

**February  
2008**

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## Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley

### Starting the New Year Off Right!



Kim Wetzel (right) of the Bemis Foundation presents Debra Cronmiller, Executive Director, with a \$40,000 check.

The Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley was able to pay off the line of credit and enter the New Year in black due to some significant 2007 contributions from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Bemis Foundation, St. Elizabeth Community Foundation, and the J.J. Keller Foundation.

Since July, the Emergency Shelter has carried a high balance on its line of credit to cover operating costs. However, in November, the J.J. Keller Foundation announced a Challenge Grant of \$25,000 in matching funds for all contributions from new donors made to the Emergency Shelter. These matching funds offered a real opportunity to help educate the community regarding the needs of the homeless. In just five weeks, over 180 new donors stepped up and satisfied the challenge requirement. This \$50,000 in new funding to the Emergency Shelter helped push income to the level that made paying off the line of credit possible.

The Bemis Foundation also offered a financial boost with a \$40,000 contribution for operations. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation provided an operating grant of \$70,000 and an additional grant of \$15,000 to help build the endowment fund that supports the operations of the Prevention Program. The St. Elizabeth Hospital Community Foundation granted \$15,000 of operating support, and the Menasha Corporation Foundation provided a grant of \$15,000 to help support a case manager.

Together, these end of year contributions, along with grant income, support from the United Way and contributions from area churches, service organizations, businesses and individuals totaled over \$1,200,000 allowing us to completely pay off all outstanding debt on our line of credit. Paying off the line completely is a true testament that there are many in this community who share our vision and want to help assure that our mission to provide basic food, shelter and guidance to those in need is realized. A huge thank you to everyone supporting the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley with their contributions of time, talent or treasure.

### A Poverty Coalition is Born!

Project Promise, for over a year now, has been bringing awareness, education and action to the Fox Cities around all aspects of poverty. On January 18, 2007, when Project Promise kicked off, five distinct initiatives were in focus: 1) Community Book Read of Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed*, 2) Diversity Circle discussions about poverty and the poor, 3) Thrivent's Financial Fitness initiatives on managing, saving and budgeting money, 4) Poverty Simulations to help provide experiential learning about poverty, and 5) Financial Literacy Counseling provided by FISC.

Additionally, working action groups to discuss Payday lending, transportation, affordable housing, nutrition, family mentoring, education, inclusion and how best to listen to those in poverty and engage the whole community were formed. By mid summer, 2007, a steering committee had evolved to discuss creating a formal coalition of all those who shared the common interest of lessening the number of people in the Fox Cities that live in poverty.

This steering committee included a diverse group of advocates; those involved in direct service, those that financially support direct service, business leaders, educators, faith community leaders, and government. This committee defined poverty, and created a very ambitious mission for the Coalition: to eliminate poverty in the Fox Cities.

The Emergency Shelter has played a key role in providing a connection to those in our community who are able and wanting to advocate for change and those that will benefit most from these changes – the vulnerable homeless among us.

The Emergency Shelter is a charter member of the Project Promise Poverty Coalition and recognizes how very important it will be to have a broad and diverse membership engaged in building awareness, providing education and acting to create a community without poverty. Please consider joining – just click on [www.projectpromisefoxcities.org](http://www.projectpromisefoxcities.org) for information about membership and meetings.

## Local Issues—Long-term Solutions

As most of our readers know, the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley is one of the 35 member organizations of the Fox Cities Housing Coalition. The FCHC oversees this community's Continuum of Care for housing. Our Continuum identifies our service providers and creates channels of communication between providers so that all those in need can be served in the most efficient manner and with the least amount of duplication. Occasionally, new members join the Coalition to provide services that are necessary or to otherwise augment our Continuum. The FCHC annually identifies our service priorities and has a standing committee that looks at emerging needs and unmet needs (gaps). The Gaps committee this year has been looking at the best way to meet the needs of homeless persons who are actively using drugs and/or alcohol or are otherwise not able to seek shelter.

Concurrent to the work of the Coalition's Gaps Committee, a new work group, whose membership is primarily members of local faith based communities, was formed to address this gap in our continuum. Their proposed solution is to start up a temporary shelter to house the folks who are either intoxicated or violent (physically or sexually).

Though a gap does exist currently in our Continuum, the Fox Cities Housing Coalition has formally opposed the formation of this type of shelter for the following reasons: 1) this type of shelter has been tried and it has failed (too hard to staff and maintain safety), 2) shelters do not solve the problem – resources should be allocated to permanent solutions, 3) we do have some resources to serve the chronically homeless such as PATH, 4) this new group has not figured out how to create a safe environment for those they intend to serve, and 5) this new shelter could potentially create a bigger problem if they do not coordinate their services with case management and other existing programs in our Continuum.

To address the needs in our Continuum, the Emergency Shelter has been working to develop a permanent housing program that is based on a harm reduction model and does not require absolute sobriety. This program, called Housing First, would move folks right from the streets to permanent housing. From the stable base of permanent housing, mainstream benefits such as Social Security, County Mental Health Services, VA Benefits, etc., become possible. Obviously, we do not want any homeless person in need of shelter to not have any options. In our current system, we work hard to identify the street homeless and help to create opportunities for stable housing and income. This year, as we work to develop a Housing First program in the Fox Cities, your support will be needed not only to offer affordable, permanent housing options but to ensure that the financial support necessary to operate this program exists. Together, we can reduce the number of street homeless people in our community by creating a new permanent housing option to serve them – Housing First!

## Upcoming Events

### Save the Dates

**Annual Meeting—April 8, 2008** The Emergency Shelter will report to donors, partner agencies, volunteers, elected officials, and community leaders on the 2007 program outcomes, financial position, and our future strategic objectives.

**Annual Human Race - May 3, 2008** As a great way to welcome spring, collect pledges and participate in this non-competitive walk/run to be held at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in Appleton and Menominee Park in Oshkosh.

**Garden Party - July 10, 2008** A unique women's event that offers a cocktail reception, an exclusive preview of one of the featured Garden Walk gardens, an elegant dinner, fashion show, and a drawing for two complete makeovers sponsored by local salons.

**18th Annual Garden Walk - July 12, 2008** The Emergency Shelter's longest standing fund raising event. More than 800 local residents will enjoy this walking tour of six local gardens, as well as admission to the Fox Valley Garden Club's Horticultural Competition and Floral Show. Tickets will be available at local landscape and floral outlets.

**3rd Annual Golf Outing - July 29, 2008** A fun day of golfing, contests and prizes.

**3rd Annual Benefit Gala - November 11, 2008** An elegant and entertaining evening with a one-of-a-kind dinner, unique auction items, and memorable charm.

Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities exist with all of these events. For more information, contact Jill Mitchler at [jillmitchler@new.rr.com](mailto:jillmitchler@new.rr.com) or 920-734-9603.

## Help for the Homeless

You are invited to help the homeless by participating in the upcoming annual Help for the Homeless toiletries drive. *Help for the Homeless* works directly with the homeless coalitions in the Fox Valley, Brown County, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, and Manitowoc to stock the shelves of at least 32 homeless and crisis programs, including the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley. Donations of new cleaning and personal care items may be dropped off at Festival Foods Stores, area Christian book stores, the Christian Family Radio studios, and participating churches, schools, libraries, and businesses from February 16 – March 12. Donations will remain in the communities where they're collected to help local agencies like ours dedicate our limited financial resources to areas where they're most effective – providing qualified personnel, safe housing, nutritious food, education, and counseling to those they serve.

## Director's Message

Each year the Emergency Shelter staff and board members work through strategic planning exercises to assist with the development of program and budget priorities. Our 2007 planning session was devoted to creating a new five year plan. A great deal of work goes into preparing for these sessions as we must look at data, statistics, trends and program outcomes. Additionally, we must review and affirm (or reject) our mission statement and vision. To help us do this, we survey staff, board members, community partners and those who use our services. In short, we plan to plan with the hope that we come up with usable goals and strategies for conducting our work. The following is the product of our work, and I welcome your comments regarding these goals and objectives for 2008 to 2012 as all of our work will be driven by these priorities.




- Continue to evolve the Emergency Shelter Board to a strategic oversight body that focuses on governance and fundraising and operates through an effective committee structure that leverages individuals outside of the board members.
- Stewardship of resources:
  - Develop a sustainable operating funding plan that targets the creation of a three (3) month cash reserve fund and includes a targeted business program.
  - Create a plan to continue to grow an endowment fund that would support the Prevention Program and interrelate with the operating budget.
  - Develop a reasonable funding plan to support any new, innovative programming.
  - Develop/create a banking relationship that supports the needs of the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley.
- Support the sustainability and effectiveness of all existing programs such as Primary Case Management, PRIDE, Housing Case Management, Vocational Case Management, Mental and Physical Health, Children's Programming, GOAL Education, Outreach and Prevention.
- Develop and support a branding that effectively reflects who we are, who we serve and what impact we have in the community.
- Develop a service and client segmentation strategy (prioritization) including the identification of a specific plan to reduce at-risk behaviors for at least 50 hard to-serve clients.

*Debra Cronmiller*

Board of Directors
<b>President:</b> Mike Hanson, Affinity Health System
<b>Vice President:</b> Dave Johnson, School Specialty
<b>Secretary:</b> Kurt Eggebrecht, City of Appleton
<b>Treasurer:</b> Kathryn Sieman, Secura Insurance
<b>Past President:</b> Craig Christensen, Habush, Habush & Rottier S.C.
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John Russo, McCarty Law
Mary Schmidt, Volunteer
Peggy Ward, Kimberly-Clark Corporation
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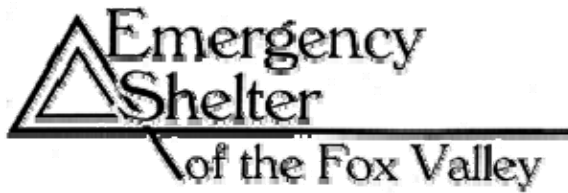
**Other Ways to Donate**

The Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley accepts donations through our website using



We are also set up to accept MasterCard and Visa donations. Donors can include their credit card information right on the donation envelope included in our mailings. For more information, email [emergencysHELTER@new.rr.com](mailto:emergencysHELTER@new.rr.com) or call 920-734-9192.





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

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**Our mission** 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.

## **CURRENT WISH LIST**

Cash donations are the most flexible resource for meeting our most immediate needs. Please consider this as your first alternative. **Items we currently need:**

- Paper towels
- Twin size sheets/blankets
- Bath size towels
- Irons/ironing board cover
- Toaster
- Shredder (confetti cut)
- Vacuum (new)
- Baby monitors
- Microwave (or money towards)
- Freezer (new or gently used)
- Money toward top loading washer
- Money toward a new floor in laundry room

For a full list of all our needs, please visit our website or contact Anne Lagunes at 920-734-9192 or [annelagunes@new.rr.com](mailto:annelagunes@new.rr.com).

## **Community Day—Younkens March 1, 2008**

This spring, we will be participating in the Community Day sale at Younkens. For a \$5.00 donation that goes directly to the Emergency Shelter, you can receive a coupon booklet with a coupon worth \$10.00 off on an item priced at \$10.00 or more (limited exclusions apply) PLUS other discounts!

The coupons are good for Saturday, March 1. Booklets are on sale at the front desk of the Emergency Shelter.

For more information, or to sell additional coupon booklets for the Emergency Shelter, please contact Jill Mitchler at 920-734-9603 or [jillmitchler@new.rr.com](mailto:jillmitchler@new.rr.com).

If you have a change or correction you'd like to make to your name, address, or wish to give your e-mail address to us, please contact us at 920-734-9603 or [jillmitchler@new.rr.com](mailto:jillmitchler@new.rr.com)  
 Thank you!

## **SEEKING: Room sponsors for the "Adopt a Bedroom" program**

We started this program in 2006 hoping to have all 15 bedrooms adopted financially so that maintaining our bedrooms is possible. With thousands of people sleeping in these rooms, it is essential to keep our bedrooms safe and sanitary. Currently, 10 of the 15 rooms are adopted. If you are interested, please contact Anne Lagunes at 920-734-9192 or [annelagunes@new.rr.com](mailto:annelagunes@new.rr.com).