



Jan Hess

## Congratulations Jan Hess

Duane Howell Service Award recipient

Normally, we also announce the winner of the Duane Howell Service Award at our annual Celebration Dinner in May. Due to restrictions on large gatherings, we were unable to hold the Celebration Dinner. The award was instead presented by a group of volunteer peers. Jan Hess, Unit Coordinator from St. Bernard Catholic Church, was the award recipient. To see a complete write-up, visit [ephgb.org/about-eph/publications/](http://ephgb.org/about-eph/publications/) and click on the August 2020 edition of our E-News.

Ecumenical Partnership for Housing  
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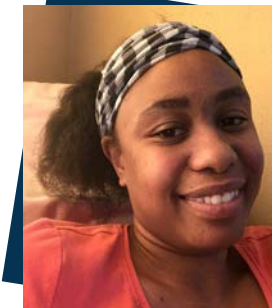
## Ecumenical Partnership for Housing

GIVE THEM ROOTS AND CREATE WINGS



Ecumenical  
Partnership  
for Housing

November  
2020



## Lakeisha

By De'Ette Radant  
Long-term Supportive Housing,  
David Homes, Case Manager

Lakeisha entered EPH Long-term Supportive Housing in April of 2018 after being referred by Freedom House.

Since her entry into the program, Lakeisha has embraced this opportunity to work towards her educational goal to become a respiratory specialist. She successfully completed her GED, became certified as a CNA, and is now taking her first courses at NWTC. With the help of financial aid and the EPH Hope scholarship, Lakeisha's goal is to further her education while at the same time striving to keep her school debt at a minimum.

In addition to being a part-time student, Lakeisha is working two jobs and raising two teenage daughters and a one-and-a-half-year-old son.

Lakeisha is always open to learning and not just in school. With the help of her case manager, Lakeisha spent time in the yard learning about weeds, flowers, bushes and yard maintenance. This winter, mentoring moves indoors to discover ways in which to avoid clutter to allow for more creative usage of living space in the home.

Lakeisha's strong faith in God and in herself has allowed her to hear and follow her calling to a career that involves helping others.

## Pathway to Graduation

The Green Bay Public School District is following a fully virtual learning model this school year due to Covid-19. Many children, including some in EPH families, are struggling to learn virtually. It can be even more difficult for students who may have already been behind. As has been the case throughout this pandemic, we have continued to meet our families where they are and are testing an idea with one of our families.

There is an often-used proverb that states, "It takes a village to raise a child." In this situation, that village is EPH. We became aware of a child in one of our housing programs who was struggling in school, so our village took action. We connected with the school district and quickly created a plan.



EPH staff and outside tutors are providing daily transportation to our offices for tutoring and most of all support. This student immediately began to thrive. He is motivated, gaining confidence and is again realizing the joy in learning. He has told us, "I thought I was stupid. Now I know that I am not." It has been a joy to have him in our office, see the interaction with the tutors and staff and see the progress already in only a few weeks. We believe in him, and now he is beginning to believe in himself.

## Wish List

- Toilet plungers
- LED light bulbs, 60w & 100w
- Paper napkins (smaller packages)
- Facial tissue
- Toothpaste
- Twin size Mattress pads
- Laundry pre-treater (such as Spray 'n Wash; regular sizes, no refills please)
- Liquid multi-surface cleaner (such as Mr. Clean)
- 2021 calendars
- Alarm clocks
- Menards gift cards

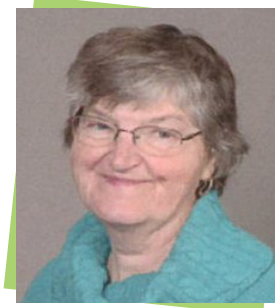
Our Wish List is regularly updated and can be found under the "How To Help" tab on our website.

EPHGB.ORG

# Volunteer Recognition

By: Julie Aderhold, Executive Director

Due to the pandemic, we are unable to hold our annual Volunteer Appreciation event in November. All of us at EPH feel so blessed by the amount of support, friendship, and hard work each and every one of our volunteers provide. We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for our volunteers. We are sad we cannot be together in-person to celebrate, however, please know how grateful we feel! We would like to highlight the Unit Coordinators from Matthew Home and Barnabas Home who retired this year and have each served over 10 years in this capacity.



Clarica Erickson

*"In December 2007 I became a volunteer Unit Coordinator for EPH. A current member of Grace Lutheran wished to step down and as we were high school classmates and I had recently retired, I decided to accept it. We had had Temple Talks about EPH so I knew Grace Lutheran was a partner with other congregations and The Salvation Army. The duties of a coordinator were to clean the housing unit after the current families moved out. I had a couple members of Grace help me. The first job was to do the inventory of the unit. Next we would deep-clean and restock the unit. After a new family moved in, we would provide a welcome to their new home. It was always a rewarding feeling that you had provided someone with security and given them a chance to be able to get themselves back on their feet and be able to move into a place of their own someday. I feel working with EPH has been rewarding and a way to fulfill your time and talents in God's Mission to help others and we can also pray for them. We can help the families to achieve their goals. I feel blessed to have served many families through the years. Thank you for being able to meet many EPH workers."*  
- Clarica Erickson

*"Clarica is one of the 'quiet saints' at Grace Lutheran Church. She has served in many different areas of ministry over the years and does so without fanfare. She is a person of compassion and great competence. We are blessed to have had her share her skills in her ministry with EPH."*  
- Pastor Julie Wrubbel-Lange, Grace Lutheran Church

*"In 2010, SUMC's pastor, Deanna Merritt, shared her enthusiasm for EPH's mission of helping struggling families become self-sufficient. After promising Dennis "would not have to paint", we agreed to become the first Unit Coordinators at the Isaiah Home and later the first coordinators at Barnabas. We have enjoyed coordinating our church volunteers (even painting many times) in re-furnishing and stocking the homes for a new family. We pray our small efforts have helped bring hope and stability to the families in EPH's transitional housing mission."*

- Barbara Lockwood



Barbara and Dennis Lockwood

*"Barbara and Dennis Lockwood have been Coordinators for 11 years. They faithfully participated in the monthly coordinator meetings. Barbara led the Suamico United Methodist cleaning teams. They obtained furnishings and restocked everything. Barbara led the Fall Church dinner fund raising for missions including EPH. Dennis did maintenance, including painting (not his favorite job). He also worked setting up phones in many EPH homes. Both participated in the church's direct mail presentations. They will be missed. Thank you for your faithful service,"*

- Duane Howell EPH Board Member from Suamico United Methodist Church.

Thank you Clarica, Barb and Dennis! What a blessing to get to know each of you and witness your love of Christ in the way you live out your faith. I will never forget your warm smiles and your enthusiasm for your work and our families. God bless you.

# A Tribute to Bob Nitka



Bob passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Sept 19 while in his workshop.

I still recall the first time I met Bob. It was at one of our transitional housing homes and we had just replaced the driveway. The concrete had been poured and hardened, but we still needed to bring in black dirt and reseed along the edges. I share this story because there was almost nothing Bob wouldn't or couldn't do when it came to maintenance (Except painting – he hated painting -but even then, he chipped in when needed.)

But the bigger part of the story is how Bob lived out his faith on a daily basis. Bob started as a volunteer, but

when we had an opening for a paid maintenance staff, he expressed an interest. I asked him, "Bob, you said you don't need the money, and you have complete flexibility as a volunteer – why become an employee?" His reply? "God told me to."

Bob had a giving and compassionate heart for the families we serve at EPH. He had a strong faith, which he freely shared. Words cannot express how much Bob will miss by all of us – the staff, volunteers, and even some of the families who had the opportunity to experience his kind heart.

Bob, we love you!

By Dave Pietenpol, Board President



Break the labels,  
help make them stable.

# Eagle Scout Project

EPH was blessed to be the recipient of an Eagle Scout project. On August 23, 2020, a team of Boy Scouts and volunteers, led by Luca Gemignani, an Eagle Scout applicant, built an amazing swing set at the Martha home! The swing set includes a sandbox underneath and has several features, including swings, a slide, a climbing wall, a chalkboard, a mailbox and more! The project included a new picnic table build by Luca. The team also repaired, replaced and painted the clothesline... Mom in Upper Martha was thrilled to be able to hang out her laundry! And, of course, the children began playing as soon as they were allowed, with lots of smiles and laughter. Thank you, Luca!

"I started Cub scouts in first grade and then crossed over to become a Boy scout in fifth grade. I have had a great experience with scouting over the years. I have also really enjoyed all of the opportunities to get outdoors and especially all of our troop camping adventures! As a senior in High School I am looking forward to completing this final step in my scouting career," Luca said.

"In addition to all the leadership positions I have held in my troop including that of senior patrol leader, I have also worked as a Camp Counselor at Bear Paw Scout

Camp for three summers. All of these leadership roles with scouts have definitely helped to prepare me for my future," he also stated.



An Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of scouts have earned the rank after completing the lengthy review process. Eagle Scout service projects must be evaluated primarily on impact—the extent of benefit to the religious institution, school, or community, and on the leadership provided by the candidate. There must also be evidence of planning and development. Eagle means you have finished 21 or more merit badges, been a leader of your Troop, and know what it means to be of service to others. An Eagle Scout is someone who shows character by his actions.