



four people

St. Stephen's Human Services | Annual Report 2011



St. Stephen's Board of Directors

Back row: Jim Nikolai, Jay McGregor, Henry Bromelkamp, Executive Director Mikkell Beckmen. Front row: Kelsey Dawson, Board Chair Veronica Noess, John Sauer, Jane Borden, Sandra Larson



four people.

The people we work with are often terribly alone as they move from homelessness into housing.

One of our staff, recognizing this social isolation in the lives of the women she works with, asks her clients to seek out four people in their lives:

First, find someone you admire and aspire to be like in life.

Second, find someone in a similar situation as you to whom you can relate.

Next, find someone who helps you.

And, finally, find someone who you are helping.

This task helps people remember, repair, or create important connections. It is particularly powerful for people who have come to believe that they are valueless to be reminded that they have gifts and strengths to share.

Each of us, I can safely say, has had all of these individuals in our lives at one point or another. Have we also *been* these four people to others?

An important individual in our community periodically volunteers at St. Stephen's. When I asked what draws him here he said, "I guess I just see myself in these people."

One of the responsibilities St. Stephen's takes very seriously is bringing people together. We do this to break down misunderstanding and fear. We do this because it is important for people who have never experienced poverty, addiction, or a mental health crisis to find that a person whose life has been completely derailed by these things is a peer, a teacher, or someone they aspire to be like.

This past year we at St. Stephen's have been challenged by, found housing for, organized with, and been inspired by people experiencing deep poverty and homelessness while working hard to connect them with the greater community.

With your help we continue to move thousands of men, women and children from the streets. These connections during these times of struggle are powerful. These connections will be what carry us to our future as a community without homelessness.

Values



The mission of St. Stephen's Human Services is to end homelessness.

Human Dignity

All people must be treated with dignity and respect and never dismissed as unworthy of help.

Investing in the Individual

Each person has the ability to know and realize their own success. We believe in building personal relationships with each other.

Social Justice

Housing is a basic human right and all people are entitled to a safe, affordable, clean place to live.

Advocacy

Community investment results in stable families, higher incomes and people leaving the streets for homes.

Vision



What is Different in the World Because St. Stephen's Exists?

1. Permanent Solutions & Prevention

St. Stephen's reduces public dependence on shelter as the key response to long-term homelessness, with movement toward shorter lengths of stay in emergency shelters, more people placed in housing, and increased employment rates.

2. Systems change & Self-advocacy

St. Stephen's Human Services, in solidarity with people we serve, leads efforts to partner with others to change systems, educate leaders and shift public will in support of solutions to end homelessness.

3. Learning & Sharing

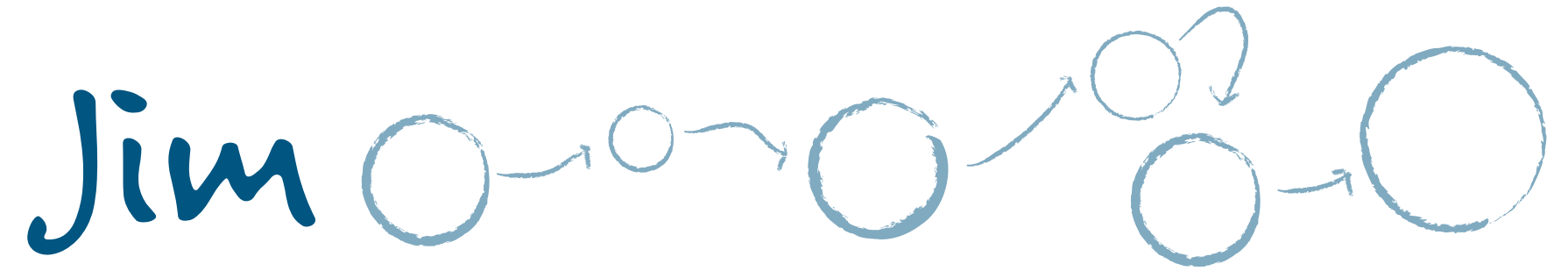
St. Stephen's Human Services is known for innovative programs and services that reflect best practices and provides consultation to others interested in developing similar programs and services.

4. Funding

St. Stephen's Human Services captures existing and emerging opportunities to secure diversified funding to stabilize and improve its programs.

In solidarity with those we serve, St. Stephen's Human Services:

- advocates housing as a basic human right,
- brings people together in transformational relationships, and
- builds a community committed to ending homelessness.



I have a sleeping bag that goes to 20-below. It's tough living outside but you can do it.

People lived in this state before we had central heat. But there are other things: two weeks ago I'm in the tent reading Gore Vidal's *Lincoln* and I look up and there's a coyote staring at me.

I have a Master's Degree in English Lit, Bachelors in Journalism. I used to make \$100,000 a year, but I got into drugs. I lost everything: job, home, family. I'm fifty-four and I have a felony. No one will give me a chance at a job.

Why don't I stay at the shelters? One night some guys in there wanted my backpack. I had my dad's bible in that backpack; my dad is dying of Alzheimer's and they were not going to get it. Bad fight, lost my front teeth. I will never sleep in a shelter again.

When I was using drugs I could make a thousand dollars a week working for a dealer. I could go back to that. There are all sorts of ways I could make money, but they're all immoral or illegal. I can't do it. I'd rather be poor.

So I panhandle. I've had hot coffee thrown at me, nails and screws thrown at me. I've been robbed. Why would you rob a homeless guy? I stand on that corner with a backpack full of resumes, handing my resume to people. It stuns people.

My mother does not know about this. I talk to my mom every day, but she has enough to worry about. She's in Georgia and I could go there and try to get a job, but I was born here and my daughter is here. Even through all of this I have a very good relationship with my daughter.

Through my church now I talk to high school and college kids: "This is what happens if you do dope. There are consequences to bad behavior. God will not give you a pass."

I don't know why Essie [from St. Stephen's Street Outreach Housing] wanted to help me. I don't really understand it. Last night was my first night in an apartment: a warm meal, a hot shower, a warm bed. I'm not sure exactly how the program will work, but I've lived in a tent; I can survive anything.



Sophia

I had five children at the time. I was on the street, addicted to drugs and alcohol.

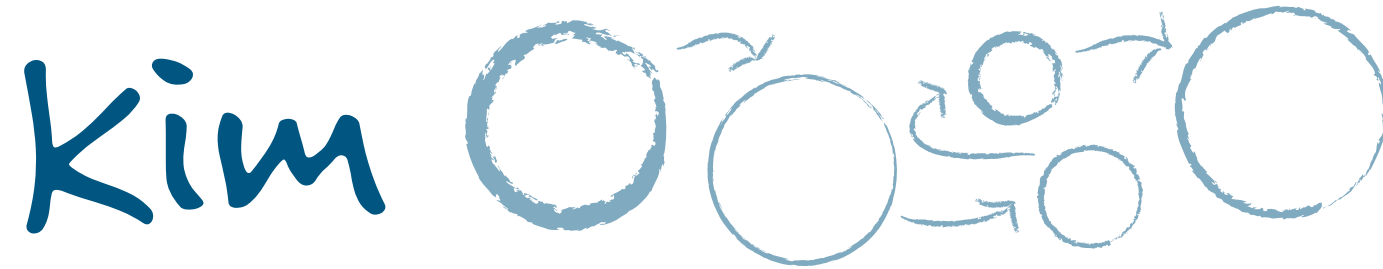
I was staying with people that used, or in parks, in abandoned houses, thing like that. My children went into foster care.

When this little one was born I looked at her and I just wanted to change my life. The hospital took her from me right away. When I was discharged Kateri was able to get me in right away and I started the program. I went to treatment, got mental health evaluations, took parenting classes, and did everything that was asked of me. When my daughter was four months old Kateri helped me get her back.

I've been out of Kateri and in my apartment for a year and I'm going on two years of sobriety. Kateri's structure was so helpful. I still miss that structure. So I still do a routine when I get up in the morning: read my meditation book and pray and smudge and do my super-clean. I've learned that I need to stay busy. I'm getting my GED and then I want to go to nursing school.

My mom passed not too long ago and feeling like she is guiding me really helps. Also my sister is four years into her recovery so she keeps me on my feet. I'm not saying that either of them keeps me sober because I know that nobody can do that but me. I'm really proud of what I've accomplished. Every day I say Thank You to the creator and Thank You to the people in my life that keep me on the right road.

It's too late to say this now, but I wish I could have done it this way with my other children. My oldest is sixteen and he's old enough to understand now why they aren't with me. I see them almost every weekend. My daughter is running for Princess at school and she has her speech all written out in Ojibwe. I'm so proud of her. They're worth everything I'm doing.



I haven't missed a day of work.

I work over forty hours every week; I'm always on overtime. I take this very seriously. I am never going back to the shelter.

I had lost my job and was in an abusive relationship. I had debt from all these credit cards they sent me when I was in school. I didn't have any place to go except a shelter. My oldest was with me and it was really hard on him.

First I worked with St. Stephen's Family Rapid Exit program which helped me find a place and help with rent until I found a job. All I had was the income from MFIP (Minnesota's process for moving families from welfare to work.)

I started working with Miss Camille of St. Stephen's on employment. Camille, oh boy, she was tough on me! She said "There is no easy way out, you have to do the work" and she stayed on me, almost like a mom! She made me know I could do this.

I got my job on a six-week trial. I was straight with my boss in the interview. I told him everything I was going through and I said, "If you give me a chance I'll show you how well I will do." Now I've been there six months and had my apartment for three years.

So I'm doing good, but I do have a lot of stress working to make all the bills. Sometimes I go in the bathroom so the kids don't see me cry. I just feel like, "When is this going to get easier?" I want to give up, but then I think about my kids: if they see Mama give up then they're going to think that's the way to go.

It's my son's birthday this weekend and my employer is giving us a free night at the hotel. They gave us a double suite! I was checking into it because I'd heard we could get a discount and they surprised me: "You've done a wonderful job here. The room is on us." Oh, I cried.

I know it will only get better if I keep working at it. I tell other young moms, "Don't give up. There are places to help you, but you have to do the work. It's not going to knock on your door or fall out the sky."

Programs



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.



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



Housing Services works with families and singles through our Rapid Exit partnership to help them move quickly out of shelters. We also offer Homeless Prevention for people in danger of losing their housing.

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

Ending Long-term Homelessness Programs 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 work intensively to connect people to permanent housing with supportive services.



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.



Kateri Residence provides sober transitional 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.



Shelter is offered to forty-five adult men every night while we work with them to access housing and support services. Our Shelter Employment Program works with people staying in south Minneapolis shelters to secure or improve employment.

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

zAmya Theater Project educates through theater. People who have experienced homelessness create and act in performances around the metro for schools, faith communities, workplaces, and other community groups.

Outcomes

All adults served.....	5,224
All children served.....	2,774
Housing	
Households housed and receiving support services.....	1,659
Prevention	
Households prevented from becoming homeless.....	497
Street Outreach	
Individuals contacted on the street by outreach workers.....	706
Calls taken from police and community members about people on the street.....	552
Emergency Shelter	
Individuals accessing shelter.....	1,081
Employment	
Households served by Employment programs.....	159
Job placements.....	101
Educating / Providing Resources	
Community members educated by <i>A Day in the Life</i> and zAmya Theater.....	3,317
<i>Handbook of the Streets</i> distributed.....	32,370
Volunteering	
932 volunteers served 22,563 hours last year; equal to over 10 full-time employees	

Financial Statement of Activities

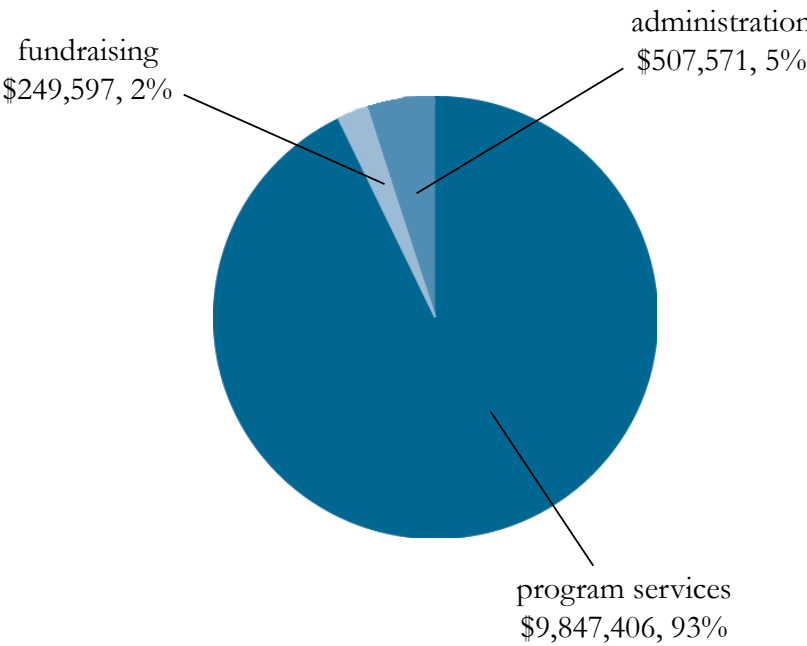
for the twelve months ending June 30, 2011

support and revenue	9,018,125	government contracts
	745,476	foundations, churches, organizations
	754,517	individual donors
	81,709	united way
	232,766	fees
	122,891	in kind
	\$10,955,484	total
operating expenses	671,726	shelter
	3,496,708	ending longterm homelessness
	3,003,501	housing services
	1,359,809	kateri residence
	449,438	employment and family services
	93,527	free store
	536,732	street outreach
	135,082	alliance of the streets
	100,883	human rights
	22,558	zAmya Theater
	507,571	administrative
	249,597	fundraising
	\$10,627,132	total
other income	154,445	changes in fair value of investments
	218,256	temporarily restricted support and revenue
	\$701,053	change in net assets

Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2011

1,705,952	cash and equivalents	71,154	accounts payable
374,049	participant deposits	374,049	deposits and advances
539,134	investments	346,991	accrued expenses
69,890	accounts receivable, prepaid		
541,733	grants receivable, government	1,981,522	unrestricted net assets
46,368	pledges/commitments	539,134	board designated endowment
304,665	leasehold improvements	268,911	temporarily restricted net assets
\$3,581,791	total assets	3,581,791	total liabilities and net assets

operating expenses



ending homelessness

st. stephen's HUMAN SERVICES

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