethany sells her work and has exhibited at the Fine Line Music Café. Bethany knows firsthand how art can be therapeutic. “Some of my worst moments in life have come through to make great paintings; I am a rape survivor and my piece ‘Holy Trinity’ came from that experience.”

She hopes to help others escape the pain and consequences of addiction. When asked what advice she would give to current House of Charity residents, Bethany quickly responded, “Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Utilize your resources. The quick delivery is important.”

Because of his expertise, Dustin has been an invaluable resource for House of Charity’s Day by Day program. At the beginning of his tenure, Dustin suggested we move in the direction of changing our Day by Day program from a halfway house for recovery to an outpatient chemical dependency treatment program. In the past year, he has provided insight into the timing and anticipated results of funding changes for our expanded chemical dependency and mental health treatment program.

House of Charity’s Board of Directors and staff are grateful for Dustin’s passion for the program and his significant contributions to the growth of the agency.

Two Minutes With... (continued)

Chef’s Corner

HUMMUS EXPLOSION!

3 15-oz cans Garbanzo Beans, drained
1 15-oz can Black Beans, drained
7 large cloves Garlic
1/2 c soaked Sundried Tomatoes
3 t Tahini
2 t Sesame Oil
3 t Peanut Butter (optional)
1/4 c Lemon Juice (adjust to taste)
1/3 c Red Pepper flakes
Garlic Salt to taste

Blend & enjoy!

Hummus Explosion!

Cultivating Community- 2nd Annual Housing First Picnic

Hennepin County’s Housing First Partnership is a collaboration between the County, State, housing service providers, community landlords, and business & faith partners. Through Housing First, we place clients who have experienced long-term homelessness in their own apartments in the community. House of Charity Case Managers, or Advocates, visit clients to help them maintain housing stability. This model has been proven to lead clients to greater independence, while utilizing public funds more efficiently.

By the Numbers

Public Dollar Savings Associated with the Housing First Model

Hennepin County, Minnesota

*Source: Heading Home Hennepin, St. Stephen’s Human Services, 2011.

Make a Difference

Your gift has a profound and immediate impact.

$20 provides an hour of case management 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

Consider leaving a gift to House of Charity in your will. Contact us for more information.

Send us your Feedback on the newsletter!

NAME:

EMAIL:

COMMENTS:

Check here if you would like to receive additional newsletters sent by email twice per year.

Did you know? We currently have 110 clients in our Housing First program!