Exciting Additions

Things have been blossoming here at Shelter of Flint since we last visited your mailbox. We are excited to announce additions to our programs and look forward to helping even more people in our community. Earlier this spring, Resource Genesee, a longtime partner agency came to the difficult decision that they would cease operations on June 30.

Several of their very important community programs are being incorporated to Shelter of Flint. “It’s a natural transition,” says Anne Granter, our President and CEO, “it makes sense for these programs to be placed with us and at the same time we are honored and humbled that Shelter of Flint is becoming the authority on homelessness in Genesee County. Over the last 32 years, we have built a solid record of getting our clients into safe, affordable, sustainable housing.”

On July 1, One Stop Genesee became Shelter of Flint One Stop Housing Resource Center. One Stop Housing Resource Center will continue to be a collaborative program among community non-profit organizations that provides comprehensive housing placement services for people who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or have special housing needs in Genesee County. However, under Shelter of Flint’s leadership, it will be the ONLY entity serving as a Housing Assessment & Resource Agency (HARA) that is simultaneously a shelter providing emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing.

Shelter of Flint’s One Stop Housing Resource Center strives to eliminate barriers for those served by providing services that meet the needs of the individual and family and enhance the community safety-net by placing homeless service providers in one, easily accessible location. This program offers a variety of opportunities for individuals and families to receive vital services that meet their varying needs, including but not limited to: central intake and assessment; referrals; screenings; housing inspections; direct client assistance; support services and case management services.

In addition to the One Stop Housing Resource Center and HARA designation, Shelter of Flint will continue the Homeless Outreach program. The Homeless Outreach program serves a vital role in Flint and the greater Genesee County community as a point of entry into services for the citizens of Genesee County. The program provides homeless verification through street outreach for housing programs; wrap around services, partnering with other community agencies to serve clients; and information and referrals leading to needed services.

These programs join our Emergency Shelter program, as well as our Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs. For more information about all of our programs, please contact Liz Ruediger, Director of Operations & Development at lruegiger@shelterofflint.org or (810) 600-4537.

Veteran’s Lease Up Program

Also new at Shelter of Flint is the Veteran’s Lease Up program. This permanent supportive housing program is dedicated specifically to homeless, disabled veterans, and gets veterans in touch with services that have been designed to meet their needs.

Many times Veterans struggle with a variety of issues upon exiting the military. It is certainly disheartening that chronic homelessness and living in precarious or unsafe conditions are among those issues. The Veteran’s Lease Up programs get vets the help they need — securing safe, permanent housing — and provides them with a case manager who meets with them regularly to ensure they are taking advantage of the proper referrals and receiving the support they deserve.
On Tuesday, May 19, we hosted “A Home of Their Own,” a unique fundraising event. We thank our guests and our sponsors for supporting us. We would especially like to thank Angie Hendershot and the ABC12 team for their incredibly moving piece showing the true face of homelessness. If you missed the original broadcast, please visit our website for a link to the video.

We would also like to thank our breakfast sponsors: Community Foundation of Greater Flint, ELGA Credit Union, Landaal Packaging Systems, Linda Rylypiw, PC, John MacDonald of Merrill Lynch, Metro Community Development, MTA, Patsy Lou Automotive Group, and Taylor & Morgan CPA and Business Advisors. We hope you will consider supporting these community-minded organizations as you have future purchasing needs.

In all we hosted over 200 people who heard from current and former Shelter clients, who came to give thanks, share their experiences that lead up to their homelessness and where they are now. A breakfast participant commented on how it surprised her that many of their stories were so similar. We couldn’t agree more. It is devastating when a few ill-timed catastrophes, like medical illness or job loss strike—these are issues our clients face every day when coming to us.

Our family of seven shared what it was like to be ripped from their home and lifestyle. They expressed the challenges they faced adjusting to communal living at the shelter. They certainly don’t fit the outdated mental image of a stereotypical homeless person. They shared the struggle they faced while continuing to work, attend school, kids sporting events and church. Most of us find that a challenge in and of itself and yet this family juggled it for several months while living in their van before coming to us. Truly they are a testament to the power of family and certainly an inspiration to us all!

It is through your continued support and generosity that allows us to work hard to keep families like this together and help rebuild their foundation so they may go on again. Thank you for your support!

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Pictures of Hope

Everything begins with HOPE and a DREAM. May every dream come true...

Award-winning photojournalist and author, Linda Solomon, brought her nationally acclaimed program “Pictures of Hope” to Shelter of Flint. Ms. Solomon provided a photography lesson to fifteen children, who reside in one of the shelter’s housing programs. She empowered these children to capture photos of their hopes.

The hopes and dreams of these children have been transformed into holiday greeting cards. Through the generosity of Kroger, one hundred percent of the proceeds from the sale of the “Pictures of Hope” greeting cards will benefit the children and families who receive services at Shelter of Flint.

PRE-ORDER YOUR PICTURES OF HOPE CARDS TODAY!

1 Box of 15 cards – $20

The cards will be arriving in Mid-November, perfect timing for the holidays. For more information, please visit www.shelterofflint.org or contact Meg Sprecher at 810.238.4711, ext. 305 or msprecher@shelterofflint.org.

100% of the proceeds will benefit the children and families who receive services at Shelter of Flint.
Volunteers have made the Kid’s Corner come to life!

We were overjoyed when the folks at Sherwin-Williams and Keller Custom Painting paid us a visit. For some time now, we have been working to make an area of the basement, at our Cedar Street location, feel special for the kids and professional painters from Keller were more than willing to help see that vision through. These fabulous painters went the extra mile and made an entire wall into a chalkboard! We can’t begin to thank them enough! It certainly makes a difference when you have professional painters do the job!

In addition to the floors getting a bright new color, we also owe a huge thank you to Karen Aiello — for her creative work. She has brought the walls of the Caterpillar Clubhouse to life with a custom mural.

Our sincere thanks to the members of Child Welfare Society, Kiwanis Club of Flint, and the Rotary Club of Greater Flint Sunrise. With generous grants from these organizations, their support will help keep the kids involved and learning (in a creative way) while mom or dad works hard to secure permanent housing for their family.

Shelter of Flint

Shelter of Flint, along with 13 other area nonprofits and organizations, was a recipient of a Plant City Grant through the General Motors Foundation. Flint businesses continue to support our community by supporting local nonprofits like Shelter of Flint who work so hard for those that need it. We commend them and appreciate their generous support.

Volunteer Spotlight

As many of you already know, we host the Pasta Party on the Friday night before the CRIM Festival of Races begins. Proceeds from this carb-packed dinner for racers, family and general public supports Shelter of Flint. We are happy to share that one of our volunteers has reached a milestone worth mentioning. Darcelle (Dot) Robinson and her family participated in their 15th year of pasta service. We could not be more thankful for the commitment that she and her family have shown us over these years.

Dot began her service with us while working at Comcast, who at the time was a corporate sponsor; though they moved on after a few years, Dot and her family did not. Meg Sprecher, Shelter of Flint’s Operations and Development Assistant, whose job it is to pull together the logistics of this event says, “I count on Dot and her family to be there, they are invaluable. Because of their commitment to this event, they can help train and lead new volunteers each year. When you are serving food to over 500 people health department rules must be followed.” She goes on to say, “There is comfort knowing that with the Robinson’s on hand they have extra eyes on making sure food service goes smoothly. Last year they drove all

night from a visit to their family in Mississippi so they wouldn’t miss a year. That is one special family!"

To Dot and family, on behalf of the families we serve and our team here at the Shelter — our hats are off to you! We sincerely appreciate your service!
As always, we appreciate your continued support of the Shelter and its many programs. Our capacity to serve our community is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Every day, we are serving over 1,000 individuals throughout our housing programs and properties. Your generosity makes this possible.

How about a tour?
On the first Wednesday of each month, from 12-1pm we invite you to join us for a tour of the Shelter. The tour will include the building and grounds, after which, we invite you to stay for lunch and conversation. To join a monthly tour or arrange a visit at another time, please contact Meg Sprecher at 810.238.4711, ext. 305 or msprecher@shelterofflint.org.

Support Shelter of Flint
Visit www.shelterofflint.org to donate online.