address some of the underlying causes of their homelessness, including mental illness and/or chemical dependency. Our case managers work with clients to identify their goals and provide or connect them with the services and supports they need to move forward. For example, case managers help clients address pressing health issues and obtain preventive care; seek benefits as appropriate; request credit, rental and criminal background reports and correct any discrepancies; and find permanent housing. Case managers also refer clients to ESL, GED and other education programs, job training, and employment placement.

The ultimate goal of all work toward ending homelessness is permanent housing, affordable to those at all income levels. Through our partnership with Hennepin County’s Housing First Program, we have placed 111 transitional housing clients farther along the housing continuum, into their own apartments in the community. We provide ongoing case management to each of them as they continue making strides toward self-sufficiency.

House of Charity’s integration of services, internal and external, is a major part of our continuum of care strategy to end homelessness and to meet the individual needs of our clients. This issue of our newsletter highlights one client’s journey along the continuum, including his stay in our transitional housing, participation in the Day by Day program, and placement in the community through Housing First. The true continuum of care required to end homelessness, poverty and hunger in our community involves all of us - caring about the issues and contributing to their resolution:

All people are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be.

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Lon’s Story (continued)

When Lon was released from prison, he first went to another treatment program and then came to House of Charity. He lived in our transitional housing and participated in our Day by Day treatment program. He went to group sessions every day and established a particularly trusting relationship with his counselor, Maren. Maren was very supportive and worked with Lon’s parole officer as well as the child protection workers.

Lon graduated from the Day by Day program after 90 days. Through House of Charity’s Housing First program, Lon was able to move into his apartment. He is still going to support groups and meeting up with friends from House of Charity. He is now off parole. Lon appreciated his stay at House of Charity; he felt he had the support of all the counselors and his case manager. Lon’s oldest son (15) is now living with his mother in Wisconsin and Lon sees him regularly. Lon’s youngest son came to live with him in December. Lon’s mother will help Lon with child care when he goes back to school to learn small engine repair.

Lon says that if it weren’t for House of Charity, his sons still would be in foster care and he probably would be on the street.

We are grateful to you and everyone who is interested in and supports our work with Lon and others in need.

You have a large impact on our ability to feed, house, and empower.

Cultivating Community

Housing First Landlords

We would like to take a minute to express our gratitude for the amazing landlords and management companies that have welcomed our Housing First program clients as tenants.

We are grateful that they work with us to provide permanent supportive housing for those in need in our community. We are happy to report that these landlords are as pleased with us and our clients as we are with them. Here’s what they had to say:

“The fact that your clients have training (e.g., how to be a good tenant; living on a Housing First Budget) allows them to succeed at being good residents and helps them be successful in their lives.”

“Having a case manager visit their clients on a consistent basis is critical for the program to succeed with a landlord.”

“Everything is spectacular with my residents from House of Charity.”

“Our out of all the programs I have worked with over the years, House of Charity is the best.”

“I encourage many other property managers and management companies to work with you.”

Maren strongly feels that her clients have the strengths and resources within themselves to overcome their addictions and change their lives. She encourages them to tap into those resources and supports them when they make good choices. In her words, “I help them to see that they have reasons to stay sober – the things that are going well in their lives.” Maren believes that just a minor shift in thinking can bring about a major shift in changing the course of someone’s life. As an example, Maren talked about one client who ultimately realized that he did not have to respond to every provocation – he recognized that he had the option to just walk away. Because of this small shift in thinking, he avoided predictable consequences, such as physical fighting and the loss of his housing and other supports. This small shift allowed him to remain on the path toward recovery and independence. Maren is currently working toward a degree in health fitness. She wants to share the benefits of healthy living with her clients.

Two Minutes With...

Making 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: $_____.

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.

Chef’s Corner

Apricot Chicken Pot Stickers

30 wonton skins

Saute and drain:
8 oz cooked & diced chicken
1 medium finely diced onion
4 diced green onions
2 C shredded cabbage
Mix with:
1/2 C apricot preserves
1 T ginger
1 t black pepper
1 T chili garlic sauce
2 T soy sauce
Place 1 teaspoon of the mixture in the center of each wonton; fold and spray with a non-fat cooking spray.
Cook at 325 until golden.
Serve with a dipping sauce:
1/2 C soy, 2 T water, 1 t sugar, 1 t fresh ground ginger
Yields 30 pot stickers

At the Capitol

House of Charity staff have their ears to the ground when it comes to legislation that affects people we serve. With election season, bonding issues, and changes in health care on the table, we have been much more present at the Capitol than in years past.

Here are some examples of what we’ve been up to:

1. Staff and clients joined the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless for “Homeless Day on the Hill” and Minnesota Recovery Connection for “Recovery Day on the Hill.”

Our Housing Director, Marti Maltby, testified in front of the Minnesota House of Representatives Health and Human Services Reform Committee regarding Group Residential Housing (GRH). He described how the State, service agencies, and clients can best work together to meet the financial obligations of housing.

Beats from the heart of the city

Did you know? January 2012 marked the beginning of our Women’s Day by Day treatment program!