



# St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter

Providing a Seasonal Warming Center  
411 St. John Street (enter school on NW corner of building)  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
(920) 436-9344  
www.StJohnHomelessShelter.org

*Greetings Faithful Supporters of  
St. John's Shelter!*

March 2009

As we move into our final two months of operation for this season, I want to thank you for your essential spirit of support. The operation of this shelter would not be possible without you. St. John's guests have a warm, safe place to stay every night and delicious meals served with warm hearts and smiles because of you. Thank you for serving God through your generous work!

A quick update to let you know that we are all working hard to find permanent housing for the guests: We currently have 16 people who have moved into their own apartments with 2 pending. We are working with some guests to secure longer term shelter and treatment for mental health and substance abuse.

Ascension Lutheran Church, along with St. Vincent de Paul, continues to assist with furniture and household supplies for these guests who need assistance which has been a wonderful blessing. All of the guests who have moved into their own apartments have had successful transitions and are **thrilled** to be on their own.

Blessings to all of you for your love for others!  
*Mary Kelly, Executive Director*

## *HOME SWEET HOME*



The Ascension Lutheran Church JOSHUA Core Team had an interest in working with the homeless population in Green Bay. The Core Team contacted St. John Homeless Shelter in regards to how they could be involved in addressing this issue. Shelter staff identified a need to move individuals from the shelter into more permanent housing. In order for this effort to be accomplished, household items and furniture would need to be provided as many of these individuals have few belongings to set up an apartment. Thus the Home Sweet Home project was started. Household items and furniture have been donated by Ascension Lutheran Church members as well as those living in the community. Individuals participating in the Home Sweet Home project receive furniture and household items (kitchen items, towels, shower curtain, and bedding) needed to furnish an apartment. From mid-December 2008 through the end of February 2009, 11 shelter guests have participated in the Home Sweet Home project.

*To donate items to the Home Sweet Home outreach, please contact Judy at 920-983-0167. Pick up can be arranged. Thank you Ascension Lutheran!!*



## A Message from a Former Shelter Guest

Dear St. John Homeless Shelter,  
Thank you for all your help. You have made a big difference in my life.

You have helped me reach goals that I could not by myself. You have helped me to feel like a person that does matter to other people. You have shown me that there are wonderful people in this world that care and care about how we feel. You care about our day. You care about us staying warm. God is really smiling down on you for the wonderful work you have done.

Thank you for everything. May God bless & keep you.  
Always, Bonnie

## More Than Just a Place to Sleep — Reflections from Volunteer Tani Grimh

"Move along." "You can't be here." "Find someplace else." This is what the homeless hear every day.

But in the evening, they hear, "Hello. How are you? It's good to see you."

Making the guests feel welcome at St. John's homeless shelter is a big part of what our volunteers do — because it's a big part of what our guests need.

Certainly, a meal, a chance to clean up, and a safe place to sleep are critical. But kind, respectful human contact is something many homeless people find only at the shelter. Saying hello. Giving someone a warmer hat. Sharing a meal. It's pretty simple stuff, but these small gestures show the guests that people care about them.

Each night the shelter fills with people who are hungry, not only for a meal, but for a laugh at a witty line, contact that isn't veiled with fear, a card game and a conversation.

Without our volunteers, many of our guests would lack the things that sustain us all — kindness, appreciation, and respect.

*Tani Grimh is a writer who serves regularly at the shelter. You can find her there sharing laughs most Sunday nights.*