

Fall/Winter 2010

Shelter Connection

A publication of Shelter House Community Shelter & Transition Services

Open arms, open hearts, open for business!

Amidst snow flurries, speeches, hugs, tears, and a 21-gun salute, Iowa City's brand-new Shelter House facility at 429 Southgate Avenue was officially dedicated on December 2, 2010. The chilly morning was a vivid reminder of why the new building is so critically important to clients and the community, especially when cold weather boosts the demand for temporary housing.

Besides increasing the capacity for overnight guests by more than 140 percent (from 29 to 70), the new facility promises to do far more. As Shelter House Director Crissy Canganelli and other speakers told the ribbon-cutting audience, a key to fulfilling the Shelter House mission will be the expanded services the organization will now be able to provide—services designed to help clients transition away from homelessness and toward more stable and productive lives.

Canganelli, her staff, board members, and volunteers are most excited about how much more they'll be able to do for U.S. veterans, who today account for 15 percent of the Shelter House population. Thanks to a \$350,000 grant from the Veterans Affairs Administration, Shelter House will reserve 14 of its beds for veterans,

"Open" continues on page 2.

Top: Part of the crowd gathered for the much-awaited Ribbon Cutting.

Left: Women's dormitory with bunk beds and locker.

Far right top: The new kitchen showing the stoves, warming oven, and walk-in freezer.

Far right bottom: Phone bank where clients may receive calls initiated by a staff or volunteer.



From the Director

Dear Friends,

The past few months have been quite an adventure for us here at Shelter House. In mid-November we began the process of moving in to our new facility and our new neighborhood here on Southgate Avenue. On December 2nd we celebrated the opening with a Ribbon Cutting and with the first snow were able to share our joy with many who have supported us throughout this journey.

I learned a long time ago that things do not always go according to plan; they do not always turn out the way that we want them to. A very intuitive and patient teacher taught me that it was exactly these situations which provided me the opportunity and challenge to grow, to learn and change. This new facility did not go according to plan. It took much longer than any of us could have anticipated; it traveled a road that was unexpected and at times unwanted.

Our community was challenged; there has been animated discourse and much soul searching; there has been growth; we have learned much from one another; there has been and will continue to be change. I am convinced that every step of this journey has served a purpose and has brought us to exactly where we are intended to be here and now in this moment.

My parents always said, "Any job worth doing is a job worth doing well." I hope that as time goes by this community will say, "This was a job done well."



From Selzer-Werderitsch Associates and Neumann Monson who gave form to hopes and dreams who then joined the Shelter House Board of Directors in shepherding this project forward over many years to the City, County, State, and Federal staff and elected officials who have taken many calls, responded to questions and concerns and advocated for us. You have provided good counsel and support. I thank you for a job well done!

From faith communities across this community who inspired and motivated us through years of overflow service to Seydel Construction and the many sub-contractors on this project who worked aggressively to bring us in from the cold—on behalf of everyone at Shelter House, I thank you for a job well done!

Several years ago, I stood side by side many of you and together we said, "We can and must do better!" I say with the deepest gratitude in my heart, "Know that we have done better!" Shelter House now has the responsibility, the challenge and opportunity to demonstrate that we will be good stewards; that we will put this building and all of the resources it holds within to good use to benefit those in greatest need, to demonstrate that we will be good neighbors, to demonstrate that we are here to serve the health, safety and well-being of this community. On behalf of everyone here at Shelter House, I thank you for making this challenge and opportunity real, clear and present. With deepest gratitude, I thank you.

Executive Director

"Open" continues from page 1

as well as offer veterans specially tailored vocational programming, access to health care resources, and other support services. The VA will have access to an office at the new facility to further enhance its outreach services to local veterans.

Other Shelter House improvements at the Southgate Avenue location include separate dormitories for single men and single women; a child-friendly, families-only area; a classroom for vocational training and other outreach services; a full kitchen and dining room (where Shelter House's new culinary training program will be centered); and added space for staff and case-manager offices, the Drop-In center, Nurses Clinic, and laundry.

More space and more services also mean more opportunities for Shelter House volunteers. According to staff member Katherine Burford, the organization plans to recruit and schedule volunteers to assist clients in accessing essential services such as mail or phone messages and laundry, scheduling appointments, completing paperwork, and assisting staff with administrative and direct service needs. Shelter House also seeks specialized volunteers with skills in facilitating client based workshops and outreach services. For more information about volunteering, visit the volunteer page of the Shelter House website; www.shelterhouseiowa.org/want-to-help/volunteer-opportunities.

For those wanting a tour of the facilities, Crissy says to keep an eye on the website since tours are being scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; check the website <http://www.shelterhouseiowa.org/about-us/schedule-a-tour.aspx> for the open slots for a tour – the staff are very eager to show off their new home.

And if you'd like to offer a house-warming gift, check this list of needed items on the Shelter House website: <http://www.shelterhouseiowa.org/home.aspx>. During the cold months ahead, donated scarves, gloves, and mittens for children and adults will warm both hearts and home.

The STAR Success Stories

Shelter House creates opportunities for change—and through change, we guide people back to their own housing and toward more stable and productive lives. We not only provide a bed to sleep in; our STAR Program (Supported Training and Access to Resources) helps men, women, and their families get back on their feet. We help keep children in school, guide women and men back to work, and help the disabled and elderly access important benefits.

In general, people who come to us are working—if not when they walk in the door, then soon thereafter. Their jobs, however, do not pay what housing costs in our community, nor do those jobs pay for health benefits or offer sick leave. Many come to us suffering from alcohol and drug addictions, mental illness, or other chronic health condition, with no safety net—without money, insurance, or a stable place to live. All come to us with a past, and most want to put this past behind them. They know Shelter House gives them a real chance to build a better future.

The following stories illustrate the impact that Shelter House has on people's lives. Names have been changed to protect our clients' privacy.

True to Her Word

Jane entered the STAR Program through the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. She had a long history of instability in employment and housing. However, Jane was very motivated to become a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)—enough so that STAR sponsored her 75-hour CNA course and the State Exams. A month later, she had passed the exam.

After some interviewing and searching in the field, Jane was hired by a local care center and has been very successful there. Jane is now self-supporting and is more than able to afford her modest apartment and lifestyle. As she told Shelter House staff in the beginning “If you give me this chance I will not need any other services from STAR or anywhere else.” Jane has been true to her word.

A Winning Attitude

Joe moved to Iowa City to find housing and employment. He often said he had no opportunities where he had been living and was facing continued homelessness. He became a resident of Shelter House and a client in the STAR Case Management Program. When he began working the Hawkeye football games, Joe showed a great deal of initiative, and so impressed his employers that they offered him a temporary position. He continued to work on his second goal of becoming a cab driver, which he needed in order to supplement his income from his current job.

Through the support of the STAR Program, Joe renewed his driver's license and began driving for a local cab company. Both incomes enabled him to settle into his own apartment. Joe has continued in the STAR Program through this transition. He is always the first one to wish staff a good holiday or let them know how much he appreciated the assistance. Through his work with Shelter House, Joe has built a strong and stable foundation which will sustain him as he continues to live in his chosen community of Iowa City.

Finding Her Place

Angela had never worked for more than a month or two at a time in her life. She had never been able to keep up with other workers at the jobs she did find. As a resident of Shelter House, Angela entered the STAR Program, which was able to arrange for a six-month training internship for Angela at a consignment store. She never missed a day of work. Able to work at her own pace, she experienced success on the job for the first time. During those six months, the Star Program funded testing that helped determine that Angela had been disabled her entire life. Star Program staff helped her to complete the application for Social Security benefits, for which she was approved. The steady income from disability benefits has allowed Angela to maintain her own housing over the past year and realize greater independence.

Focused on Success

Mark, a U.S Veteran, had raised his family as a single parent. He came to Shelter House admitting to long periods of depression, homelessness, and chronic unemployment, but he had a positive attitude and a focus on achieving his goals. He had been through many shelters and vocational programs in the past but was determined to change his life now.

While at the shelter, Mark worked temporary jobs and was able to save enough money to pay the deposit and rent for a place to live. His next goal was to find full time employment. Before he could begin interviewing for work, he needed interview clothes and eye glasses. The STAR Program was able to assist him and after a short time as a client, he was able to secure a full time job at a convenience store making pizza. He enjoys his work, has finally found stability in his life, and has achieved his ultimate goal of becoming a contributing member of our community.

What a Year! A 2010 Shelter House Event Roundup

Raising the Roof for Shelter House – A Musical Extravaganza

The communitywide effort to kickoff Shelter House's Endowment Campaign did indeed "raise the roof" at the Johnson County Fair Grounds on March 27-28, 2010. June Braverman directed the event and pulled out all the stops in creating a musical extravaganza that included 160 local performers from a variety of performance groups.

The musical was a success in many ways, but most impressive of all was the communitywide effort to raise awareness of and funds for Shelter House's Endowment Campaign – Keeping the Doors Open. The event raised \$4,000 for the Shelter House Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Johnson County. Building an endowment is more important today than ever before. Our new shelter will vastly improve our shelter services and enable us to offer more programs and resources, and a permanent endowment is an essential component to meeting the increased costs related to the larger facility. Watch for more information about our Endowment Campaign after the December ribbon cutting for the new facility.

We have many individuals and groups to thank for the success of our Raising the Roof event. Besides June Braverman, we are grateful to City Circle Acting Company, Iowa City Footlitters, and the Iowa City Community Theatre, which loaned equipment and supplies to convert Building C into a performance hall. The Old Capitol Quilters Guild, UAY's Rhinestone Cowgirls, The Keep Arts Collective, and Katie Parry created the backdrops that complemented the performance. If that wasn't enough, volunteers came to set up the stage and the hall for the performance then stayed to tear it all down after the matinee on Sunday.

The following organizations and individuals participated in Raising the Roof for Shelter House: A Musical Extravaganza: Acoustic Mayhem, Iowa City Young Footlitters and Footlitters Act II, Nolte Academy of Dance, Old Capitol Chorus, Primetime (Metro Mix), Hawkettes Supreme, the 1970s Regina Rockettes, Dreamwell Theatre, The Quire, City Circle Acting Company, Best Buddies of City High, Joel Myers, Richard Paulus, Patti McTaggart, Jeff Cave, Lynn Klein, Marcia Hughes, Mike and Amy Haverkamp, and Ani Alegre-Femenias added their talents to the event. Special thanks to Brenda Christner, Johnson County Fair Board, and Dottie Ray.

Raising the Roof Event Sponsors

Cookies and More, Deluxe Bakery, New Pioneer Coop, The Bread Garden, The Cottage, The Java House, and J Frahm Music.



2010 Shelter House Book Sale

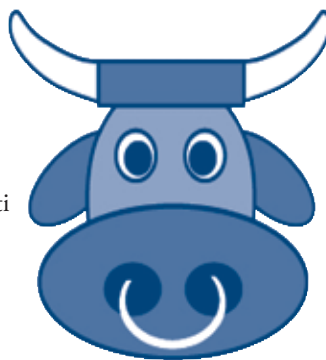
by Gale Kolbet

The 12th Annual Shelter House Book Sale, held on February 27, was the most successful one to date, raising \$7,200 for the Shelter House Endowment Fund. Once again, Pastor Sherry Lohman and her congregation at Hope United Methodist Church graciously offered their space for our sale. The task force, headed by Judith Crossett, included Anne Tanner, Gale Kolbet, Alan Elgar, Becky Johnson, Brenda Leicht, and Dan Daly, spent last February gathering and organizing books, and preparing for the sale.

Our thanks to the many volunteers who assisted in the preparations, and on the day of the event: Keith Rageth, Bob Lehman, Sandy Ballasch, Mary Kelley, Tim Fitz-Randolph, Jody Falconer, Dottie and Al Persson, Gay Mikelson, Katherine Burford, Scarlett Wilson, Meg Kiekhaefer, Alice Rohrsen, Sally Rickey, Sara Fletcher, Eleanor Kath, Nina Cilek, and Sara Kirkman. Special thanks to the University students who arrived at the end of the sale and boxed up the leftovers in record time.

We are grateful to St. Mark's Methodist Church for tables, to the Consultation of Religious Communities for publicizing the event, and to the numerous volunteers from many congregations who supplied an abundance of cookies and coffee for the day of the sale; and especially, to the congregation of Hope United Methodist, who were continually welcoming, helpful, and patient with the mess. Thanks, too, to all who donated books and attended the sale. Our 2011 sale has been scheduled for February 26, so start saving those no-longer-needed books!

Longfellow Longhorns Read for Others!



The Longfellow Elementary Parent Teacher Association sponsored the first annual Read-a-thon during the week of April 12-16, 2010. Longfellow students were encouraged to enlist family members, friends, and neighbors to make pledges for every minute of reading completed by each student. The event culminated in a Read-In hosted at the Longfellow gymnasium. Children and their parents came equipped with their favorite books, blankets, pillows, and stuffed animals and camped out for an evening of reading and fun.

With matching gifts from the Shelter House Board of Directors, the Longfellow Longhorns raised \$888. With this, the Longfellow PTA purchased books to line the shelves of the children's play and study rooms in the new Shelter House facility. Prairie Lights helped to make the gift stretch even further by discounting where possible. In total, 85 new books were purchased by the Longfellow Longhorn, which will provide joy and wonderment to hundreds of children staying at Shelter House in the years to come. Said one Longfellow second-grader, "The Read-a-thon was a lot of fun, especially since I knew we were reading to buy books for other kids!"



Left: Gala attendee checking out a donated handbag during the silent auction.

Below: Michael Lensing (Gala MC) helping Brian Thomson of Wears Auctioneering during the live auction.



Eighth Annual Spring Gala Raises \$42,500 for Shelter House Operations

The 8th Annual Shelter House Gala, held at hotelVetro on Saturday, April 17, 2010, raised \$42,500 for Shelter House operations. Many individuals and businesses contributed to the event's success through item donations, sponsorship, attendance, auction purchases, and monetary donations. We thank them all for supporting Shelter House's mission to serve homeless individuals and families.

Guests enjoyed themselves as they entered the event area to meet friends, view the auction items, and listen to music by pianist Maggie Mowrey. Our emcee Michael Lensing and auctioneer Brian Tompkins kept the mood light and fast paced. Crissy Canganelli, Shelter House's Executive Director, honored:

- **Tom Werderitsch**, for his many years of service and leadership on the Shelter House Board of Directors. During his tenure on the Board, Tom has ensured continuity in vision and guidance for the new facility project and has donated many hours of professional service. He and his wife Berth Ann are lead donors to the new shelter facility.
- **Selzer-Werderitsch Associates** for their generous commitment of time, treasure and talent. For many years, SWA has donated their skilled labor to Shelter House. In so doing, they kept the shelter at 331 N. Gilbert in good working condition. This has been no small feat as the existing facility (house) at 331 N. Gilbert Street is over 100 years old and was not built for its use over these past 27 years as a shelter. SWA has always assured us that they are just a phone call away.
- **Neumann Monson Architects** who have generously donated over \$100,000 in architectural and design services for the new facility project. Dwight Dobberstein of Neumann Monson began working on the new facility project many years ago as a Shelter House Board Member. He created the spaces and design elements that brought our vision to life.

In turn, Dottie Persson (Board Chair) thanked and recognized Crissy for her inspirational leadership of Shelter House. Crissy's

vision of Shelter House's future energizes the Board of Directors, and our volunteers, supporters, clients, and staff.

The delightful evening was the result of volunteers' and Shelter House staff members' work and dedication. Volunteers included Shelter House Board members, Mary Lou Close, and Angie Brown. They solicited item donations and sponsorships, created the evening program, greeted guests, and managed the checkout area. We thank all our supporters for the funds raised for Shelter House's mission.

Salads and Support

On June 10, 2010, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City hosted its sixth spring luncheon to benefit Shelter House. The first took place in 2003 and until this year the funds raised were contributed for the shelter's general operating costs. The \$1,000 recently raised is designated for the Shelter House Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Johnson County. Funds raised will help provide yearly operating support for Shelter House.

Sponsored by the Social Justice Coordinating Committee, 46 Society members provided salads, breads, desserts, and drinks, and invited the Iowa City community to attend and enjoy the delicious homemade food. Some guests have said this is the best little known benefit in the community and again the luncheon lived up to its reputation.

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

February 26, 2011

Annual Shelter House Book Sale at Hope United Methodist Church

April 16, 2011

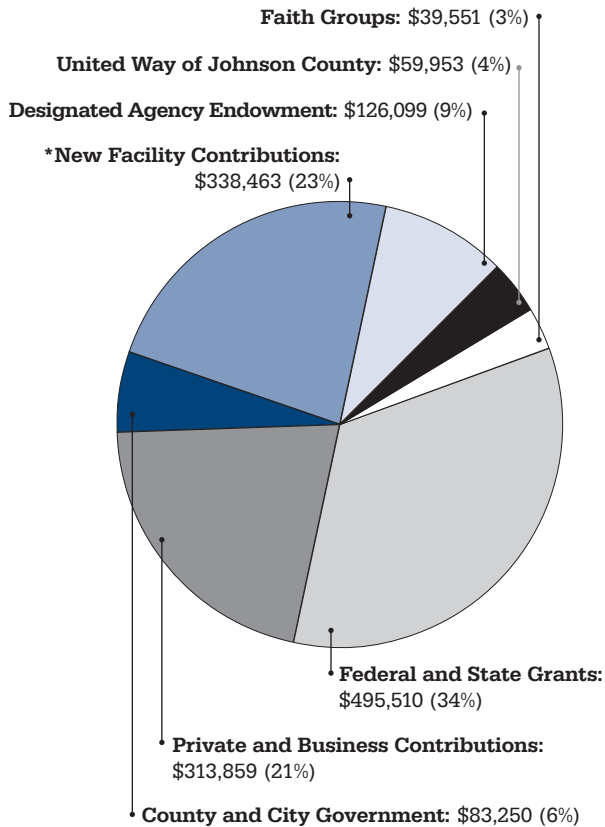
9th Annual Spring Gala

Check the Shelter House web page for details and updates: www.shelterhouseiowa.org

By the Numbers

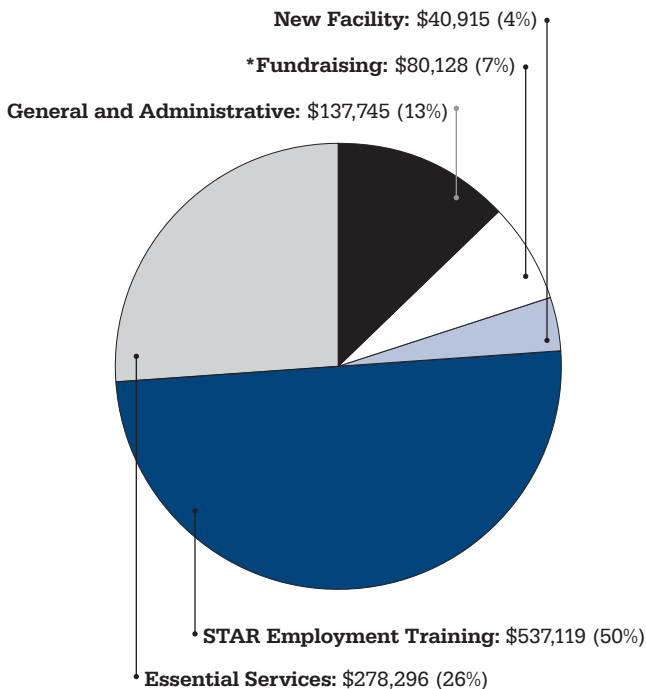
Fiscal Year January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2009

2009 Audited Income: \$1,456,685



*New Facility Funds are restricted for the new shelter project.

2009 Audited Expenses: \$1,074,203



*Fundraising includes both operating and Capital Campaign expenses.

Program Year July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010

Emergency and Short-Term Transitional Shelter

410 men, women, and children who received shelter services (unduplicated).

10,730 nights of shelter were provided.

15% of shelter residents were military veterans

40% of shelter residents were women and children

Interim Overflow Program

162 men, women, and children received overflow shelter services (unduplicated).

966 nights of overflow shelter provided.

Drop-In Center Services

480 individuals in addition to shelter residential clients accessed the Drop-In Center throughout the year. They were offered an evening meal, access to shower and laundry facilities, a mailing address, phone and messaging service.

Over 14,000 evening meals were served during the Evening Drop-In Center, which operates from 5 – 10 pm daily.

In-House Counseling Services

266 adults participated and of these:

- **57%** moved to more permanent housing
- **78%** exited with some source of income
- **47%** exited with employment
- **46%** were disabled

STAR Case Management Services

181 adults participated and of these:

- **82%** moved to more permanent housing
- **92%** exited with some source of income
- **53%** exited with employment
- **60%** were disabled

Notice to Our Donors

Shelter House plans to publish its first Annual Report in 2011. In preparation for that publication, please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous in our list of donors by contacting Genia by phone (319-338-5416 ext.101) or email: genia@shelterhouseiowa.org.

Special Recognition

2010 Governor's Volunteers Awards

The Governor's Volunteer Awards Program was created in 1982 to help Iowa nonprofits recognize exceptional volunteers for their commitment, service, and time. It is an honor and privilege to recognize the following individuals and group with the Shelter House 2010 Governor's Volunteer Award:

Dottie Persson has served on the Shelter House Board of Directors for nine years. For six of these years she has served as the President of the Board. During her tenure, Dottie has served in many capacities providing everything from an evening meal at the shelter, to staffing overnight shifts at the Overflow Program, raising awareness and being an advocate locally on the issues of mental illness and homelessness to leading the Shelter House Board through a time of significant challenge and growth. Through her leadership, Dottie has ensured that Shelter House stayed the course during five years of legal opposition to the construction of a new shelter facility.

Gay Mikelson has served on the Shelter House Board of Directors for seven years. For many of these years she has served as the Treasurer of the Board. During her years of service, Gay has served evening meals at the shelter, staffed overnight shifts at the Overflow Program, organized the annual benefit potluck through her faith community and delivered donated household items to men and women as they move out of the shelter and into their own homes. She has provided continuity of leadership and vision for Shelter House during very challenging times.

Jim McCue has volunteered for Shelter House for nearly two decades. He served eleven years on the Board of Directors. For many of these years he served as an officer in the capacity of Secretary. During his tenure on the Board Jim helped build this organization from the ground up—shepherding this organization from one run primarily by volunteers to one with paid staff, building financial capacity, creating structure and continuity. He continues to volunteer for Shelter House today by staffing the office two mornings each week. He supports the staff by answering the

phones, sorting the mail, and helping with general hospitality responding to clients' questions and concerns.

As a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, **Tom Shepherd** volunteered 90 of the 100 nights hosted by St. Mark's over the life of the Overflow Program. This meant that he staffed the church staying up through the night to ensure that someone was awake and available at all times. Tom's efforts combined with hundreds of other volunteers throughout our community ensured that hundreds of men and women who had nowhere but the street to turn, instead were provided a warm and safe place to sleep on the coldest of winter nights.

The Iowa City Junior Service League (ICJSL) has volunteered for Shelter House for five years. The members of the ICJSL have engaged in volunteer activities ranging from helping with the evening meal at the shelter, to fundraising, in-kind donation drives and membership on the Shelter House Board of Directors. They have initiated two major annual fundraising events (Holiday Home Tours and the Solstice Stride). It is through such events that the ICJSL raised \$50,000 for the children's play and study rooms in the new shelter facility.

Through their gifts of time, treasure, and talent, these men and women have advanced the mission of Shelter House and in so doing have made a difference in the lives of hundreds of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness in our community. Indeed, they have improved the health, safety and well-being of the greater community. Their enthusiasm, generosity, genuine concern and caring lifts our spirits and fortifies us. On behalf of everyone at Shelter House, thank you!

Quality Care
THE NATURE CARE COMPANY

A Big Thank You to Quality Care

Remember all the snow last winter? Well, the shelter had an angel that took care of removing the snow for the shelter all winter long. We thank and recognize Quality Care for selecting Shelter House as part of their 2009/2010 Snow Angels program. This program was established to grant snow and ice removal services free of charge to select nonprofits in order to help mitigate their operation costs over the winter months and help provide safe and clear access. Thank you Quality Care!

Hats Off to Mike Bray

A special thank you goes to Mike Bray who has called the Shelter once a month for the past 11 years. He called to ask what toiletries and over-the-counter drugs were needed at the shelter. The staff would give Mike a list of items that were running low such as anti-acids, aspirin, ibuprofen, shaving and first aid supplies, and other miscellaneous toiletries. Mike would then go out, purchase, and deliver the supplies to the Shelter. His generosity and thoughtfulness have been greatly appreciated by both staff and clients. Our hats are off to Mike!



P.O. Box 3146
Iowa City, IA 52244-3146

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Shelter House is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization. As a partner agency of the United Way of Johnson County, we have successfully met all local membership accountability standards in finance, ethics, governance, and diversity.

Board of Directors 2010-2011

Jean Berge	Alan Elgar
Sarah Fletcher	Pat Furchtenicht
Becky Johnson	Gale Kolbet
Mary McMurray	Gay Mikelson
Dottie Persson	Mel Schlachter
Annette Shaaban	E. Torage Shivapour
Tom Werderitsch	Frederick Woodard

Shelter House Endowment Committee

Joyce Leff, Chair	Carolyn Gross
Robyn Hepker	Mary L. Larew
Michael Lensing	Jean Lloyd-Jones
Gay Mikelson	Carrie Z. Norton
E. Torage Shivapour	Alan Swanson
Liz Swanson	

Shelter House Staff

Janelle Beswick	Katherine Burford
Crissy Canganelli	CJ Cash (VISTA Volunteer)
William Chambers	Megan DeMeulenaere
Kafi Dixon	Samantha Grimes
Darcy Hansen	Mario Hayslett
Genia Jackson	Dana Johnson (VISTA Volunteer)
Sam Kron	Elisabeth Lemke
Jacob Livermore	David McGee
Clarissa Marley	Mary Milder
Joseph Mungai	Rita Offutt
Derek Otte	Beau Pinkham
James Quarles	Sean Quinn
Demetruis Spiddle	Erin Sullivan
Milton Thurmond	Phoebe Trepp
Faith Walker	



YES! I want to support Shelter House Community Shelter & Transition Services

Each night men, women, and children who are homeless come to Shelter House in need, uncertain of their future, afraid, confused, and without hope. At Shelter House, they find a safe, caring place for the night as well as support and hope for a brighter tomorrow. Please give today and help with extraordinary change in our community.

- \$175** will sponsor a week of shelter and supportive services for someone trying to restart their life.
- \$100** will sponsor a night of shelter and supportive services for a family in need.
- \$25** will sponsor a night of shelter and supportive services for a person who is homeless in our community.

Name _____ Amount enclosed _____

Please print your name(s) as you wish to be acknowledged. Check here if you wish to remain anonymous.

Address _____ Phone _____

Please make checks payable to Shelter House and send to P.O. Box 3146, Iowa City, IA 52244

For gifts made by credit card Visa Mastercard American Express

Card number _____ Name as it appears on card _____

Expiration date _____ Zip code _____

For more information or to donate online please visit our website at www.shelterhouseiowa.org.