

Telling OUR Stories



St. Stephen's Human Services
2007 Annual Report

St. Stephen's Human Services Board of Directors



Gary Ellis
Board Chair



Subashini
Ambrose



Peter
Molenda



Monica
Nilsson



Anne Quincy



John Sauer



Bob Wagner



Denise
Warren

Executive Director



Mikkel Beckmen

telling our stories

Human beings have been telling stories since the beginning of time. They are important to us in that they help us reveal greater truths about who we are, both individually and as a community.

Within this annual report are just a few of the thousands of stories we heard this past year here at St. Stephen's. The stories describe the realities of peoples' lives and where they are on their journeys when we meet them. The reality of homelessness and poverty in our midst and what it does to people is painful. The stories also, however, say something about the nature of our work, about human beings and change, and about our community.

What do these stories reveal to me? They reveal that change can begin when we meet people where they are, treat them with the dignity all people deserve, and never dismiss anyone as unworthy of help.

The beauty of these stories, and of the people in them, is the absolute truth that people can change, that who I am today is not who I have to be tomorrow.

Like people, whole communities can change, too. This year our community has begun to tell a new story; the story of bringing an end to homelessness as we know it. St. Stephen's is proud to be a part of this effort as we discover individually and together newly creative and compassionate ways to be community for one another.



there was no life after eighteen

*Mantu,
St. Stephen's
Housing Services'
Ex-Offender
Program*

How I grew up, there was no life after eighteen. No one ever talked to you about how to mature, how to grow up, what to do after high school. I was living out on the streets, in the gangs, selling drugs. When I was eighteen I ran from the police and I hit two people on the highway and they died. I was drinking that night.

In prison I was getting in more trouble and I spent a couple months in the hole, in segregation. The last time I went to the hole my mom had written me a letter. I had a lot of resentment, but in the letter she told me how much of a gift I was to her and that parents aren't perfect, that she'd done her best. She said, "Everyone around you was trying to save you, but now it's time for you to save yourself."

When I got out of prison someone gave me Richard's card from St. Stephen's. I was really stressed and apprehensive, but when he told me "we'll work with you" well, that just broke down my walls. He talked to me about being a student and he told me a little bit about his own journey. I moved into his house for ex-offenders and got a job and enrolled in college.

Last month I graduated from Minneapolis Community and Technical College in the Human Services. I want to help people like Richard helped me. Having a record haunts me and I want to make amends to the community. I have a scholarship for Augsburg, so next fall I'm starting their Bachelor of Social Work program. Eventually I want to get my masters.

When you have a future, when you actually can look at your future, that's what keeps you going straight, making good choices. For me that's what maturity comes out to: knowing what I want my future to look like.



i have a lot of job experience, but...

*Karri and Leah,
St. Stephen's
Employment
&
Family Services*

I was forty-one years old and didn't think I could ever have kids and I found myself pregnant. I was living in a not very good situation. I was in a bad apartment that was basically a crack house. I didn't have family here in town. Leah was just an infant and I needed to move.

I showed up at St. Stephen's every day and worked with Camille for two or three months. She helped me move into the apartment where I am now, Hiawatha Commons. There are no worries or problems there. I never feel insecure like I used to. Leah knows kids in the building so it's real nice. The apartment has helped me move up.

I was on MFIP [welfare] because I have a felony and had trouble finding employment. St. Stephen's helped with my resume and bus cards and a phone. I have a lot of job experience with administrative and receptionist work, but the felony has been a hindrance. It follows you and people aren't too forgiving—I understand employers can't be, but it makes it hard to move on.

Camille connected me to I Love a Parade [an employment program for homeless people who have barriers to employment]. It's been an opportunity to build up a job history. They've been so good to me, but it's part-time and I need full-time so I'm starting to look for that now.

In the meantime we have a good start with the apartment. We live there with our cat—

Leah: Sheila the cat!

Leah grew up with Sheila. Sheila was a little stray we brought in off the street.

Leah: Sheila is white and black...and round!

She is very round. The three of us do pretty well. We're making our way.



i just thought it was a normal way of life

*Brenda,
Kateri Residence
Alumna*

I took my first sip of homebrew when I was five years old. My mom used to make it. We had a cellar where we used to ferment it. I first got really drunk when I was ten. Everyone was drinking in the kitchen except my grandpa who had me keep refilling his tumbler of wine and bringing it to him in the living room. I kept tasting it on the way. I don't remember anything until waking up the next day. My mom said, "You don't have to go to school today," and I said, "Why?" She said "Cuz you have a hangover." I said, "What's a hangover?" I was ten years old.

I just thought it was a normal way of life. There are eleven brothers and sisters on my mom's side and eleven on my dad's side and my grandparents, too, they all drink. I just thought it was normal.

I've used off and on—my longest sobriety was, like, nine months. I'm so sick of it. I even stopped smoking cigarettes. What brought me to Kateri was I was trying to stay sober and there were people around me using. I needed to be where there weren't.

Everyone who lives in this building comes from Kateri, so we know each other and look out for each other. Kateri staff calls, comes over, helps us with furniture and other things we need.

My three kids will be living here, too. They're thirteen, fifteen, and sixteen, so it's gonna be a houseful of teenagers. I try and keep my kids away from alcohol. It's hard 'cuz it's glamorized in the videos they watch. I think it's easy for kids to get liquor. It was for me.

I start back at school at the end of this month. I want to get my degree in business management. I want to do a lot of things, but my number one priority is staying sober.



do any of us belong here?

*Shawn,
St. Stephen's Shelter*

I was first homeless right after I got out of the service. 1983 or '84. Lebanon. I came home and my mom said, "When are you moving out?" I stayed at my brother's, but that didn't work out. I moved in with someone else who used me. Finally I met my wife, got married, had a child, bought a house. I was working with metal fabricating and a piece of metal shot into my eye. I couldn't work, lost the house, and my wife divorced me.

I'm covered by the VA for medical and a monthly check. But now the VA has a bunch of my paperwork mixed up with some other guy's with the same name. Paperwork! I get so aggravated. I get tired of the battles and I say screw it. 'Course that gets me in trouble. I had a few words with them and then I had six VA psychiatrists interviewing me for three hours.

I get \$225 a month. \$60 to \$90 goes to psychotherapy every month. I am supposed to afford rent how? I very much want to work. I had a lot of confidence, pushed myself forward, went to school for computer repair. I filled out two job applications a day for the last eight months. Why? The people at companies don't want to take a chance on someone who is homeless.

This place at least changed my opinion about shelters. There's respect and people care. You're still dealing with too many people, though, and things like getting wakened in the middle of the night by people talking. I got into it a little bit with a guy here last night. He's getting his doctorate and he was upset about something and he looked around at everybody and said, "I don't belong here." My response? Do any of us belong here?

The Year in Service

Alliance of the Streets This year we provided Representative Payee Service for 260 individuals. We also provided nearly 2,000 other services including help obtaining birth certificate, death certificate, voicemail box, and holiday meals. We also distributed 42,000 copies of the *Handbook of the Streets*, a resource guide for poor and homeless people.

Collaboration on Housing Resources This Housing First program is a collaboration with our partner nonprofits to provide intensive outreach to our city's longest-term homeless to help them secure permanent housing. This year the team housed 73 individuals who had been homeless an average of 11 years.

Employment & Family Services This program helps parents transition from government assistance to self-reliance, as well as helping with housing when needed. This year 287 adults (with 637 children) participated in the program, with 228 securing employment.

Ex-Offender Housing We provided housing and support for 48 individuals this year as they transitioned from prison back into the community. All were employed and/or in school.

Free Store The Free Store offers lightly used clothing and small household goods to people in need. The store is open to the public.

Housing Services Program We help homeless families and individuals who are currently staying in shelters to secure permanent housing. This year we assisted 547 households (or 1,147 men, women and children) to secure safe and affordable housing. We also provided prevention services for 324 households (or 794 men, women and children) who were in danger of becoming homeless.

Human Rights This program assists people experiencing homelessness in advocating for themselves on low-income housing issues. We also offer educational opportunities. This year 101 students participated in our experiential learning program and 200 participants attended our *Housing as a Human Right Conference*.

Kateri Residence Kateri Residence provides safe and sober housing to American Indian women recovering from chemical dependency. This year 64 women lived at Kateri and an additional 47 were served as former residents in our Alumnae Program.

Kids' Resiliency Education (formerly "SCORE") This early childhood development program teaches poor and homeless children skills using mind-body wellness techniques to prevent the development of behavior problems, and even more serious societal problems of violence, crime, and abuse. In this, the pilot year of the program, trainers worked with 23 teachers, 44 parents and 91 children.

Shelter For forty-three men each night we provided shelter and access to housing and support to end their homelessness. Additionally, our Shelter Employment Program focuses on shelter guests securing employment. This year we helped 152 individuals secure jobs at an average wage of \$10.50 per hour.

Heading Home Hennepin St. Stephen's staff had leading roles in the development and implementation of *Heading Home Hennepin: A Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County*. St. Stephen's Board of Directors is committed to programming that, in concert with *Heading Home Hennepin*, continues to end homelessness for people.

Project Homeless Connect This is a semi-annual, day-long "one-stop-shop" for people experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County. Several of St. Stephen's staff participate in order to reach out to people in need of housing and/or employment support.

financial statement of activities

for the twelve months ending June 30, 2007

support and revenue

government contracts	1,709,886
foundations, churches, organizations	551,172
individual donors	501,964
board, lodging, program income	545,310
united way	103,686
total	\$3,412,018

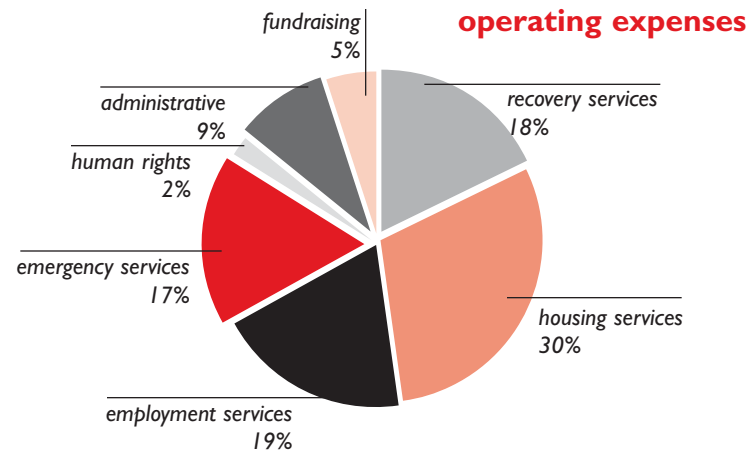
operating expenses

recovery services	619,398
housing services	998,655
employment services	647,267
emergency services	585,486
human rights	55,585
administrative	299,235
fundraising	162,711
total	\$3,368,337

other income

changes in fair value of investments	\$49,592
temporarily restricted support	(\$46,497)

change in net assets **\$46,776**

**statement of financial position**

as of June 30, 2007

assets

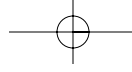
cash and equivalents	369,921
participant deposits	266,241
accounts receivable	53,841
grants receivable, government	205,703
pledges/commitments	66,550
leasehold improvements	294,637
investments	739,242

total assets **1,996,135**

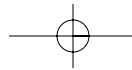
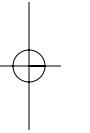
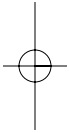
liabilities and net assets

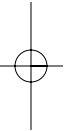
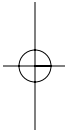
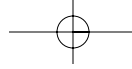
accounts payable	72,591
deposits and advances	405,018
accrued expenses	111,556
unrestricted net assets	438,524
board designated endowment	739,242
temporarily restricted net assets	229,204

total liabilities and net assets **1,996,135**



Our mission is to end homelessness.





St. Stephen's Human Services

2211 Clinton Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

612-874-0311

www.ststephensmpls.org

