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TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING BACK

Sue Bronk and Patricia Stevens are both longtime employees of the law firm, Foley & Lardner. They recently volunteered at the Guest House as part of Foley & Lardner's "Days of Caring" initiative. During their tour of the facility, Sue and Patricia noted the Guest House need for clothing, toiletries and bedding. Upon returning to work, Sue sent a mass e-mail to her coworkers at Foley & Lardner asking for donations. The response was overwhelming; within a few weeks a designated room at the firm was brimming with shoes, suits, towels, body wash and more. Patricia organized and boxed up the donations; while folding the numerous pairs of socks, she reflected on what a pair of warm socks might mean to a Guest House resident on a wintry night. Her reflection reminded her of how powerful and real our connection to one another really is.

Sue finds the Guest House staff's dedication impressive and is especially moved by the courage of the men who seek their help. The Guest House goal-based approach, which doesn't just provide each man with a warm place to stay, but provides them with the means to reach their goals, also struck both women as extremely practical and constructive. Sue and Patricia intend to continue their affiliation with the Guest House. They hope to



drum up additional support from Foley & Lardner employees around Father's Day.

Tale of two sisters

Sr. Paula Marie has been a volunteer for the Guest House of Milwaukee since its inception in 1982. The fact that her father's life was saved when strangers opened their door to him one cold winter night affected her profoundly. In the past 27 years, she has done everything from...

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Consider making a long term impact on the social issue of homelessness through a planned gift to the Guest House when planning your estate or will.

One Step At a Time



From the Executive Director: Opportunity?

Recently a guest stopped me in the hallway to say “Cindy, next time someone says they have a paying job for one of the guys, will you remember me? Because that’s what’s preventing me from moving on from the Guest House, an income and a job.” I didn’t know what to say to him. At the Guest House we focus on “moving on.” We want to help men who come to us for shelter, be able to leave with a home of their very own. But not until we have provided the necessary structure he needs to get his life back on track.

Moving on and finding a home exemplifies success! This success is illustrated not only by the men moving out of our shelter, and into their own homes, but also by the many other men, women and families who have found a home in the 170 supported apartments we have available. These people have found a place where they will continue to get the supportive services they need in order to keep them off the streets, out of the hospitals, and yes, in some cases out of jail. The Guest House has been, and continues to be

a leader in this type of supportive housing, and our success continues to grow as we will be adding an additional 60 units within the year. This means in total we have helped 230 people “move on” and find a safe home.

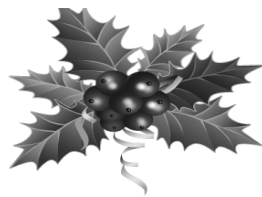
As you have witnessed through your involvement and commitment with the Guest House, we have a lot of good things going on. We thank you for helping us carry out our mission to provide shelter, housing, education and services to Milwaukee’s homeless who seek to transform their lives with dignity and purpose.

Continue to help us make this a safe and warm holiday season for each person living in our shelter; as well as, every man, woman and child who have “moved on” and are living in one of our supported permanent housing units.

Bringing it home for the Holidays

Cindy Krahenbuhl,
Executive Director

Holiday Needs List



Shelter Gifts

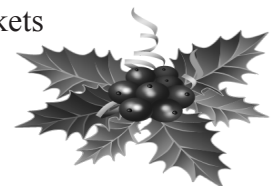
Back Packs
Watch
Wallet
Cologne

Gift Cards

McDonald’s
Burger King
Walgreens
Wal-Mart

Permanent Housing Gifts

Lamps
Toasters
Alarm Clocks
Radios
Blankets



Guests' Bulletin Board:

Harry Maddox grew up in Cabrini Green, Chicago's well-known housing project. At age 11, traumatic family events changed Harry's life forever. Gangs became his life, selling drugs his livelihood. Using his burly outward appearance to his advantage, Harry created a menacing persona. Ricocheting among foster homes and group homes, Harry finally landed in a penitentiary at age 18. Upon his release 10 years later, returning to his former life seemed the easier option: "I continued to make bad decisions and look for support from the wrong kinds of people." Less than a year ago, after more than a decade of struggle, Harry knocked on the Guest House door, finally ready to change his life for the better. Today Harry lives in a Guest House supported-housing apartment, is drug-free and participates in the Guest House Resident Manager program. Nowadays when Harry jokingly tells people he's

"on something," he means that he's on a different path, and making smarter choices with the support of the Guest House community.

As Harry's self-esteem continued to grow, his intimidating façade was replaced by a positive manner and smiles come easy to him now. As Harry described the benefits that his association with the Guest House has given him, two words stood out—structure and support. Harry believes that his Guest House experience not only provided him with a strong foundation to pursue a good life, but it also continues to sustain him with encouragement and opportunities.

Harry credits the people and programs at the Guest House for his newfound serenity, self-respect and ability to focus on his goals. But, it's clear that Harry's own hard work brought him to "a better place to be."

Cover Story Continued

...serving donuts to playing card games with the guests. Sr. Mary Ellen shared her buoyant spirit while working in the dispensary for many years. And her singing and joke telling are legendary. "We are all three paychecks away from homelessness," Sr. Mary Ellen reminds us when speaking about the value of places like the Guest House. With good reason, the Guest House of Milwaukee's annual volunteer award is named after Sr. Paula Marie and although Sr. Mary Ellen jokingly says she often came home from the Guest House "smelling like a warmed over cigarette," she graciously became its first recipient.

Both women continue to be steadfast champions of the Guest House—the perseverance of the Guest House staff and its guests amaze them.

It is not surprising, that the staff and the men who come through the Guest House doors are truly transformed by the sisters' wisdom, compassion and generosity.

Why do they do it? Both Sr. Paula Marie and Sr. Mary Ellen believe that when people are surrounded by kindness it brings out their innate goodness. Sr. Paula Marie, Sr. Mary Ellen, Patricia and Sue all stated that a key reason they volunteer at the Guest House is because they've seen the *need* firsthand and are eager to share their good fortune. It's that simple. During this season of giving and throughout the year, we are indebted to these four women and the many others like them who come to the Guest House and kindly share their good humor and talents with all of us.

Calendar of Events

December 2009

16 LEADS Recognition
& Birthday Celebration

25 Holiday Celebration

January 2010

27 LEADS Recognition
& Birthday Celebration

February 2010

24 LEADS Recognition
& Birthday Celebration

March 2010

17 LEADS Recognition
& Birthday Celebration

24 March - Wine Not!

2010 Upcoming Events...

24 March - Wine Not!

1 May - Walk-A- Mile in my Shoes

27 September - Guest House Open
Golf outing

*For more information, or to volunteer for
an event, please call Mari at (414) 345-3240
x168.*



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