

We Promote self worth and independence through the provision of temporary shelter and supportive services for families experiencing homelessness.

Summer Newsletter 2012

Dear Friends,

What an amazing year 2011 has been filled with many challenges, plenty of hard work and an abundance of joys! Our services have been needed by many children and their families and in thanks to many generous donations, we've been here to help. As one of our guests so aptly put it, "no one wants to be here, but we're just glad there's a here to come to".



We served 125 children and 74 adults for a total of 6,528 days of residential care! Our dedicated and committed staff of advocates is embarking on "summer school" where we will delve into theories of the helping profession, develop strategic plans for our future and spend time in professional and personal development. We also have an intern with us for the summer that is diving into case management tasks with our families.

Why are people homeless? The two major factors for this area is lack of affordable housing and poverty.

Among industrialized nations, the United States has the largest number of homeless women and children. Not since the Great Depression have so many families been without homes. The statistics below are the best estimates of the extent of homelessness, but it is important to note that they are undercounts.

Homeless families comprise roughly 1/3 of the total homeless population. Approximately 1.6 million children will experience homelessness over the course of a year and in any given day; researchers estimate that more than 200,000 children have no place to live.

In 2011, Village of Hope turned away 711 children due to lack of space.

When most of us think of summer, we think of family vacations, beach days and backyard barbeques. But for Village of Hope resident's summer continues to be a challenging time.

While the cold winter months bring their share of perils, summertime is just as difficult with its own dangerous weather conditions, and challenges to life's everyday struggles. We know that residents need our services year round. Homelessness and poverty does not take a vacation. Many families have given up HOPE, but, we provide a culture of acceptance and awareness that there is **a better future waiting for our families.**

What is HOPE?

H is for the happiness to know that you don't have to go it alone.

O is for the opportunity to achieve attainable goals.

P is for the perseverance to overcome barriers.

E is for expanded resources and support systems.

You can give the gift of HOPE to a family experiencing homelessness. Your contribution of \$ 2,000 will sponsor a family through our **Hope Builders** program.

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Your \$2,000.00 will provide the following services:

Crisis Intervention & Short-Term Stabilization: This phase includes helping families experiencing homelessness identify and access appropriate emergency shelter services and address crisis needs.

24-Hour Emergency Shelter: Families and pregnant women experiencing homelessness receive 24-hour emergency shelter at Village of Hope for up to 30 days. Extensions are available upon receipt of a landlord statement until move-in date for housing.

Family Nutrition Program: Three nutritionally balanced meals are served daily at Village of Hope for families residing in the emergency shelter program.

Transportation Assistance: Bus tokens are provided to access housing, employment, and medical appointments. Village of Hope is located directly on a public transportation line and is also within walking distance of the Beltrami County Community Service Center which houses the Beltrami County Department of Human Services, as well as the Bemidji Workforce Center.

Case Management: Village of Hope collaborates with Bi-CAP to provide weekly case management services in addition; advocates also provide ongoing case management. These services include, but are not limited to; assessment, referral to other housing assistance programs through Bi-CAP and HUD and other services in the community such as cash assistance, Food Support and the Workforce Center.

As a Builder of Hope, you will receive regular updates on progress regarding our program as families work for their future.

We are looking for 72 churches, individuals, families, organizations or businesses to join together and provide hope for families.

*This is 166.67/Month or 38.50/week

Please consider providing hope for the future. It will be a lasting legacy!

If you are interested in learning more about homelessness in our community or would like to hear stories about our successes, please Call Sandy Henum, Executive Director at 751-0722 Ext. 2 or email henum@villageofhopebemidji.org