

# Ecumenical Partnership for Housing

January 2014

“Give them roots and create wings”



Ecumenical  
Partnership  
for Housing

## Have you ever experienced poverty?

In late January, 50+ EPH supporters role-played a month in the lives of single mothers, elderly individuals, youth, and others as they dealt with barriers that typically face people with very low incomes.

Participants came away with new insights into the difficulty of living week-to-week and providing for basic needs.

- “I role-played a teenager, and realized how little time my parents had for me as they tried to cope with their stressful situation while they looked for jobs.”
- “It gave me a greater appreciation of the daily challenges families in poverty face just to survive in a situation they do not control.”



## EPH’s Annual Campaign Supports Effective Program

EPH needs your support to continue our effective programs with proven long-term benefits for families in our area.

Watch for an envelope from EPH arriving soon in your mailbox! In it you’ll see our new brochure, a request letter with a message, and a return envelope. The contributions we receive in this once-a-year mailing support our operational needs for the entire year!

Your support helps us with home maintenance, gas and electric, staff expenses – all aligned with guiding our families back to self-sufficiency.

## The Partnership is Growing

Introducing St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish and St. Mary Catholic Community Church in De Pere, our two newest partner churches.

The partners do more than provide financial support; they actually lead EPH. Each of the 18 partner churches appoints a board member to serve a two-year term. This board is the steering body for EPH, working with the Executive Director.

Each church provides care and upkeep of one of EPH’s units. They provide a meal to welcome each new family.

EPH is a truly unique organization serving our community.

## FAQ

Visit us at

[www.ephgb.org](http://www.ephgb.org)

### What did EPH accomplish in 2013?

- Supported 42 families (45 adults, 98 children)
  - 47% of families had 3+ children
  - 84% of families came to EPH from emergency shelter (up significantly)
- Added two new partner churches
- Opened 2 new units (enabling us to serve 20 families at a time)

By EPH President Jamie Babbitts

## A True Partnership

Welcome to St. Mary Catholic Community Church and St. Francis Xavier Parish, the seventeenth and eighteenth churches to join our partnership. Teamwork among all of our churches and The Salvation Army has been critical to the success of our families. Addressing the homelessness issue in the greater Green Bay community takes more than one or two organizations. It takes a committed network collaborating and providing significant resources and expertise to tackle this growing concern. EPH works closely with the local homeless shelters, providers, and Catholic Charities in supporting and guiding our families in their transitional housing environment. In addition, EPH Executive Director Dave Pietenpol stepped forward to co-lead and search for a location for the Downtown Resource Center and is an active member of the HOPE task force. Future opportunities include a joint application for a Journey to Sustainable Living grant with the YWCA and Freedom House. EPH values the opportunity to work hand in hand with others to make our community strong.

### Ecumenical Partnership for Housing

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### Former Client Speaks on Homelessness in Washington, DC



One of EPH's former clients, Veronica, has been working with Catholic Charities as an advocate for our region on homelessness and poverty. Veronica was chosen to represent our region at a conference in Washington DC. The trip to Washington is her first plane ride and she was very excited to attend and share her story. Veronica and her family were recently able to move from an EPH home to their own Habitat for Humanity house.

*Our Vision: Through transitional housing, extensive case management, and support services, families achieve the knowledge, skills, and wholeness for a self-sufficient future.*

**Learn how you can support EPH at [www.ephgb.org](http://www.ephgb.org)**