

# Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley

# H.O.P.E. LETTER



## Housing, Opportunities, Prevention & Empowerment



Third Quarter  
2010

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### Our Mission

The mission of the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley is to provide temporary shelter to homeless individuals and families in a safe environment, while providing guidance to those both homeless and at-risk that promotes independence

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## J. J. Keller Foundation Match Grant

J. J. Keller Foundation has recently announced a generous matching grant for the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley. We will receive a \$10,000 grant if we can generate \$10,000 in donations from new donors before November 30, including new financial donors at our upcoming Benefit Gala on Tuesday, November 16. Now is the perfect time for you to share your passion and knowledge about the ESFV and our work with your friends and family to help us earn this challenge grant.

### Out of the Shadows; Into the Light—Benefit Gala

The 5th Annual Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley's Benefit Gala will be held on Tuesday, November 16, at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

The Gala is an elegant and entertaining evening with a one-of-a-kind meal, auctions and a memorable program, and the cost is \$100 per person. This year's event is sponsored by:

- J. J. Keller Foundation
- SECURA Insurance Companies
- Affinity Health Systems
- Appleton
- Associated Financial Group
- McCain Foods
- Kimberly-Clark Corporation
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

On-line registration is available at [www.emergencyshelterfoxvalley.org](http://www.emergencyshelterfoxvalley.org) under Events. Call 920-734-9603 or email [info@esfv.org](mailto:info@esfv.org) for more information.

Thank you for your support!



### SILHOUETTES PROJECT

Watch for life-sized silhouettes on downtown Appleton's sidewalks during **National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 14-20)!**

They were created by volunteers from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, with the help of FVTC's Wood Manufacturing Program Instructor, Mark Lorge. The purpose of these silhouettes is to help create more awareness of our community's "invisible" homeless population.

## IN HIS WORDS



### Ernest Shares His Experience

Upon being released from Outagamie County jail on June 25, 2010, I was picked up by a support group called Bridging the Gap, a program designed to help people with drugs and alcohol abuse. I was unable to get into the Mooring House, so I called the ESFV and asked if there was a bed available. I got lucky. I left my Probation Officer's office and went straight to the ESFV.

I became homeless due to my drug and alcohol abuse and made a decision to give myself a chance at recovery by staying away from old people, places and things.

While being a resident at the ESFV, I made plans and set goals with the case manager. I started by attending a "90 In 90" meeting (attending 90 AA/NA meetings in 90 days), going to PRIDE class, job seeking, church and, most importantly, taking advantage of all the resources the ESFV has to offer, such as life skills, housing assistance and referrals to the Workforce Development Center and FISC.

After 30 days of utilizing the Workforce Development Center, filling out job applications and making a resume, I became employed through a staffing agency and moved into the COTS program, which is perfect for me.

I have five months of recovery, a sponsor, a support group and am living life on life's terms. I am truly grateful to the ESFV for allowing me a chance for a new life, one day at a time.

## POINT IN TIME COUNT

Counting the number of people we serve and the outcomes of those services combined with reporting and analyzing this data are familiar tasks for any agency that accepts grant funding. These are common activities to us all.

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, a different type of count occurred for the housing providers in this community. Over 60 volunteers, trained and recruited by Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley Outreach Worker, Chris Lashock, worked together throughout the night to try to count the homeless people living in our community, those living in shelters, transitional living units, on the streets, in cars and the other places homeless people sometimes dwell temporarily.

It is difficult to image living without housing for most people. It is nearly impossible for those living through it. Solving the problem of homelessness will take much coordination and commitment and many resources. But before any solution can be implemented, a proper perspective of the problem must be known. This is why the Point in Time count of homeless persons is so important. Identifying the size of the problem, helps all of us as providers to come up with the appropriate solutions.

By having an accurate count of how many people are living without stable and safe housing and where they are – sheltered or unsheltered, helps all of us to create the system of services that will best meet the needs of our unique community. Our data, combined with the data collected by other providers from all over the state and nation, helps to determine how much resource is needed and where resources are best allocated to address the problem.

In the Fox Cities we learned that on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 333 people in our community were counted as homeless. And though this number is down since the January count, it is disturbingly high. Further, that the percentage of homeless persons living unsheltered is up significantly has already caused a new round of strategic discussions about how best to outreach and serve these unsheltered homeless individuals. Good data is the core of these discussions. We are indeed lucky to have so many who were willing to volunteer to assist with this important task. Together we are making a difference.

### ENDOWMENT FUND AND PLANNED GIVING

You can help support the Emergency Shelter in the future through gifts to our Endowment Fund and through planned giving as part of your estate planning. Our Endowment Fund was established to provide long-term continuing support for the Prevention Program which assists persons at high risk of homelessness to maintain their community based housing. In 2009, this collaborative program assisted 1,399 persons. Charitable bequests and other planned gifts are other ways to support our programs now and in the future. Contact Debra Cronmiller, Executive Director, for more information.

### GARDEN WALK A SUCCESS!

July 17, 2010, was the date of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley Garden Walk! This year's weather was gorgeous, and we had over 100 more walkers than last year!

Many thanks to our generous event sponsor, Appleton Coated, and the planning committee, all of the gardeners and the many other volunteers who helped make this year Garden Walk another wonderful success. We couldn't have done it without you!

## Statistics - First Six Months of 2010

Since the summer of 2008, the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley has been experiencing an increasing demand for our services. The first half of 2010 has been no different in that regard. Each program area has seen a significant increase in clients.

Through June 30<sup>th</sup>, the ESFV has sheltered 465 men, women, and children totaling 12,480 nights of shelter. We have served 40 more people in shelter through the first half of the year than during the same time period in 2009. Unfortunately, this increase in demand also results in a longer waiting list. Through the month of June, we have carried a waiting list for 70 nights.

Besides seeing an increase in the demand for shelter services, the number of individuals with significant barriers has increased drastically. Half of the shelter residents have a disability of long duration, including nearly one in three residents suffering from some form of mental illness.

Because we have carried a waiting list frequently, the Street Outreach Program also has been working with more individuals than ever before. After adding another ½ time outreach case manager, the Outreach Program has been able to step up its efforts to house individuals who are sleeping on the streets or in other places not suitable for human habitation and connect them to mainstream resources. Thanks in part to the added staff, the Outreach Program has been able to conduct more street outreach, which has led to 100 more clients contacted and informed about the services that the ESFV offers, as well as assisting 46 individuals in the social security process.

For the second straight year, the ESFV has seen a decrease in chronically homeless individuals served in shelter, which can be directly attributed to the Housing First Program. Entering its third year, there are currently 19 chronically homeless individuals being served in the program. Ten of the Housing First clients are paying their rent without any assistance, while the other seven all have been able to contribute a portion of their rent on a regular basis.

Without the Prevention Program, the number of homeless people in the Fox Cities would be even remarkably higher. Through the first half of the year, 728 people have been served through the Prevention Program. Nearly \$60,000 worth of assistance has been provided to households to prevent a homeless episode which has helped 99% of the clients seeking prevention services to maintain their community housing.

## Director's Message

The newest data on Poverty in the State of Wisconsin has just been released. Not surprising to any of us working at the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley is the fact that, both locally and on a statewide level, more people are living in poverty.

The root causes of poverty are numerous. Lack of economic opportunity, low levels of educational attainment, criminal behaviors, poor health, mental illness and too little affordable housing are just a few of the leading causes. Tackling these root causes is not easy. Ensuring that every school age child graduates high school with the reading and math skills a high school graduate should possess will take major systemic change and resources. To truly provide basic health care to every citizen, a huge shift in public policy will be needed. To better serve people with mental illness and brain injury as a nation, the 70% of the public that believes mental illness is caused by emotional weakness will need to better understand the brain and, like the heart, lungs and other organs, it can be healthy or genetically susceptible to disease and certainly its function will be compromised by trauma. Ensuring that every family has access to a home that is safe and affordable to them will require more housing subsidies. Empowering every citizen to be responsible and accountable will likely only happen when all the rest of these systemic changes have been achieved.

Poverty, especially long term poverty, changes people. It disconnects people from their community. It diminishes the hope of a better future that otherwise motivates people to build upon their skills to achieve a greater sense of self worth and self sufficiency.

Assisting families to maintain their housing in the community prevents them from beginning the negative spiral into poverty. Meeting people's basic needs for safe shelter and food is a small start in restoring some of the lost hope that allows a person to believe tomorrow will be better than today.

Providing a safety net for this community's most vulnerable people means all of us must pull together to hold it up. This year, the ESFV will serve more people than ever in our history. Between now and the end of the year, over \$100,000 of new contribution income will be needed to cover the costs associated with meeting this higher demand. New donors will have an opportunity to double their contribution as the J.J. Keller Foundation has generously offer a \$10,000 dollar for dollar challenge grant for new donors to the ESFV.

The generous financial support of new donors and all those who have historically supported our work is critical to cover the costs of serving those in poverty and experiencing homelessness. Your support is needed so we can continue to hold up the safety net.



**Debra Cronmiller**  
Executive Director

# Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley

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*Serving homeless families and individuals in  
the Fox Valley since 1981.*



## Board of Directors

**President:** Kurt Eggebrecht, City of Appleton  
**Vice President:** John Russo, McCarty Law  
**Secretary:** Open  
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Terry Ellenbecker, Hoffman  
Brenda Klister, Volunteer  
Greg Pawlak, RBC Wealth Management  
Brett Schroeder, Johnson Bank  
Peggy Ward, Kimberly-Clark Corporation

## Giving Trees

The Giving Tree Project is result of a local Girl Scout's Gold Award project and helps coordinate local churches in directing grocery store gift cards to the ESFV.

We are also about to kick off our other Giving Tree project for local stores and workplaces. These are artificial trees decorated with paper ornaments as gift ideas for the ESFV. We are currently looking for more places to host a tree.

Please inquire about whether your church, workplace or school would host a Giving Tree during the holidays. Or let us know if you can help deliver or set up trees, pick up donations, replace ornaments as needed, deliver gifts to the ESFV or take down trees after the holiday.

If you can help us in any way with the Giving Trees projects, please call email [info@esfv.org](mailto:info@esfv.org) or call 920-734-9603.

Thank you!

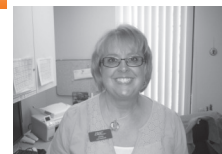
## Current Urgent Needs

We are running low on some important supplies. Following is a list of urgent needs at the ESFV:

Laundry Baskets and Detergent, Fabric Softener, Dryer Sheets, Pillows, Baby Monitors, Napkins, Paper Towels, Men's Underwear (size med), Women's Ankle Socks, Cleaning Supplies for Housing First Clients (Mops, Buckets, Dust Pans, Brooms and Vacuums) and 13 or 30-Gallon Garbage Bags

Please bring donations to the shelter at 400 N. Division Street. A full list of our needs can be found on our website under You Can Help.

## New Case Managers



Please welcome Laura Kevin, new case manager for the Housing First Program. She

comes to us with several years of experience in working with domestic violence victims. Also, Jessica Stern, a former ESFV House Supervisor and case manager at COTS, has recently become a full-time in-house case manager. We are excited to have both of these talented people on our case management team!

