



A Resolve to Serve Meg

St. Ambrose Community

Meg was first introduced to the work of House of Charity's Food Centre as a leader for a volunteer trip with her children's school, St. Ambrose of Woodbury. "Even as a chaperone, I learned more about the needs in the community," Meg explains, as she remembers the first trip she made with the school.

In addition to the periodic trips that the St. Ambrose community makes to the Food Centre, Meg also decided to get involved on a regular basis. The idea came about as she and the other members of her small group Bible study were looking for ways to serve the community. Meg was familiar with House of Charity and the staff at the Food Centre and decided that it would be a great fit for her group. She explains, "It's easy to get involved and be a part of the work that you do."

Meg and her small group now volunteer with House of Charity on a monthly basis. With the assistance of all of our loyal volunteers, Food Centre staff is able to feed over 11,000 people per month.

If you would like more information about volunteer opportunities with House of Charity, please visit our website: www.houseofcharity.org/volunteers; or to schedule a time to volunteer, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at s.jaffe@houseofcharity.org or 612-436-2057.

A Life Determined

Note From the Executive Director

Determination - defined as firm in purpose; being resolute.

The stories of Meg and James are great examples of determination. James determined to change his life. Meg determined to get involved and give back to her community.

Their determination has purpose and thus impact.

We are blessed everyday by our community partners, volunteers, and donors.

Your determinations to share your time, talent and treasures makes a difference and an impact.

Bert Winkel



FALL 2015

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Words of Wisdom

"One who gains strength by overcoming obstacles possesses the only strength which can overcome adversity."

-Albert Schweitzer

Determination to Overcome

James's mission

James is a man who is determined to change his life. Through a connection in Minneapolis and the help of House of Charity, James has begun a new life.

After many years of battling addiction, James left his hometown in Illinois to attend inpatient treatment in Iowa. Upon completing the program, he went home; but James had changed and his town had not.

In 2010, a friend suggested James move to Minnesota to assist a relative and get a fresh start. But moving away did not help. It soon became apparent that living with his relative was hindering James in his journey to recover.

James contacted the police to move him from his relative's home to a single adult shelter. James knew one other person in Minnesota, who was a former House of Charity resident and recommended that he visit. James came to House of Charity and remembers his experience that first day vividly.

"I sat on that wonderful bench in that hallway for hours; that wonderful shining bench."

A case manager took him to lunch, and then he was back sitting on the bench, waiting. At two o'clock in the afternoon, House of Charity gave James a bed. He stayed at House of Charity's Transitional Housing Program and attended the Day by Day Outpatient Treatment Program for four months. Unfortunately, receiving a room at House of Charity was not yet the end of James's struggles.

At one point during his stay, James had a roommate who was not sober. James tried to encourage him to attend meetings with him but was not successful. Many times his roommate would come home smelling of alcohol, but James's determination to stay sober won out.

While at House of Charity, James started GED classes and graduated from the Day by Day treatment program. In October of 2010, James continued on the path to independence by entering House of Charity's Housing First program, and received his own apartment in Minneapolis.

Today, James is five years and eight months free of alcohol, drugs and cigarettes.

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"I don't want to be homeless again."

James's mission (continue)

James's recovery was the first undertaking in his new life. In June of 2012, James married his beautiful wife and one week later graduated out of the Housing First Program. They now live in their own home in a Twin Cities suburb. James is currently working two jobs.

His most recent accomplishment is about to commence. James will graduate this year with an associate's degree in Human Services from a local community college, and has completed an internship with the county. His goal after school is to be hired as a case manager with the county or a non-profit organization.

James's plans for the future are brighter and more ambitious than ever before.

"Once I thought I would never accomplish anything. I thought I was a product of society, where I grew up, or the streets. I didn't think there was a spot for me in this world. There is a spot for me today. Now, I am going to give back as much as I can. It's not about me anymore. It's about helping the next person getting off that Greyhound bus wondering where they are going to go. Hopefully, someone will hear my story and ask how I did it. Then I will be there to talk with them, guide them, and offer encouragement and direction."

James encourages House of Charity to continue the important work they are doing. He urges them to continue with the vision to transform lives one person at a time. He says that if even one person a year turns their life around, the work is all worthwhile.

"Keep the mission and vision because we all need some help sometimes."

"Keep the mission and vision because we all need some help sometimes."

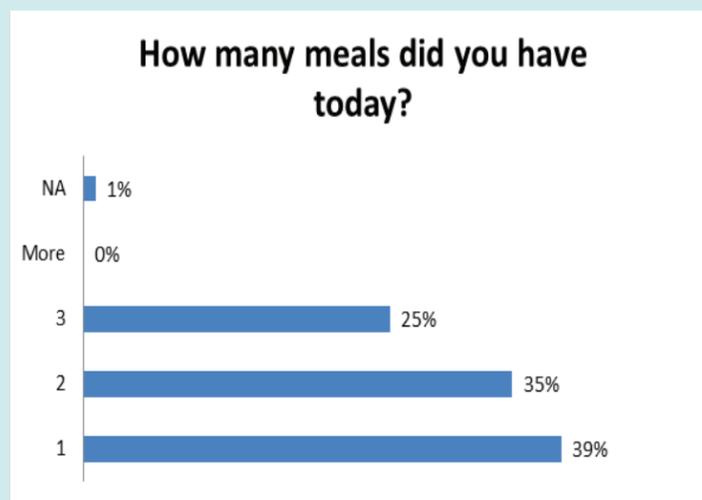
A Look at Hunger in Our Neighborhood

As one of our generous supporters, you affect the lives of the more than 350 people who visit our Food Centre every day. We depend upon you to serve the hungry in the Minneapolis area.

Despite the improved economy, hunger and the need for meals every day has increased. We have served almost 2000 more people so far this year than we did in 2014. Thirty-nine percent of the 6,769 individuals served so far in 2015 said the lunch provided by House of Charity's Food Centre was their only meal of the day.

Through a continuing partnership with Second Harvest Heartland, a Minneapolis-based food bank, just 50¢ provides a hot nutritious meal for an individual through our Food Centre.

Thanks to your support, we make sure everyone who comes to the Food Centre receives the nourishment they need.



Take Action Today!

Have your donation doubled!

Make a Monthly Impact!

Become a monthly supporter to help provide 11,500 meals every month. Your monthly gift of \$25 will provide a meal to 50 people. That totals 600 meals in a year!

Go to www.houseofcharity.org:

1. Click on the Donate Online button on the left
2. Select monthly to the question "How often do you want to make this donation?"
3. Enter your credit card information or set-up an E-Check.

With your help, we can feed thousands of hungry individuals in Minneapolis!

Make a Difference

Your gift has a profound and immediate impact on people like James.

\$25 will feed 50 people.

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

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

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

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

Check here and provide your email above if you would like to receive only our e-correspondence!

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.

Did you know?

Feeding America reports that over 11% of individuals and families in Hennepin County do not know when they will get their next meal.