

Ecumenical Partnership for Housing



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GIVE THEM ROOTS AND CREATE WINGS

June 2016

2016 Celebration Dinner

Letters of Gratitude

At this year's Celebration Dinner, Bree Decker, Transitional Housing Coordinator for The Salvation Army, shared letters of gratitude from five families who are achieving self-sufficiency. One of those families has agreed to share her gratitude more publicly, through this newsletter.

"I'm a single mother of 5 children, 2 boys and 3 girls. I wanted to write this letter because this program has been a blessing to me and my family. We came into the program in November of 2014. The program helped me to help myself. Since then I've managed to save and manage money by going to budget counseling; managing finances has always been very hard for me to do. I believe that the budget counseling you receive is a great resource for people who have a hard time saving/managing their money. I also believe that God has given my family a second chance in life and he sent us to this program for a reason. I receive case management, which is great because that gives me the extra support that I need. I'm currently working to receive my GED, and rebuilding my credit. I have a strong sense of hope now and believe anything is possible. Thank you."

Thank you, Truly, for your courage and inspiration. You are a blessing.

Lisa Merkel, Green Bay High School Teacher

Also presenting was Lisa Merkel, a Green Bay High School teacher. Lisa talked about the relationship between poverty and student achievement.

"Poor children lag behind their peers in many ways beyond income. They are less healthy, trail in emotional and intellectual development, and are less likely to graduate from high school."

Lisa's presentation reaffirmed the impact poverty has on children; the need for safety, stability and solutions for homeless families is greater than ever.

Duane Howell Service Award

The Duane Howell Service Award was presented to Karen Kegel, Resurrection Catholic Parish. This award is given to individuals with a history of service and living the EPH values. Following are a few of the comments shared by the many who nominated Karen.

- Karen creates a warm, inviting, and safe environment for families staying in EPH homes.
- Her efforts resulted in receiving over \$7,000 in donations from a local philanthropic fellowship.
- With the assistance of a few volunteers, Karen raised and harvested over 750 pounds of fresh produce for our families.
- She "clocked hundreds of hours" preparing newly purchased properties for occupancy by the next family in need.

Thank you Karen for your passion, dedication, and service.



Our strength lies in our volunteer base. This year we recognized Kathy Fitzpatrick for her ten-plus years of service as Treasurer, Karen Kegel, Resurrection Catholic Parish with the Duane Howell Service Award, and Jamie Babbitts for her service as Board President.

Blessed

The past three years, I had the privilege and pleasure to be the Board President for EPH. As my term comes to a close, I reflect back on all that has been accomplished during this time with all of you – the volunteers, donors, friends, staff, partners and Board members. We have much to be proud of as we strived to serve and support the families who enter the doors of our homes.

- Five new church partnerships
- Broader Board membership beyond church representatives
- Expansion of our vision to include affordable housing with case management
- Significant increase in our annual giving campaign to over \$100,000

- Board member education on poverty and its' effects on children and families
- Increased infrastructure support with staff additions
- Strengthening relationships with The Salvation Army and other non-church partners
- Increased visibility and involvement in the Green Bay area community

Looking back, one can only come to the conclusion that our EPH ministry is blessed! I too have been blessed to be a part of this unique and successful ministry in our community and thank you for the opportunity to serve. The future is very bright for this mission and our families.

God's Peace,
Jamie Babbitts

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A gift in honor of ...

Ever struggle to find a birthday gift for the person who has everything? Or an anniversary gift for a special couple? Ever need to bring a house-warming gift? Consider a gift to EPH in honor of that special friend, couple, or occasion. EPH will send an acknowledgement letter recognizing the honor and the occasion.

EPH Vision Statement

Through EPH sponsored transitional housing, extensive case management and caring support services, families achieve the knowledge, skills and "wholeness" for a self-sufficient future.

EPHGB.ORG