

Did You Know?

- The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) rules allow taxpayers to make IRA distributions payable directly to a qualified charity, like Ecumenical Partnership for Housing, without treating the distribution as taxable income. This law permits eligible IRA owners to contribute directly from their IRA to charity. In addition, the distribution can be used to fulfill the IRA owner's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year. Contact your financial advisor or tax advisor to see how this could benefit you!
- If shopping online for gifts this year, please use AmazonSmile to make your purchases and 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products will be donated to the charitable organization of your choice. No cost to sign up. Just select Ecumenical Partnership for Housing as your charity. Thank you!



EPHGB.ORG



Ecumenical Partnership for Housing
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Welcome!

EPH welcomes Saint Agnes Catholic Church, Diocese of Green Bay, as an Affiliate Member of Ecumenical Partnership for Housing. Saint Agnes is led by its Pastor, Father Patrick Beno. Saint Agnes parishioner and member of the EPH Communication committee, Ray Marchi is acting liaison.



Ecumenical Partnership for Housing



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GIVE THEM ROOTS AND CREATE WINGS

November 2018

President's Column

"On Friday night, my husband and I were driving to a restaurant for supper. Walking along the sidewalk was a woman who looked a little disheveled, carrying a pillow case that was full. I made the assumption she was homeless. I felt bad that we have homeless individuals and families in our community. Then, I felt grateful that our community did have an organization that provides safety, stability and a path to self-sufficiency for families who are homeless, through the homes they provide."



Hi! My name is Jo Ollmann. I am the current president of Ecumenical Partnership for Housing. I have been volunteering for EPH since the fall of 2013. I guess you could say I am living my passion through this work.

You see, prior to my retirement, I was a special education teacher. Some of my students were living in their cars with their families. The trauma this created in those students was so unfortunate. This is when my strong belief developed that every person deserves a roof over their head and a place they can feel safe. This strong belief in helping others obtain that, led me to Ecumenical Partnership for Housing. I am proud to be part of such an important organization in the Green Bay area, knowing that EPH is providing the homes for families with children who are homeless. With the help of The Salvation Army, Golden House, and other non-profits, we are creating that safety, stability and pathway to self-sufficiency that every person deserves.



EPH Garden

Karen Kegel planned the first "EPH garden" in May 2015. Since then, Karen and her team have harvested over 3,500 pounds of fresh produce! This year over 1,000 pounds (1/2 ton!) have been harvested!

A member of our communications team sat down with Karen to get the full scoop! She is a member of Resurrection Catholic Church and also a Unit Coordinator for the Ruth home.

Karen, what got you interested in starting an EPH garden?

I thought gardens for the families would be a nice way to provide them with some fresh produce and maybe for those who were interested, a chance to grow some on their own. So, when I heard the garden at St. Paul's Methodist Church wasn't being used anymore, I got the go-head from them to use the garden for EPH. The first garden was planted in May, 2015.

Growing up on a farm, as a family of 13 we had a huge garden, six rows of everything! As kids we had to weed two rows before coming for supper.

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Who are your volunteer gardeners?

There are three gals who have helped on a regular basis. Patti Schuchart (Resurrection Catholic Church) has been helping for three years, and drives in all the way from Oconto. Cheri Shebesta (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) has been helping for two years, and is also a Unit Coordinator. Michelle Roznowski (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) often bicycles in to help weed and pick. My sister Janine Brunner also has helped with picking, cleaning, and packing.



Have you heard anything from the families?

One week we harvested over 66 pounds of cherry tomatoes. The kids loved them! They are like popping candy into your mouth.

And kudos to Kim Kennedy and Mary Bollom, The Salvation Army case management team, who have been distributing the produce to the families.



What's the secret to your gardening success?

No secrets. I think the main reason for an increase in poundage this year is that we've had a bumper crop of tomatoes. Also, the green beans did not get mowed down this year by the squirrels and rabbits. Trellising the cucumbers also meant that less were chewed down by the critters.

The soil is hard, but we're making progress filling in fertilizer and peat. Every year it gets a little better!



Volunteer Opportunity

After four years of dedicated garden service, Karen is looking to step into a supportive role. If you are interested in planning and leading the garden efforts in 2019, please e-mail

ephmanager1@gmail.com



Go to ephgb.org for links to the latest news articles featuring EPH. You'll find them in a box in the upper right-hand corner of the home page.



The De Pere Knights of Columbus have been very generous with their gifts of time and talent! One of our most recent acquisitions is a home on the east side, close to the Boys and Girls Club. This is the second home this group has helped prepare for future families!

Kudos to the De Pere Knights of Columbus!



Knights of Columbus Council 3955 Participation in Harvey Street EPH House

The Knights of Columbus adhere to 4 basic principles to make the world a better place, those being: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. So getting involved in projects such as an EPH house is a great fit for those principles. Within our De Pere Council (3955) we have men with varying interests and skills in home improvement/repair, who are happy to help in whatever way they can for a worthy cause.

For the Harvey Street house, we are volunteering our time for a wide variety of projects, such as: tearing out old carpet/flooring, walls, fixtures and plumbing; framing up and sheet rocking walls; rebuilding stairs; light electrical work and plumbing; lots of general "handyman" jobs; and a larger crew will prep for and paint the entire interior of the house. Our Council participated in a similar manner for the house that was readied for occupancy last year on Stuart Street. Helping to prepare a home for a family in need is certainly something that gives satisfaction to those who participate in the work. However

the most gratifying aspect of this type of effort is the knowledge that the family moving in to the home is being given a real opportunity to improve their current situation, and a chance to launch themselves toward a brighter future. The De Pere Knights of Columbus are grateful for the opportunity to contribute and be part of the EPH program.



Building the Prevention Relationship

By Marcia Shefchik, EPH Family Prevention Specialist

Imagine the stress of being a month behind in rent, and knowing you could receive an eviction notice at any time. Imagine being a landlord, and thinking, "How long can I afford to let this family stay?" That's where we come in - Building the Prevention Relationship.

The main focus of the prevention program is to keep families from being evicted by building a relationship between the landlord, the family, and the prevention specialist. Entrance into the program starts with a referral from the landlord, an assessment is completed and if the family is eligible they are entered into the program. The prevention program provides limited financial support, budget counseling, employment counseling, and referrals to other resources in the community. The goal is to work with the family and the landlord for up to six months to help the tenant pay their rent and manage their finances for the long term. This prevents an expensive eviction process for the landlord and the trauma of homelessness for the family. In taking the time to build relationships the hope is that the potential for positive outcomes is increased and people come together to support each other.