

Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.

Emergency shelter for adult men and women

Volume 3
April 2010 Issue

INSIDE:

Way to go Dave!

Special Invitation

Community minded Businesses

Coffee Drive

Godspeed, Julie

Estes Construction and
First Lady Mari Culver

Volunteer Appreciation



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Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. provides emergency shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing programs that offer opportunities for men and women experiencing homelessness to become emotionally, mentally and physically more stable.

Once upon a time in a land very, very near there was a man named Dave. During the summer of 2009, Dave lost his apartment due to the inability to pay rent since he was unemployed. You see, Dave injured his back in 1991 during Desert Storm while serving as an active duty member of the Air Force. Since then, Dave has had several low paying jobs and has lost them usually due to not getting to work on time or not being able to perform his duties. It seems that the VA Medical Center was prescribing medication to Dave to treat his pain and depression/anxiety. This medication made Dave tired all the time which caused him to oversleep much too often and the pain he was in prevented him from doing many, many things. Since Dave could not pay his rent, he had moved **into his mother's home in Davenport in hopes that he could work more with the VA to cure his ailments while pursuing new employment.** Dave was at his mother's house for about 2 months when out of the blue his step-father requested that Dave leave the premises as it was taking too long for him to get out on his own. On that very day, Dave had been hired by a local security agency and for the first month of his employment with them, he was sleeping on the streets in his truck. Dave then decided to join the VA program at the Humility of Mary Shelter so he could have a place to sleep and feel safe. Since that time, Dave has maintained his part-time employment with the local security agency. On January 13, 2010, Dave enrolled in a local community college in hopes of acquiring a degree in Computer Science, a field that Dave has extensive experience in, but without a **degree was having difficulties securing employment.** Dave is currently a participant in the Humility of Mary's **Veteran Transitional Housing Program and is on the waiting list for HMSI's Permanent Supportive Housing Program** so he can feel somewhat more independent. Way to Go Dave! ~ written by Dave, a participant at HMSI



From the Program Director

We all have many things in our life for which we are grateful. Many of us have fond memories of a childhood home, special occasions, loved ones and good friends which will stay with us forever. I recently watched an old movie in which a homeless man collected and carried stones in his pocket. Each stone represented a memory or a significant time in his life. One of the stones he carried was for the birth of his daughter. A second stone was for the death of his father. A third stone **represented the "best night of sleep he ever got."** How many of us remember one night of sleep we got years ago? This is a humble daily reminder of those individuals who may not have these fond memories and are just trying to survive and be safe.

It has been a little over a year and a half since Humility of Mary Shelter (HMSI) officially opened its doors. So many wonderful things have happened in such a short amount of time. To this day, I continue to be impressed with what I see when I walk through the doors. At HMSI, we offer individuals a warm and safe environment during times of crisis. We strive to provide basic needs for all who walk through our doors. Our staff is here every day to provide support and guidance as individuals work to create a stable and more permanent situation. We offer individuals one-on-one service coordination, and mental health counseling, as well as support groups to help individuals deal with issues which may have contributed to their current situation.

However, none of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our community. We thank you for supporting our mission and allowing us to continue to do the work we do. We are very fortunate to live in a community that truly cares about its people. I am truly blessed to be surrounded by such an amazing team of staff who have a strong passion for helping people.

~Cindi M. Gramenz, Program Director

The staff of
Humility of Mary Shelter
request the honor of
your presence for a tour
of your
Community Shelter.

Tours are given any time
of day that is convenient
for you or your group.

Call Melanie to arrange
your personal tour,
563/322-8065.

Visit us at:

www.humilityofmaryshelter.com

Donations are now accepted via our website.

OUR WISH LIST

Hygiene products:

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Incontinence Pads
- Mouthwash
- Feminine Products
- Combs/Brushes

Cleaning products:

- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Pine Sol
- Windex
- Dish Soap
- Garbage Bags
- Disinfecting Wipes

Paper products:

- Toilet Paper
- Tissue
- Paper Towels

Clothing items:

- Socks
- Underwear
- T-Shirts
- Jeans

General

- Disposable Gloves
- Blankets (twin/full)
- Sheets (twin/full)
- Quarters for laundry
- Duffle Bags/Backpacks
- Coffee
- Creamer/Sugar
- Styrofoam Cups (8 oz.)

SPECIAL

- Bike Locks
- **Mini Exercise Bike**
(not a full bike; just the PEDALS that can be placed on the floor or table top)



"insufficient grounds"

Our coffee supply is almost exhausted. Each day, we use approximately 3 large cans of coffee for our participants. Since we do not have a cooking kitchen, this is the only food hospitality we can offer: a hot cup of coffee. Donations can be dropped off at either Java Java Espresso Café at 836 E. River Drive in Davenport, Quilts by Oz at 5341 Avenue of the Cities, Moline or directly at Shelter; We can use any type of coffee, decaf or regular, and any flavor. If you have further questions, contact Kate 563/322-8065.



4509 North Brady
Davenport

Marshall Tucker saw an article in the *Quad City Times* regarding the needs at shelter. He read that SOCKS were a hot commodity and thought a sock drive would be a good plan. He took the idea to his supervisors and the collection resulted in 2 huge boxes of new socks!



Marshall and Laura Mills delivered the socks to shelter on February 4, 2010 after a month of encouraging their co-workers to donate new socks.

Thank you Marshall, Laura and all the Brady Street Enterprise Employees!!

\$50,000 MATCH

The Community Foundation of the Great River Bend announced on December 1, 2009 that they would match gifts to the shelter through June 2010 up to \$50,000. With the outstanding support of our great community we were able to accomplish this match within the first 30 days!!

Way To Go Quad Cities!

Target Super Store

Elmore Avenue, Davenport



Thank you Target for the 62 red break room chairs. This allowed us to replace cracked chairs and add more seating in our dayroom !!

Thanks Target...You Are SUPER!!



HMSI and HMHI
say Godspeed
to their Co-Director

Julie Williams, PhD
resigned her position as

of February 20. She has married and has moved to Burlington where her husband and stepson live. Julie has assumed a position in Burlington as Executive Director of the Low Rent Housing Agency of Burlington, IA.

“I cannot say enough wonderful things about HMHI and HMSI, about all the people I’ve worked with and encountered, including current and former participants, the staff, Board of Directors, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, volunteers, donors, and countless others in the community,” Julie writes. “It’s my hope that we stay in touch and that I may continue working with the agencies in some capacity in the future. In the meantime, I will miss you all.”

“Julie has played an important role at HMHI and HMSI,” said Sandy Walters, Co-Director with Julie. “She taught us all about informed practice with individuals that have had trauma, has fine-tuned our outcomes and annual report, and without her we could not have stepped up and taken on the responsibilities of the shelter. Julie is a remarkable person and she will be greatly missed.” Walters said.

Godspeed, Julie. Thank you for your countless hours of research and grant writing to make our shelter a reality!!

We’ll miss you!

WELCOME NEW HMSI STAFF

Evan Davis - Service Coordinator for women at HMSI and the Salvation Army*

Barb Nightingale - Night Monitor

Tiffany Norwood - Case Aide for the Veterans and Transitional Housing Programs at HMSI and Service Coordinator at Family Resources - DV Shelter*.

Karen Scott - Assistant Finance Director

Dale Wingler - Night Monitor

*HMSI staff provides Service Coordination for these two agencies as written into our HUD grants

A Day in the Life of a Service Coordinator

~ written by Christie Adamson

I think that to understand what a day in the life of a service coordinator looks like, you would first have to understand that no day looks the same. I have worked at HMSI for almost a year and I can honestly tell you that every day I am met with a new challenge that will inevitably require a unique solution. So as I explain the daily tasks that encompass an 8 hour day, keep in mind that these things are the framework in which service coordinators function and therefore maintain order in the shelter, but they do not adequately describe the myriad of chaos we manage.

My day begins with reading the log book notes from the night before. These are written by the monitors and are used to give service coordinators additional information about their participants that may be important for their case plan. I then check my sign-up sheet, which exists so that participants can be guaranteed a weekly hour spot to address their progress as well as possible hurdles they are facing. Throughout the day I meet one-on-one with participants, make phone calls for and with participants, assist in finding clothing, help with transportation, research housing options, and most importantly encourage them to continue working on their individual goals. Not every day feels like a success, but I know that it won’t feel that way for my participants either. Perhaps the task that remains constant throughout a week is that of giving encouraging words. I leave the shelter each night hoping that if I haven’t helped solve a problem, I have convinced each participant to say, “I will try again tomorrow.”



Since July 1, 2009, the beginning of this fiscal year, Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. has provided services to 636 adults for a total of 21,190 nights of shelter. Women made up 177 of the total number served; the ages of people served ranged from 18 to 79. There were people in wheel-chairs and others using oxygen. They all are our brothers and sisters who have experienced many different traumatic events leading them into homelessness. When they come to the shelter they find a welcoming and caring environment; they find a place to take a warm shower and to launder their clothes; they are given a clean sheet and blanket, to put on a bunk in a small room they will share with five or seven other people or, when all bunks are full, a mat on the floor. Some of the people served live in one of the 24 apartments located in three scattered sites away from the shelter. These apartments are funded through two different HUD grants to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless persons with disabling conditions. In addition to the numbers quoted above, there are also large numbers of people who come to the shelter during the day hours (7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday) to access services and to have a safe place during inclement weather.

The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is a staff of 13 fulltime, 6 half-time, and 8 part-time people. It is this dedicated, compassionate staff that shows the shelter guests that someone cares, that they are valued as persons; and, they will work tirelessly in helping participants access the services needed to become emotionally, mentally, and physically more stable.

The services provided, the staff to carry out the services, and the basic operating expenses of utilities, water, sewer, insurance, cleaning supplies, building maintenance, and miscellaneous other items create an annual budget of nearly \$1 million. From the very beginning we said we could only do this with the support of the entire community. There is no simple fix or solution to the homeless situation. It is not our place to judge. Everyone has a basic right to food, clothing and shelter. The Quad City community and its many funding organizations, churches and individuals have shown strong support through these past 18 months. Nearly 72 percent of our operating budget is funded by United Way, Foundations and Government grants. The balance has come from a very caring and supportive donor base of churches, private grants and individuals. Even in these uncertain economic times, our donors have been extremely generous. **Thank you to all our donors.** Please continue your partnership with us. We need your support; the shelter guests need the services provided.

~Sr. Mary Ann Vogel, Finance Director

To donate, checks should be made payable to: Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. or go to our website www.humilityofmaryshelter.com and make a credit card donation. Thank you.



Christmas at the Shelter

Thank you to the following groups who donated bags of items for the 105 clients staying in our shelter or housing programs during Christmas.

- * Alpha United Methodist Church
- * First Presbyterian Church, Davenport
- * Jesus Christ of LDS, Davenport Ward
- * Servants Gifts
- * St. Andrew Catholic Church, Blue Grass
- * Trinity Church, Rock Island

Special thanks to the following funders for awarding grants to HMSI:

- ◆ Combined Federal Campaign
- ◆ Community Foundation of the Great River Bend
- ◆ Emergency Food and Shelter Grant
- ◆ HUD Supportive Housing Program Grants (4)
- ◆ Public Service Shelter Grant
- ◆ Rock Island Gaming Commission
- ◆ Scott County Housing Council (SCHC)
- ◆ Scott County Regional Authority through SCHC
- ◆ United Way Capacity Building Grants

Shelter Gets A Makeover

HMSI received \$164,000 from the Public Service Shelter Grant under Iowa's I-Jobs program to conduct renovations at the shelter. Estes Construction, under the leadership of Mark Yakish, started this renovation on November 4th and completed the following projects by December 6th:

- ◆ Fixed the plumbing problems that affected the entire shelter sewage system
- ◆ Re-configured the administrative offices to create a new meeting room and a private office
- ◆ Built up the half walls to full walls and added doors to enclose the service coordinators offices in order to provide more private working areas
- ◆ Carpeted the administrative offices, the main floor interview room and counseling office
- ◆ Painted the administrative offices, reception area, main floor interview room, counseling office and entryway
- ◆ Repaired ceiling damage in the administrative offices due to water leaks
- ◆ Completely remodeled the bathrooms in Men's Shelter and Women's Shelter by replacing the toilets, dividers, sinks, countertops, faucets and shower doors. The walls in the shower areas were re-tiled and the floors in the shower areas were rebuilt. The final bathroom touch was "single cut" linoleum.



HALF WALLS TO FULL WALLS AND DOORS



We are so thankful for Mark and his professional crew. They went above and beyond in accommodating all our needs.



Iowa First Lady Mari Culver visited the Humility of Mary Shelter on Wednesday, March 10th to see the renovations that were made with the \$164,000 I-JOBS grant received last year.

During this visit First Lady Culver took the time to sit down with board members and staff to discuss the challenges Humility of Mary faces with ongoing operation costs and the future challenge of payments on a \$1-million loan.

Before leaving, Lady Culver took a tour of the shelter and spoke to clients.





Reggie White, professor at Black Hawk College, volunteers his professional skills by maintaining our website.

Jenna Iwanski, cosmetologist with Salon 84 in Rapids City, volunteers her professional skills the first Monday of every month by cutting hair in our Women's Shelter.



Kelly Chem-Dry, professional floor cleaning service, provided their services to clean our day room floor last fall.

PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Often times there are projects at shelter that need A PROFESSIONAL!

If you or your company provide professional services that might be helpful to general shelter projects or our clients, we would love to hear from you.

We have some special projects coming in the near future. Professionals will be needed for...

- Electrical work
- Painting
- Tree removal
- Landscaping
- Concrete work
- Window Washing

Call Kate for details, 563/322-8065

Hands that serve hearts that care

Volunteers at HMSI are always busy sorting donations, doing laundry, cleaning, answering the telephone, providing computer classes, doing yard work, painting or filing. Regardless the volunteers task, staff and participants know that behind their busy hands are caring hearts.

Volunteers are an essential part of HMSI, providing crucial support services that are vital to the shelter and the well being of our participants. Every day, willing volunteers donate their time and energy so that HMSI can fulfill its mission of providing temporary housing and services to the homeless.

We are truly grateful for the commitment that HMSI volunteers have made to our clients and our mission!

Thank you HMSI volunteers!!

FY = July 1 - June 30	
<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010 (YTD)</u>
86	71
volunteers provided 2,313	volunteers provided 1,919
hours of service	hours of service

Volunteer Opportunities

Laundry - Mondays thru Fridays from 6 - 9 pm and Saturdays 9 - 1 pm
 Gardening - planting flowers, weeding, bush and tree trimming
 Contact Kate for more details, 563/322-8065



Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc.
...because that community cares

1016 West 5th Street
Davenport, IA 52802

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Davenport, IA



Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. does not discriminate in the acceptance of participants, employment of personnel, or in any other respect on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, familial status, marital status, age, gender identity, mental or physical disability or handicap, or unfavorable discharge from the military service. HMSI is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Night at the Shelter

is our year round fundraising campaign that was developed to maximize our efforts and to encourage community support.

It is a simple idea that will make a huge impact on the services that we are able to provide our clients.

Here is how it works –
currently our shelter has 70 beds

70 beds x \$10 a night = \$700

\$700 = 1 Night at the Shelter

Do it as a family instead of exchanging gifts, invite your co-workers to join you in a Night at the Shelter, or lead your group to support 70 beds.

In addition, you can pick a date in honor of a special event or in memory of a loved one.

Call Melanie 563/322-8065 for supplies.

Assistant Director Appointed
Kelly Thompson-Reyes, Quality Control and Assurance Manager of Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. and Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc., was selected as Assistant Director of the two agencies.

“Kelly has done an outstanding job in her Quality Control and Assurance position,” said Sandy Walters, Director of HMHI and HMSI. **“She has all of the qualities and skills to assume her new role. I look forward to working with Kelly in her Assistant Director capacity.”**

**Congratulations
Kelly!!**

