

ending homelessness

st.stephen's HUMAN SERVICES

OUR VALUES

DIGNITY

Every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

SELF DETERMINATION

Each person has the ability to know and realize their own success.

EQUITY

Housing is a basic human right.

MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Investing in our neighbors results in a healthy community for all.

INTEGRITY

We expect honesty of ourselves in solidarity with others.

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 551

STSTEPHENSMPLS.ORG | 2309 NICOLLET AVENUE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404 | 612-874-0311

WISHLIST

Donations Accepted: Tuesday and Thursday
from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the rear door
of 2309 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis MN 55404

URGENT NEEDS!

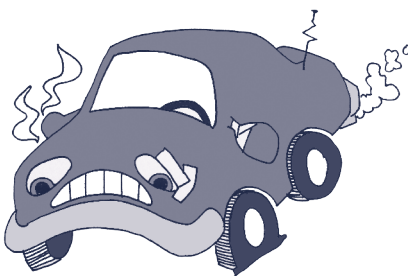
- New underwear, boxers, bras, and socks
- Kitchenware: Dinner plates, pots, pans, cooking utensils, silverware
- Cleaning products: Wipes, sprays, mops, vacuums
- TV converter boxes
- Paper products: Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper
- Large plastic storage containers
- Pillows, bedding, linens
- Bath towels
- Baby needs: formula, diapers (sizes 3 and 4)
- Winter needs: winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens
- Outdoor gear: Sleeping bags, tarps, ponchos

PLEASE NOTE

- We no longer accept men's and women's clothing, aside from winter needs and new underwear, boxers, bras and socks.
- We do not accept: formal clothing, knick knacks, food, furniture, or large electronics (including TVs).

For questions about donation needs and arranging donation times, please contact Merideth at **612-879-7622** or mmayrand@ststephensmpls.org.

If your donation is larger than a few bags or boxes, please call ahead the day before your drop off so that we can ensure that we have helpers ready to unload your donation.



GIVE YOUR CAR A NEW LEASE ON LIFE!

Our beloved company car, Marge, is on her last wheels after years of loyal service. Marge makes it possible for case managers to get to our clients' homes so we can support them, and we are in dire need of a successor to this vital position. Help us add some muchneeded horsepower to our work by donating your still-working car as a tax deductible donation. Please call Merideth today at 612-879-7622.

OPEN HOUSE

FALL 2015

ending homelessness

st.stephen's HUMAN SERVICES

CALLING IN REINFORCEMENTS

A LOOK INSIDE ST. STEPHEN'S NEW VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM

In 2010, President Barack Obama and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pledged to end veteran homelessness across the United States by the end of 2015. To help achieve this bold goal, the VA created the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to provide prevention and rapid rehousing services to veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Grants were awarded to trusted and proven community organizations in every state to carry out SSVF. St. Stephen's was among those recipient organizations charged with ending veteran street homelessness.

Last March, St. Stephen's Human Services launched the Veterans Outreach program as a new, specialized arm of Street Outreach. Two Veterans Outreach and Engagement Workers were hired for the program's start: former Street Outreach Worker (and now Manager of Street Outreach) Breanna Schell and Marik Armstrong,



Veterans Outreach and Engagement Worker Marik Armstrong seeks out potential clients in shelters, in shared housing, and on the street.

a formerly homeless veteran.

The goal of Veterans Outreach and similar SSVF funded programs is to achieve a state of "functional zero" homelessness in their communities across the country. Functional zero is a point where the number of current veterans experiencing homelessness is reduced to zero and new homeless veterans are housed shortly after they are identified. This goal may have seemed lofty and untenable in the past, but the cities of Houston and New Orleans have recently celebrated reaching that goal, with Connecticut set to join them by the end of the year.

While the Street Outreach team primarily works outdoors

Continued inside...

374 HOMELESS VETERANS
RESIDE IN MINNESOTA
OF THOSE HOMELESS VETERANS

- 156** were housed by organizations using the Homeless Vets Registry
- 142** are in emergency shelter
- 57** are unsheltered or in a vehicle
- 61** are couch hopping or staying with friends or family
- 31** are in transitional housing

STSTEPHENSMPLS.ORG | 2309 NICOLLET AVENUE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404 | 612-874-0311

ENDING HOMELESSNESS A MATTER OF THE PUBLIC WILL



Learning is the first step in becoming part of the positive change we want to see in our community. Advocacy flows from the knowledge that things can and should be different. For example: We do not have to have homelessness in our community. We know it is more dignified and less costly to end homelessness than to let it remain.

In the coming year, our Community Engagement team, together with the community at-large, will educate, organize and advocate with and for people who have been homeless.

This includes advocacy at the city level, where Minneapolis is considering a change to the current shelter zoning code which states that any shelter must be “accessory to a religious institution.” But what if a more habitable site than a church basement can be found for shelter?

FINDING YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

STATE & FEDERAL OFFICIALS

In your web browser, visit Common Cause’s Elected Official Finder at bit.ly/stateofficials
Enter your location in the form and click submit. Your federal and state representatives will be listed along with how to contact them.

CITY OFFICIALS

In your web browser, visit the Minneapolis City Council page at bit.ly/mplsofficials
Choose your ward or click “Find your Council Ward by Address” and enter your address. You will then be presented with your council member and their contact information.

COUNTY OFFICIALS

In your web browser, visit the Hennepin County Commissioner locator page at bit.ly/hennepinofficials
Click on the city you reside in on the map or list provided. This will take you to your County Commissioner’s page with their contact information.

So, I invite you to invite us to speak to your group about what’s happening politically. Let’s learn together and then advocate. We have power when we all come together to advocate for change.

This is how we will end people’s homelessness.

ST. STEPHEN’S HUMAN SERVICES

HOUSING

We prevent and end homelessness for individuals and families through our prevention, rapid re-housing, and supportive housing programs.

Our Kateri Residence provides transitional housing to Native American women and their children.

SHELTER, STREET OUTREACH & EMERGENCY SERVICES

We provide shelter and advocacy for adult men in our year-round shelter and in our winter emergency shelter. Our Street Outreach Team reaches out to people who are homeless and unsheltered, getting them connected with housing and services. We produce The Handbook of the Streets, offer help obtaining birth certificates, and provide representative payee service for those mandated to have assistance managing their money.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We offer educational and advocacy opportunities for housed and not-yet-housed people to promote a greater understanding of homelessness, including through our zAmya Theater Project and A Day in the Life experiential learning program.

For questions about this newsletter or St. Stephen’s Human Services, please contact:

Alex Nee,
Communications Coordinator
anee@ststephensmpls.org
612-870-2262

St. Stephen’s never sells or shares the contact information of its supporters.



VOLUNTEER ON VOLUNTEER

Macalester College student Isaac Slaughter spent this summer as an intern at the St. Stephen’s Emergency Shelter. During his tenure at the shelter, he interviewed his fellow shelter volunteers about their experiences serving in this unique position.

I came into the shelter eager to help out and learn about anything I could get a hold of. My perceptions about homelessness changed quickly. I found the people to be welcoming, and I found the work in the shelter to be challenging. By the end of my internship, I was happy to just sit around and enjoy the company.

Hugh was one of my fellow volunteers I had the fortune of working with. I sat down with him and asked about his time working in the shelter.

What does your volunteer work with St. Stephen’s consist of?

I’m an overnight volunteer. I stay at the shelter after staff leave and do my best to make sure everything runs smoothly overnight and in the mornings when guests leave. I’ve done this about fifteen times since I got involved in March.

How has volunteering changed your perceptions of homelessness?

Before I started, I thought homeless people were mostly war veterans or people who had experienced real

trauma and didn’t know how to reintegrate into society. After my first night volunteering, I started to look into it more to try and understand what I was seeing. Guests are just regular people. Honestly, when they leave the shelter in the morning, they look like most anyone you’d see on the streets of Minneapolis. You would never know.

What is it like being in the shelter?

The shelter is like a family, granted it’s a rotating family, but the guys definitely look out for each other. If someone doesn’t show up, they are worried. If someone is having a problem, they’ll help out. The times in the shelter that someone has gotten really upset, the guys calm him down.

What kind of interactions have you had with guests?

You know, the first few months I didn’t really have any significant conversations with the guests besides a few words while guests were ironing clothes in the office. I felt like I wasn’t connecting with them. Then just last Monday, I had a really great talk with three guys. They just let me into their circle a little bit. But it took six months. I know it’s not like you just instantly form bonds with people- you don’t, but I finally started to feel like I was part of a community that night.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Join us in our mission to end homelessness by becoming a dedicated St. Stephen’s volunteer!

Volunteering with St. Stephen’s not only helps our clients, but benefits volunteers as well. You learn new skills, meet new friends, and get a new perspective on those experiencing homelessness in our community.

MOST NEEDED VOLUNTEERS

ST. STEPHEN’S SHELTER OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEER

2211 Clinton Avenue S., Minneapolis
Shifts: One night a month, Monday - Sunday. 13 hours, from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.
Work alongside staff and volunteers to provide hospitality to shelter guests and assist with shelter operations. Two volunteers cover the overnight portion of the shift after staff leave for the evening.

RIVER OF LIFE SHELTER EVENING VOLUNTEER

2200 Fremont Ave N., Minneapolis
Shifts: One night a week, Monday - Sunday. 2-3 hours, between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Work alongside staff and volunteers to provide hospitality to shelter guests and assist with shelter operations.

KATERI RESIDENT CHILDCARE VOLUNTEER

2408 4th Ave S., Minneapolis
Shifts: One or more nights a week, Monday - Friday. 1-2 hours, between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Help women at Kateri Residence attend support groups, classes, and activities by providing childcare. Work with staff to care for and provide engaging activities for children. Hold infants while their mothers meet for support groups.

PURCHASE AND PROVIDE A SHELTER MEAL

St. Stephen’s Human Services Emergency Men’s Shelter is in need of volunteer meal groups to provide an evening meal once a month for shelter guests. Meal groups plan, purchase, prepare, and serve a meal for 50 people every night.

APPLY TODAY!

Visit ststephensmpls.org/join or contact Volunteer Coordinator Tess Gehring at tgehring@ststephensmpls.org.

Veterans Outreach Program continued
with anyone who is not in housing or shelter, the Veterans Outreach and Engagement workers also go to shelters, to housing where homeless veterans may be doubling up or couch hopping, and anywhere else they are needed.

“When I go into a shelter, I remember what it was like,” said Armstrong. “I see fear and the uncertainties I felt back then in the people I talk to. Would I get a good night’s sleep? Would my things be safe? Would I get to eat? I would have liked someone to tell me that a program like Veterans

***I CAN SEE THE EAGERNESS
AND HOPE IN MY CLIENTS’
FACES WHEN I DESCRIBE
THE PROGRAM TO THEM.***

Outreach existed back then. Now I see the eagerness and hope in my clients’ faces when I describe the program to them.”

In the first six months of the program, the Veterans Outreach team housed 30 clients. This accounts for nearly 10% of homeless veterans in Minnesota. The clients they work with have high barriers and are ineligible for assistance from the VA. These are veterans who have received an other than honorable discharge, bad conduct discharge, or who served fewer than 24 months. “Once you get one of those, every door slams in your face. You become nearly untouchable,” said Armstrong. “The warrior ethos is leave no soldier, sailor, airman or Marine behind. And at St. Stephen’s, we’re taking that to heart.” 🏠

SERVING ON THE HOMEFRONT

St. Stephen’s Human Services recently had the privilege of working with these two groups of veterans, both eager to join in on our mission to end homelessness.

THE MISSION CONTINUES ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Mission Continues Minneapolis 1st Platoon rallies the troops to paint the emergency shelter.

The Mission Continues is an organization of volunteers that “redeploys” teams of returning veterans to work on community service projects. These projects not only help communities by providing a well-organized volunteer corps, but they also help the returning veterans adjust to life back home.

The Minneapolis 1st Platoon focuses on helping organizations, like St. Stephen’s Human Services, combat homelessness. In the first year of our partnership, the 1st Platoon provided much needed volunteer muscle by repainting the emergency shelter and helping with painting and extensive spring cleaning at the Kateri Residence.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ METROPOLIS RUGBY CLUB



Between musical acts, a house-filling crowd listens intently to Veterans Outreach and Engagement Worker Marik Armstrong speak at the “Who’s Your Metroman?” event at Kieran’s Irish Pub.

Minneapolis’ Metropolis Rugby Club, whose roster includes many veterans, organized a fundraiser for the Veterans Outreach program at Kieran’s Irish Pub on August 27.

The inaugural “Who’s Your Metroman?” event raised over \$7,000 for homeless veterans, and the Metropolis Rugby Club is already getting excited for next year’s event!



zAmya

AT THE WORLD FAMOUS

GUTHRIE THEATER (and beyond!)

On July 19th, zAmya Theater Project performed Home Street Home Minneapolis at the Guthrie Theater’s Dowling Studio. This was zAmya’s first performance at the prestigious theater and it was a sold-out event, packing the intimate and storied studio.

Following the performance, Mikkel Beckmen the Director of the Office to End Homelessness facilitated a talk-back discussion between the audience and performers, many of whom have experienced homelessness.

This opportunity was made possible through a partnership with the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA). Nearly half of the show’s attendees were downtown residents invited by the DMNA, including the association’s former Director, Dr. Claudia Kittock.

“Our neighborhood needs education, ways to get involved, and avenues for that involvement,” said Kittock following the performance. “As a member of the board and a resident of Downtown Minneapolis,

I pledge my continued support toward those ends.”

More opportunities struck with zAmya’s star rising fast following their debut on Minnesota’s highest stage. The troupe was booked on the other end of downtown at the Illusion Theater for a three-night engagement performing Home Street Home Minneapolis on October 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Check out MPR’s profile on zAmya online at [BIT.LY/ZAMYAMPR](https://bit.ly/zamyampr)

Their story went beyond the stage and onto the airwaves as the subject of a Minnesota Public Radio profile on October 1st. This segment brought the humor, insight, and inspiration of the performers to a wide new audience. 🏠

BRING zAmya TO YOUR STAGE!

Book a zAmya performance or workshop for your workplace, school, faith group, or community center. For more information, contact zAmya Theater Project Coordinator Maren Ward at **612-760-4804** or mward@ststephensmpls.org.

STSTEPHENSMPLS.ORG

2309 NICOLLET AVENUE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404

612-874-0311

STSTEPHENSMPLS.ORG

2309 NICOLLET AVENUE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404

612-874-0311



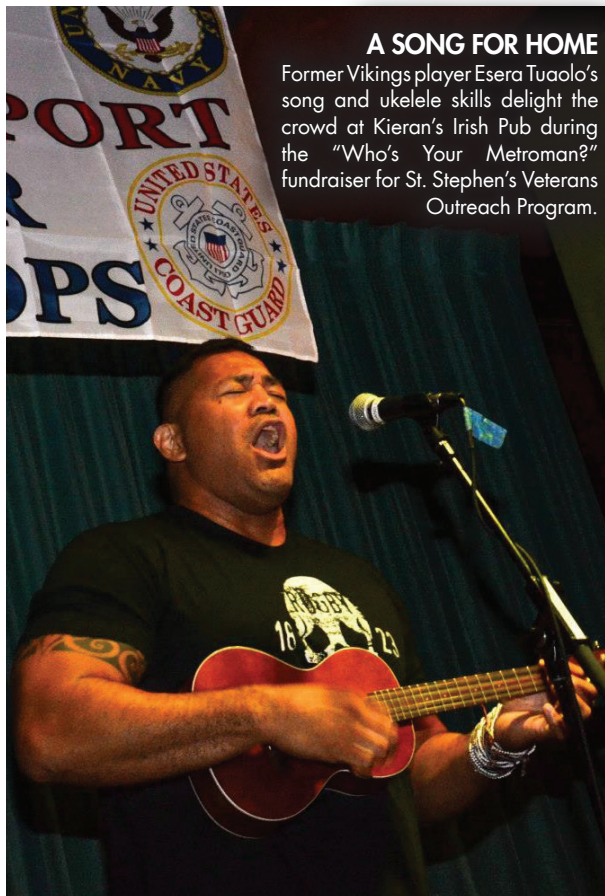
ST. STEPHEN'S HUMAN SERVICES

🏠 S N A P S H O T S



SAYING GOODBYE TO A FRIEND

Staff members say goodbye to Jesus, the giving and inspiring client profiled under the name "Charles" in our Holiday 2014 newsletter (read it here: is.gd/sssholiday2014). Jesus' ashes were scattered in the river beside his old campsite. Monica Nilsson reflected on the occasion in her Southwest Journal column. Read it at <http://bit.ly/bumattheriver>.



A SONG FOR HOME

Former Vikings player Esera Tuaolo's song and ukelele skills delight the crowd at Kieran's Irish Pub during the "Who's Your Metroman?" fundraiser for St. Stephen's Veterans Outreach Program.



CONCERT to END HOMELESSNESS

The Concert to End Homelessness on June 25th was a huge success. It was a wonderful evening of song, community, and engaging new people in our work to end homelessness. More than 800 people attended the concert held at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Eagan. Many of our staff helped throughout the evening, together with volunteers from the church.

Many thanks to our Board Member, Henry Bromelkamp for making this possible, and to Alex Nee, Monica Nilsson, Joan Bennett, Joseph Desenclos, and all the staff who planned the multi-faceted program and helped carry it out. It could not have gone more smoothly!

The music of David Haas, Marty Haugen, and Father Jan Michael Joncas (and the other musicians who joined them on stage) was beautiful and inspirational. They selected and performed hymns that reflected the work we do every day at St. Stephen's, including:

All Are Welcome: "Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live."

We Are Called: "We are called to act with justice...we are called to serve one another."

And they wrote and premiered a new hymn, *A Place Called Home*, dedicated to St. Stephen's Human Services, where the first verse sings:

"A place called home where children sleep in safety; A place called home, a haven from all harm; A place called home where tenderness can flourish, Where hurts are healed, a shelter from the storm, Where peace can find a human habitation; God grant us all this grace - a place called home."

It was a magical evening that brought together both long-time supporters of our mission and hundreds of new allies in the cause to end homelessness. Nearly \$40,000 was raised to support our work. 🏠

A Place Called Home

by Father Jan Michael Joncas
& David Haas

To the tune of FINLANDIA
by Jean Sibelius.

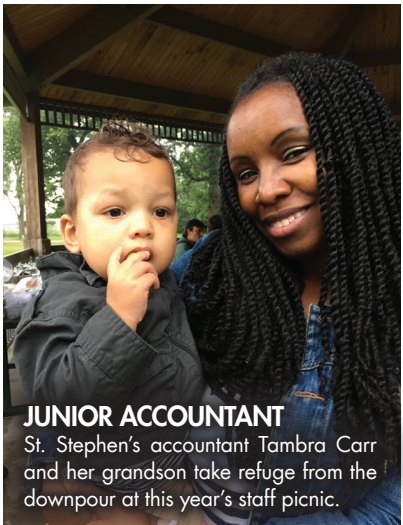
Read the lyrics and hear the
accompanying music for this song
dedicated to the efforts of

St. Stephen's Human Services at
[www.ststephensmpls.org/
concert](http://www.ststephensmpls.org/concert)



HOW IT ALL CONNECTS

Director of the Office to End Homelessness and former Executive Director of St. Stephen's Human Services Mikkel Beckmen hosts a talk-back discussion following zAmya's performance of Home Street Home Minneapolis at the Guthrie Theater on July 19.



JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

St. Stephen's accountant Tandra Carr and her grandson take refuge from the downpour at this year's staff picnic.



A TASTY TRADITION

Now in its 24th year, the Annual Italian Dinner continued to bring hungry folks and support for the programs at St. Stephen's. Behind the scenes, St. Stephen's staff and client volunteers dish up the event's famous sauce.



LET'S ALL GO TO THE HOMELESS PRODUCT FAIR

During the intermission of the Concert to End Homelessness, eager concertgoers flock to the Homeless Product Fair checkout. Among the items purchased are sleeping bags, bus passes, birth certificates, and other items that our clients always need.



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ENDING HOMELESSNESS

This year marks Resource Advocate Mike Menner's 25th year of outstanding work at St. Stephen's Human Services and Alliance Housing. His quarter century of service was the subject of a profile in the Star Tribune. You can read the profile here: <http://bit.ly/mikemenner>.



LOW SCORE, BIG DIFFERENCE

Street Outreach Program Manager Breanna Schell addresses anxious golfers before tee-off at a golf benefit organized by software giant Oracle. The event raised a jaw-dropping \$122,000 for the Street Outreach program!



A HISTORY OF SERVICE

St. Stephen's Human Services founders Ed Flahavan and Father Pat Griffin recounted the early years of the organization at an all-staff lunch.