

First Person Plural: **we**

St. Stephen's Human Services ■ 2009 Annual Report

St. Stephen's Human Services Board of Directors



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Board Chair



Jane Borden



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ex officio

First Person Plural: We

The accomplishments in this annual report reflect the dueling realities of brokenness and connection that lie at the core of why St. Stephen's exists.

Homelessness remains an outrageous and ugly reality in our community and is a symptom of broken bonds and broken commitments, in our civic, political, and family lives. This brokenness has led to our neighbors—babies and children, people who were once college students and teachers or who built houses or highways or fought our wars—living and dying on our streets.

And yet, for all of this brokenness, there is the reality that we remain connected. We have more in common than not with people we think are vastly different from ourselves. Our destinies, as religion, physics, and the natural sciences teach, are inextricably bound together. When we recognize this, not in an abstract sense, but as daily practice, the world changes.



Mikkel Beckmen, Executive Director

St. Stephen's programs, created to remedy a community's brokenness, work because of connection.

We have a lofty mission: to end homelessness, but St. Stephen's has never presumed that we will do this alone. On the contrary, it takes countless connections to accomplish this work. It takes you.

Who are you? You are landlords, neighbors, employers, students, volunteers, elected officials, public servants, corporate employees, and philanthropists. You are rich and poor, homeless and homeowners. You have an array of opinions about homelessness, but you agree that it must—and can—end.

Our shared insistence on nothing less than the eradication of homelessness is reflected in the growth and innovation at St. Stephen's this past year.

The accomplishments documented here that tell of lives changed and systems challenged belong to all of us.

We remain in each other's care.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mikkel".

we are housing



The longest time I've ever lived anywhere has been at Kateri. The last time I was sober—before I relapsed—I was in Kateri's housing for three years.

I was adopted out when I was three months old, grew up in foster homes, group homes, juvenile centers, jail, the workhouse, then prison. I never had a stable family. I was in and out, in and out, in and out.

The last time I was in detox I signed the kids over into voluntary foster care. I chose that life over these two kids and I still can't believe that I did that. I *still* can't believe that I did that. But you know...I got out of detox, and what did I do? I went to the liquor store.

I woke up one morning in an abandoned van with a guy and it was like: It's over. I didn't want it to be over, but I believe it was God saying: It's done. It's done. I got up and called Kateri to see if they could get me in. And they said, You can come today. They have never told me I couldn't try again. They have only ever told me I have the strength to do it.

You know why Kateri works for me? My life has always been structured in institutions, so I always need something to do. I can't have too much down time. At Kateri, the staff get it. They have a schedule with things to do. I do all the groups. I stay connected to my church which is for people in recovery. I do the support groups there and sing in the choir. I go to treatment, and I'm enrolling in school.

I'm worried about making it to three years and then relapsing again, but I know what I did wrong last time. I got disconnected, isolated. I'm going to stay close to people who understand.

Michelle

St. Stephen's has a number of housing programs for people experiencing homelessness, including Kateri's Alumnae housing, our housing for people who have been homeless long-term, our Rapid Exit partnership with Hennepin County, and specialized housing for ex-offenders and expectant mothers. Additionally, our Homeless Prevention Program works with people who are in danger of losing their housing.

I've always worked—construction, roofing, siding. With the economy the work has dried up. My landlord let me try to make things work, but it was pretty obvious that there just wasn't any work available, so I got booted out. Since then I've been living in my car.

I was able to move my stuff into storage. Then the problem was my lizards. [See the lizard on Brian's shoulder in the photo.] If I can keep them alive, breeding these Bearded Dragons can support me. I already have two pet stores who buy exclusively from me because my dragons are friendly, alert little guys. When I became homeless I spread the lizards among four friends' places. I've been panhandling for food and gas money so I can get out to feed them. They're like my kids. They rely on me. This is the first time in my life I've panhandled.

One of the big problems about homelessness is it's like a gigantic labyrinth, it's really complicated to find the right kind of help.

St. Stephen's has been great, connecting me to services. I had really painful teeth I got pulled out. I've had no medical care for twenty years and didn't know what was wrong with my back. Brandon connected me with a doctor: I've got degenerative disc disorder. That pretty much rules out doing any work I know how to do.

Brian

Sleeping in the car hurts a lot, but I won't go to the shelters.

Over the course of my lifetime I've lived in some pretty bad places and I've been attacked in my sleep twice. I prefer to sleep in my tent if I can.

It's been so important to have an advocate who knows what you need to do and where and in what order to do things. Having people care gives me the confidence that if I can just keep pounding away at it I can get off the street.

I filled out the paperwork for an apartment and it looks like I'm going to get it and that would be spectacular.

St. Stephen's offers emergency services to people who are homeless and in crisis. Assistance such as shelter, food, clothing, help obtaining birth certificates, connections to emergency medical care, and more are provided by our Emergency Shelter, Street Outreach, Alliance of the Streets, and Free Store programs.



we are
emergency services

Programs

Housing Services works with families staying in shelters to secure permanent housing. We also provide prevention assistance for people in danger of becoming homeless, housing focused on newly released ex-offenders who would otherwise have no place to live, and housing focused on expectant mothers.

Employment & Family Services assists families transitioning from government assistance to self-reliance in securing permanent, livable-wage employment.

Kateri Residence provides safe and sober housing to American Indian women recovering from chemical dependency. Kateri blends traditional recovery methods such as AA and 12-step with a focus on American Indian culture and spirituality as a means of healing.

Street Outreach provides the first contact for individuals living outside and for the community members concerned for them. Partnering with law enforcement, faith communities, probation offices, and other stakeholders, this intensive, outreach provides housing and other services.

Alliance of the Streets connects people experiencing homelessness or poverty to essential resources, such as representative payee services, birth certificates, and the Handbook of the Streets, enabling them to effectively navigate their way through challenges.

volunteers

funders

landlord

The **Human Rights Program** engages people experiencing homelessness and other members of the community in advocating for systemic change in the ways homelessness is addressed. We offer A Day in the Life, an experiential-learning program that gives participants an opportunity to learn directly from people experiencing homelessness.

The **Shelter** provides a safe and sober refuge and basic services to forty-four adult men every night while we work with them to access housing and support services. Our Shelter Employment Program works with homeless adults to improve or obtain employment opportunities.

The **Programs to End Long-term Homelessness** work with single adults who have been homeless over many years and are stuck in a cycle of shelters, jail, treatment programs, and living outside. The programs interrupt this cycle by working intensively to connect people to permanent housing with supportive services.

The **Free Store** offers lightly used clothing and small household goods to people in need.

Kids' Resiliency Education works with preschool-aged children who are experiencing homelessness. Children in these situations face chronic stress and anxiety which has lasting repercussions. This program intervenes early, teaching children skills to cope with stress to ensure a healthier future.

ds partner agencies
policy makers



we are
employment

St. Stephen's employment programs work with people with histories of homelessness and minimal work experience. Our two programs work specifically with families leaving welfare through the Minnesota Family Investment Program, and with individuals staying in south Minneapolis shelters.

At fifteen I thought I was grown up, being so independent of my family, out on my own. But I had no place to go. Homeless, drinking, addicted. In the midst of my addiction, me and my daughter slept in a car. It's a bad feeling sleeping with your baby in a stranger's car that just happened to be open.

How it ended for me was, one day I felt so lonely and isolated I was just screaming up and down the street like a crazy person. From deep inside, my inner spirit just crying: God! God! God! Walking around, moaning to God for hours. It was, like, psychotic and the process started for me.

Jaton

I just wanted to be normal. After being up all night using, sleeping wherever, I thought I must look crazy so I used to walk alleyways to avoid the "normal" people getting their coffee in the morning. I wanted to be getting coffee, going to work, being normal, too.

I consider myself being rescued by the courts. Literally rescued, having to go through treatment and child protection.

When I started working with St. Stephen's I was in a shelter. In recovery. I had no work history except temp jobs. I never graduated from high school, didn't even know how to drive. All I did was come to St. Stephen's every day and cry: "I won't amount to nothin'. I can't do it."

St. Stephen's was with me all the way, helping me volunteer and get experience to build a resume, get my G.E.D., get my kids back, get a temp job, then get a permanent job. I'll have seven years of sobriety in January. St. Stephen's was my cornerstone.

It feels good to work. I wish we all could have it. I work as a chemical health tech at a woman's treatment facility. I get so much joy out of working with people in my prior experience of addiction and homelessness. Everything that comes out of my mouth is positive and encouraging. I feel like I glow.

I worked in a prestigious law firm. I owned my own business. We had a ridiculously enormous house: seven bedrooms, five and a half baths. I had a lot of money and I knew a lot of people.

I became addicted and used drugs for ten years and I lost everything. My mother called Child Protective Services and my sister is raising my kids for now. I gave up my house and went from dope house to dope house, to motels, shelters.

I was staying in recovery housing when the Human Rights team visited and Josh asked me for my story. I was really impressed by St. Stephen's *A Day in the Life* program, teaching people about homelessness, so I started telling my story whenever they brought people over who wanted to learn.

Elsa

I like to help people. Even when I was using drugs I networked to help other people get drugs. It doesn't make sense now, but I thought I was helping people that way. Now I just want to encourage homeless people; they feel so down and I think we help them want to make a change.

I've testified at the state senate about how a bus fare increase would be a burden on homeless people. I was freaked out, but you know, you have to tell your story. You can't go wrong with the truth. I've also helped with the Homeless Against Homeless newsletter. Now we're collecting testimonies and talking to representatives to hopefully help poor and homeless people keep their healthcare.

I've had my apartment for three months and been sober seventeen months. I love my job—I work as a Peer Support Specialist helping women with sobriety and mental health.

In my old life my rich friends would look down on homeless people—on the person I became—as trash. I was like that, too.

I used to have it all and I was selfish. In recovery they have a saying: You can't keep it unless you give it away. That's what I live by now.



St. Stephen's is committed to systems change as a critical part of ending homelessness. Toward this end our Human Rights Program and other programs offer outreach, legislative advocacy and educational opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and members of the greater community.

we are
systems change

Accomplishments

OUR MISSION: TO END HOMELESSNESS BY...

...serving the most vulnerable

All people assisted by our programs . . . 6,201
(unduplicated number)

Adults served (unduplicated) 3,949
(unduplicated number)

Children served (unduplicated). 2,252
(unduplicated number)

Long-term homeless* received
housing and services 546
(unduplicated number)

...creating housing opportunities and preventing homelessness

Households helped to secure housing
and support services 946

Households prevented from eviction
or foreclosure 488

Percent of households retaining
housing for at least 12 months 90%

*People are considered long-term homeless if they have been homeless for at least one year, or they have been homeless four or more time in the last three years.

...building capacity for self-support

Job placements by Employment
and Family Services (EFS) and
Shelter Employment Program. 345

Percent of EFS clients retaining job
for 6 months. 85%

Handbook of the Streets distributed . . 26,064

...educating the community

Participants in A Day in the Life
experiential learning program 326

Hours volunteered at St. Stephen's
Human Services 11,650
*Hours volunteered equivalent to
5.5 full-time employees*

**For more information
visit www.ststephensmpls.org**

financial statement of activities

for the twelve months ending June 30, 2009

support and revenue

government contracts	4,047,266
foundations, churches, organizations	906,065
individual donors	630,838
united way	198,675
fees	126,895
in kind	76,574
total	\$5,986,313

operating expenses

shelter	553,823
ending longterm homelessness	1,435,807
street outreach	349,780
housing services	1,458,476
employment and family services	380,037
kid's resiliency education	116,864
free store	99,478
alliance of the streets	127,371
kateri residence	759,209
human rights	102,103
administrative	412,883
fundraising *	185,607
total	\$5,981,438

other income* (\$216,918)

change in net assets (\$212,043)

statement of financial position

as of June 30, 2009

assets

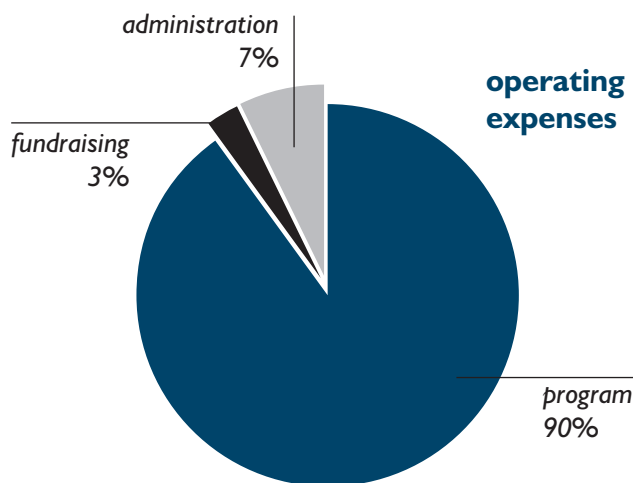
cash and equivalents	731,026
participant deposits	349,795
investments	612,473
grants receivable, government	279,728
accounts receivable, prepaid	50,842
pledges/commitments	81,835
leasehold improvements	307,170

total assets \$2,412,869

liabilities and net assets

accounts payable	28,642
deposits and advances	528,746
accrued expenses	297,994
unrestricted net assets	940,350
board designated endowment	362,283
temporarily restricted net assets	254,854

total liabilities and net assets \$2,412,869



* Changes in fair value of investments

St. Stephen's Human Services

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www.ststephensmpls.org

Our mission is to end homelessness

Photos by Nick Felice Photography, www.felicephoto.com