

Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley

H.O.P.E. LETTER



Housing, Opportunities, Prevention & Empowerment



Third Quarter
2014

Inside this issue:

<i>FVWS Collaboration</i>	1
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	2
<i>Special Announcement</i>	2
<i>Volunteer Spotlight</i>	2
<i>Director's Column</i>	3
<i>Resource Picnic</i>	3
<i>Hope for a Better Future</i>	4
<i>Urgent Needs</i>	4

LIVE UNITED 

Our Mission

The mission of the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley 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

Sharing Resources to Help Those in Need

George Koenig starts each morning with a cup of coffee and a trip to the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. As the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley's Street Outreach Program Manager, Koenig works with individuals who are acutely homeless and often struggle with mental health, alcohol and other drug abuse challenges. The Emergency Shelter and Warming Shelter recently entered a formal collaborative partnership to share Koenig's expertise and connect people at the Warming Shelter with community resources to help end their homelessness. The Warming Shelter does not currently offer case management services.



Scott Peebles, executive director at the Warming Shelter, says that Koenig brings "a ray of hope to our clients" and is "changing the way the Warming Shelter does business." Koenig has been visiting the Warming Shelter since early August and has already moved one individual into an apartment, helped one individual receive detox services at the hospital, connected six individuals to psychiatric care, and transitioned people to the Emergency Shelter who might benefit from case management.

Many of the people Koenig meets with at the Warming Shelter are clients he regularly encounters during his outreach work with the Emergency Shelter. By meeting in the morning, clients are well-rested, sober, and more likely to listen to options and commit to a plan for the day. Koenig has also been able to connect with some recently homeless individuals now staying at the Warming Shelter. "Early intervention and goal planning is key to reducing the comfort that can sometimes come in the culture of homelessness," said Koenig.

"We are excited about the early success of the collaboration," said ESFV Executive Director Jerome Martin, "We are providing our clients with the best opportunities for success, which is the ultimate goal of both of our organizations."

Upcoming Events

Grand Chute Lions Meatball Dinner October 9, 2014

American Legion
3220 W College Ave (Appleton)
4:00—7:00 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the ESFV. Meal tickets range from \$5.00—\$8.00 and include meatballs, mashed potatoes, corn, applesauce, roll, dessert, and coffee or milk. Takeout is available.

Fox Cities Housing Coalition Annual Report to the Community October 15, 2014

Riverview Gardens Community Center
1101 S Oneida St (Appleton)
4:00—6:00 p.m.

Featuring keynote presentation by City of Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna. RSVP to fchannualreport@gmail.com
Space is limited.

9th Annual Benefit Gala: "Hope has an Address" November 11, 2014

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
5:00 p.m. Registration
6:00 p.m. Dinner & Program

See article for more information.

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week November 16—22, 2014

Watch for events throughout the community to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness.

For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit www.emergencysHELTERFOXVALLEY.org

A Special Announcement

You're invited to be a part of our organization's history. Our annual benefit Gala remains our biggest fundraiser of the year, with a goal of raising \$100,000 to assist people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in our community. This year's event, however, will also serve as the public launch of our new name and logo.

The Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley has been in the community since 1981. Over the years, we have added and expanded programs to best meet the needs of those who are homeless or at-risk in our community. Therefore, we decided that a new name would better reflect the extent of our reach into the community and to plan for future growth. We are excited about our new brand and its potential to further share our story and connect others with our mission.

We invite you to join us on November 11 to be a part of the present and future of our organization. The event, on Veteran's Day, will feature a former client who is a veteran and successfully housed in our community, a live performance by 4 North Acoustic, and the reveal of our new brand. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased on our website or by calling (920) 734-9603.



Volunteer Spotlight

Thrivent Financial employees volunteered at the ESFV in August. They painted bedrooms and offices throughout the building. After their visit, they purchased and donated items from our wish list and gift cards to a paint store to cover the cost of paint and supplies. Not only is Thrivent



Financial Foundation a generous supporter of the ESFV, but its employees and members give back to our organization, also. Thank you

Director's Column



WARNING: HOMELESSNESS IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH. Cigarettes and alcohol containers carry a warning from the Surgeon General about the risks associated with the use of these products. Does anyone really read these warnings and consider the risk and how it might impact them? I'm guessing not. Similarly, when we think about homelessness or see someone

experiencing homelessness, I don't think most of us fully comprehend just how vulnerable people are in these circumstances. In my short tenure here at the ESFV, I have seen far too many people taken from this world prematurely. There are many examples—Lawrence (age 56), Joe (age 61), Brian (age 46), Derek (age 40), Larry (age 51), and Marc (age 51). The reasons for their passing include homicide, terminal illnesses and undetected or undiagnosed medical conditions.

Research has shown that those who experience chronic homelessness are at greater risk of infectious and chronic illnesses largely because they lack access to healthcare. They are more likely to have poor mental health and more likely to be victims of violence. Their mortality rate is as much as nine times higher than that of the general population. In fact, some studies have estimated the life expectancy for chronically homeless men to be as short as 45 years old.

The Center for Disease Control indicates that lack of stable housing and access to supportive services are at the core of this issue. Lack of stable housing can result in poor sleeping patterns and fatigue, an inability to stay warm, which exacerbates chronic illnesses, and an inability to maintain proper hygiene and stay clean. Without supportive services such as medical and mental health care or addiction recovery services, treatable illnesses or diseases often become life threatening.

A study conducted in Maine that followed formerly homeless clients for one year after they entered stable housing and received supportive services, found the clients had fewer medical hospitalizations, visits to the emergency room, and psychiatric hospitalizations, and they spent less time in jails and had fewer police contacts.

The best way to ensure a person remains stably housed is to prevent homeless episodes. Thankfully, the ESFV's Prevention Program has a 98% success rate in preventing homelessness. If a person does experience a housing crisis, it is imperative they find stable housing as soon as possible. In our Shelter and Case Management Programs, we work to connect people to permanent, affordable housing in an average of 34 days.

Unfortunately for those clients mentioned above, as well as at least a dozen more that I've not mentioned, they either never attained stable housing, or attained stable housing but not before suffering from chronic health issues.

People facing a housing crisis are extremely vulnerable and homelessness is quite detrimental to a person's health. Homelessness can literally be a life or death situation. For the sake of the over 827 children we serve in our programs each year, I hope we can help them and their parents lead long and prosperous lives.

Resource Picnic



Fox Cities Housing Coalition Agencies set-up tables at the Resource Picnic to connect homeless individuals and families to services

The Fox Cities Housing Coalition, of which the ESFV is a member, organized a Resource Picnic following the annual Point-In-Time Count in July. During the count, the 12 unsheltered people found and current clients of area shelters were invited to Riverview Gardens Community Center for a picnic lunch provided by the Salvation Army and access to service providers. The event even had two hair stylists on hand to provide hair cuts.

ESFV Board Member Maria Nelson volunteered at the event at the hair cutting station. When asked about her experience, Maria said, "You could see an immediate impact on those who received haircuts, not just the obvious physical difference, but an improvement in self-esteem and self-worth. Annie and Toni worked long into the afternoon in the hot sun to give attendees a boost as they were getting ready to head back to school or on their way to job interviews."



Two clients receive hair cuts at the Resource Picnic

Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley

400 N. Division St.
Appleton, WI 54911-4611

Phone: 920-734-9192
Fax: 920-882-1448
E-mail: info@esfv.org
Website: emergencyshelterfoxvalley.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/esfvinc](https://www.facebook.com/esfvinc)

Board of Directors

President: Jenni Eickelberg
Immediate Past President: John Russo
Vice President: Terry Dawson
Secretary: Brenda Nelson
Treasurer: Brett Schroeder

Val Dreier
Terry Ellenbecker
Natalie Heinan
Cal Kanowitz
Brenda Klister
Maria Nelson
Greg Pawlak
Tom Veaser



Jamie lived in an abandoned home before receiving care through the ESFV's Street Outreach Program.

Urgent Needs List

- | | |
|---|--|
| ... Foot powder | ... White copy paper (8.5 x 11) |
| ... Flashlights | ... Walmart & grocery store gift cards |
| ... Men's and women's socks | ... Lunch supplies: deli meat, fruit cups, fruit snacks, nuts, granola or nutrition bars, mini bagels, fresh fruit |
| ... Alarm clocks (battery operated) | ... Insulated lunch bags, mini ice packs, reusable water bottles |
| ... Hair ties, bobby pins, hair brushes | ... Children's allergy and pain relievers |
| ... Ethnic hair products | ... Toilet paper |
| ... Mouthwash (alcohol-free) | |
| ... Laundry baskets, shower caddies | |
| ... Flip Flops (toddler to adult size 14) | |

Hope for a Better Future: A Success Story



Jamie

With his gentle demeanor and wanting smile, Jamie remained a curiosity of the Street Outreach Program for years. Homeless, intoxicated, dirty and embarrassed, he avoided lasting interactions and seemed to find some comfort and satisfaction that his sleeping arrangements, including outdoor wooded areas and abandoned spaces remained undiscovered, often remarking with clever excitement, "you guys haven't found me yet." He maintained an elusive identity and puzzle we were eager to learn more about.

In October of 2013, almost four years after our first encounter with him, Jamie approached the Street Outreach Program Manager outside the Appleton Public Library. He said, "You know, I've been watching you and how you help people. I need some encouragement, and I think I can trust you. But, I drink a lot, and there's other people who need your help." At that time Jamie was squatting in a foreclosed home without utilities. He was offered an alternative that he expectedly declined. Struggling with major depression, alcohol dependence and alienation from family, Jamie remained in the abandoned home for months.

With frequent outreach contacts, delivery of basic needs and supportive concern he accepted the offer of a motel room where he could bathe and practice a new level of self-care. He continued to drink. However, with the provision of safe and reliable shelter his drinking diminished over time. Within two months Jamie stopped drinking and transitioned to the Emergency Shelter. While in the Emergency Shelter, his full participation in goals of securing relevant physical and mental health care revealed that his conditions severely limited his ability to work for wages in the community. Jamie engaged in the process of applying for Social Security Disability Entitlements. While he desperately wanted to establish the autonomy and independence found through work, he understood that his limitations would interrupt lasting employment. After completing 85 days of intensive work with our case management team, Jamie was awarded income and health insurance through Social Security and transitioned to his new apartment. Jamie continues to live successfully in the community and volunteers his time to local organizations.