

Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley

H.O.P.E. LETTER



Housing, Opportunities, Prevention & Empowerment



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**Second Quarter
2010**

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The Garden of Kindness

Volunteers plant seeds of kindness, creating gardens of joy and light. The flowers and fruits that bloom, bud and grow provide for many and shine so bright.

The gardens never fade or wither, for their goodness endures in countless ways. In the lives they touch, the hope they share, the smiles they spread and spirits they raise.

Thanks volunteers for your generous gift. Planting seeds with your special flare. The world is a kinder, brighter place because of your commitment and care.

20th Annual Garden Walk

Mark your calendar for the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley's Garden Walk on Saturday, July 17, sponsored by Appleton Coated, LLC. Spend a wonderful day browsing seven lovely Fox Cities gardens. Your ticket is also admission to the Paper Valley Garden Club's judged Horticulture Show and Floral Design Exhibit at the Sherwood Community Center in Sherwood.

Experience the peace and tranquility of beautiful gardens that include outstanding features such as: a backyard sanctuary containing an organic vegetable garden, meandering pathways where you can walk among statuaries and view over 30 varieties of hostas, a pergola-covered bar, a custom built fireplace, a koi pond, waterfalls, hand-crafted arbors, a living fence of arborvitae, bird baths, rock outcroppings, wooden and stone bridges and a quilted garden. The homeowners and volunteer Master Gardeners will be on hand at each garden to answer questions.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event. Advance tickets can be purchased at the ESFV, the Gardens of the Fox Cities or these local floral and landscaping outlets: Charles the Florist, Gary's Flowerland, Gardens of the Fox Cities, Memorial Florists, The Plant Station, Riverside Florists, Reyenbeau Floral, Schmalz Custom Landscaping, Shade Today Nursery, Sterling Gardens, Vande Hey's Landscaping, Van Zealand Nursery, Wild Bird & Backyard and The Wreath Factory.

Our Garden Walk is an all-volunteer effort. All funds received from ticket sales will help the ESFV offset the cost of our programs, including providing shelter and other basic needs, as well as case management, to homeless individuals and families.

Garden descriptions and locations are available under "Upcoming Events":

www.emergencyshelterfoxvalley.org.

We still need volunteers to sell tickets at the gardens. E-mail

jillmitchler@esfv.org or call (920) 734-9603. We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Events

18th Annual Polkafest July 2-4, 2010

Romy's Nitingale, Black Creek, WI

The Altrusa Club of Appleton sponsors this fun weekend event at Romy's Nitingale in Black Creek. It features live polka bands, dancing, food, refreshments and basket raffles. For more information about the event, contact Becky at 920-731-8869, Dar at 920-731-4983, Ellen at 920-731-4359, or Karla at 920-525-3713. We are still looking for volunteers to sell raffle tickets on Saturday, July 3, from 3-5 and 5-7 pm.

20th Annual Garden Walk Saturday, July 17, 2010

Sponsored by Appleton Coated, LLC. Enjoy a walking tour of several local gardens and Fox Valley Garden Club's Horticultural Competition and Floral Show. Event tickets are available at local landscape and floral outlets, the Gardens of the Fox Cities and the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley. See our article on page 1 for more information.

The Emergency Shelter's 3rd Annual Benefit Golf Outing Monday, August 2, 2010—10:30 Registration; 11:30 Shotgun Start

Ridgeway Country Club, 2913 County Road II, Neenah, WI

Your registration includes lunch, dinner and an additional 18 holes of golf at Ridgeway sometime during the 2010 season! Cost: \$100 per person in advance or \$110 after July 16. See page 4 for a registration form.

Sponsored by Preferred Home Health Care, Green Bay Packers, Willis of Wisconsin and Wichman and Fargo Funeral Homes. We are also seeking additional \$300 hole sponsors. Come join the Fun!

Octoberfest 2010 September 25, 2010

We are currently looking for a group who would be willing to host a Non-Profit Food Booth as a fundraiser to benefit the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley at downtown Appleton's Octoberfest on September 25, 2010. Booth applications are being accepted through July and more information can be found on <http://octoberfestonline.org>.

5th Annual Benefit Gala November 16, 2010

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel

333 W. College Avenue, Appleton, WI

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, McCain Foods and Associated Financial Group, this event coincides with National Homelessness Awareness Week, November 14-20. This promises to be an elegant and entertaining evening with a one-of-a-kind meal, auctions and a memorable program. More corporate sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information about volunteering, participation or sponsorship for any of these events, please go online to: www.emergencyshelterfoxvalley.org under Events, email info@esfv.org, or call (920) 734-9603.

Director's Message

As the director of the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley, I have many opportunities to talk to the community about what we do and the influence we are making in our community. I always try to emphasize that we have five distinct programs making an impact on homelessness: Shelter, Services, Prevention, Outreach and Housing First. I am always overwhelmed by the concern and compassion for those in our community experiencing homelessness that is expressed by those with whom I speak. After presenting, I am often accused of being "passionate".

I will admit to all of you, I am passionate. Not about the services we offer, though our services are innovative and effective. My passion is for justice; or more accurately, social justice - the social justice that is missing in our community. In the Fox Cities, like all over our nation, we still treat health care and housing as commodities - something from which we can make profits.

Too frequently, as citizens and as larger systems, we try to assign blame to those in need. "They" are not working hard enough. "They" are not compliant. "They" are not eligible or needy enough. These accusations prevent us from listening and, more importantly, from creating the environments where we can do the most to assist those in need to have their needs met. In a world where one of the primary goals is to assign the resources to those who are most needy and most likely to have a positive outcome, we fail to focus our attention on meeting all the needs. We create the service system we have today - a system based on supply and demand models and not on social justice.

As communities, we need to learn that meeting every person's basic needs for wellness and housing are, plainly and simply, rights. And until every person in the Fox Cities has these basic needs met, I will continue to be passionate. As more of us work for social justice, our systems will change. Perhaps then, we will see that by meeting everyone's basic needs; we can enhance our communities. We can function more productively with the synergy of inclusion versus the divisiveness of exclusion and competition. Likely, we will save the resources that today we buy and sell to the detriment of so many. At this time in the future, I will no longer need to speak to you about the services offered by the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley, for these services will no longer be needed. This vision is what truly generates my passion. I can only hope you share the vision. Together, we can make a difference.

Debra Cronmiller, Executive Director



Debra Cronmiller
Executive Director

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 High Risk 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 and had 99% success! Charitable bequests and other planned gifts are another way you can support our programs now and in the future.

Please help the Emergency Shelter provide help for this year and in the future. Contact Debra Cronmiller, Executive Director, at (920) 882-0346 for more information on the many ways to donate.

Muriel—A Client's Story

Muriel had not always been homeless. In fact, at age 49, this was the very first time that she had absolutely no where to go. Her descent into homelessness was gradual. It began five years earlier when the job that she had held for 15 years was lost due to downsizing. At that time she had a couple of years left to pay on her mortgage. She has just taken a loan out on a car, but she wasn't worried. She knew that she could get a different job. But after several months of looking, other things started to fall apart. Her 2 year old grandson died. This loss fractured the frail family connection that Muriel and her daughter had. Tempers flared, and they vowed never to talk to each other again.

After the loss of her grandson, Muriel began to display symptoms of depression. Nothing mattered any longer. She no longer looked for work. She got behind in her car payments and her mortgage. When her unemployment compensation timed out, she did not request an extension. She began getting the kind of letters that she had never gotten before. Disconnect notices, overdue bills. All of it was very overwhelming. As her life deconstructed, her mental health symptoms increased.

There was never a thought of seeking help. It did not dawn on her that she was depressed, or that there was anything she could do about it. Friends tried to talk to her, but eventually they stopped, and they went away.

During a moment of clarity, Muriel realized that she could not afford her house any longer. She put it on the market, and after about a year, it sold. For a while she thought things were going to go better for her. But they didn't. The selling price was not as much as she thought it would be. And after taxes, there was not much left. Muriel moved into a pay by the month motel, just until she could figure things out.

She stayed in that motel room for two years. Her car was impounded, and she had no idea how to ride the bus. During the winters, she didn't go very far. Now, even looking for a job was too big of a battle.

Muriel came to the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley after she ran out of money. Staff at the motel referred her. She was very scared. Had she anywhere else to go, she would have. But she didn't.

After several emotional meetings with her case manager, she began to understand the situation that she was in. She vowed to take advantage of every opportunity that was offered to her, because she knew she did not want to remain homeless.

Muriel began talking to nurses and a therapist from the Fox Cities Community Health Center. She started taking medication for depression and found that it helped. She met with staff at the Workforce Development Center and was amazed to see that she really was quite qualified for several different jobs. She put together a resume and updated her computer skills. She became a pro at riding the Transit System. She helped others learn. As Muriel became more "herself", she began going to church again. She reconnected with some friends.

Muriel did find work. In fact, she worked two jobs for a while. She moved into the COTS program, which she says is perfect for her. Last month, she called her daughter, and they talked for the first time in years. Life is slowly coming back together.

Current Urgent Needs

Pillows
 Men's Flip Flops size 9+ (in season now - inexpensive at Old Navy, dollar stores, etc.)
 Foot Powder
 Men's Boxers size M, L & XL
 Non Scented Lotion
 Paper Towels
 Diapers—sizes 4/5/6
 Tampons
 Napkins
 Men's Deodorant
 Gift Cards – Walmart, Shopko, Copps
 Baby Monitors
 Alarm Clocks
 Large Rubbermaid Storage Totes (18 gallon)
 Hair Styling Products: Gel, Mousse
 Men's body wash
 Shower Caddies
 Travel Soap Dishes

Mock Wedding

On Friday, April 30, the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley benefited from a new and slightly unusual event. A Mock-Wedding Wish List drive was put on by a group of Leaders enrolled in the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Fox Cities Program. The Mock-Wedding event was the brainchild of a group of six who, upon looking at the wish list of the shelter, thought it resembled that of a wedding registry. From that revelation, the idea became a successful drive resulting in a donation of more than \$2,500.

The Mock-Wedding event looked like a wedding with a bride and groom, wedding party, musicians, deejay, flowers and cake. The actors were all Lawrence University theater and music students who volunteered their time and talent to the cause. The Pastor was played by an actual Pastor; Pastor Paul Schuler of St. Matthew Lutheran Church and another Leadership Fox Cities Leader.

With over 75 guests, the event turned into a fun night of laughter and camaraderie as the bride and groom were toasted over dinner and danced their first dance as "husband" and "wife". Not only was the event very entertaining, but the result was a truckload full of much needed items for the shelter and a nice donation which will help us through the year. Look for the Mock-Wedding Wish List Drive to become an annual event benefitting the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley.

If you are interested in helping to plan next year's event, please contact Tracy Williams-Prince at 920-427-1600.

LIVE UNITED 





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

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Registration Form for Golf Outing

REGISTRATION FORM FOR AUGUST 2, 2010 GOLF OUTING AT RIDGEWAY

EARLY REGISTRATION – postmarked by July 16th OR Registrations postmarked after July 16th
 number of golfers _____ x \$100 = _____ number of golfers _____ x \$110 = _____

Please make checks payable to: **Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley, Inc.**

	Golfer #1- team contact person	Golfer #2	Golfer #3	Golfer #4
Name				
Address				
City/State/Zip				
Phone				
E-mail				

NOTE: teams with fewer than 4 golfers may be placed with other teams to make a foursome

Mail completed forms with payment to:
 Jean Pynenberg
 1226 E Applecreek Rd
 Appleton, WI 54913