

# Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley

# H.O.P.E. LETTER



## Housing, Opportunities, Prevention & Empowerment



Second Quarter  
2013

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### Our Mission

The mission of the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley is to provide temporary shelter to homeless individuals and families in a safe environment, while providing guidance to those both homeless and at-risk that promotes independence

## Celebrating Our Success

The Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley (ESFV) held its Annual Report to the Community on May 14 at the Paper Discovery Center. Over 90 donors, volunteers, community partners, and staff attended the event. "Our Annual Report to the Community is a gathering of people who contributed to our success over the past year," said Executive Director Jerome Martin, "It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with some of our closest friends."

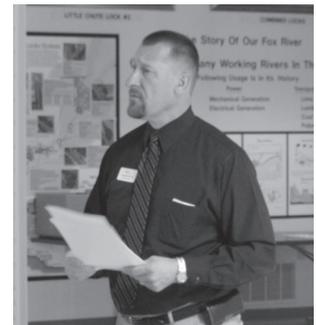
Martin shared his plans for the future with those in attendance. The ESFV recently hired a full-time volunteer coordinator to enhance volunteer participation at the ESFV. Prevention Program Manager DeAnna McGill is working with St. Vincent De Paul and LEAVEN on a Next Step Program that will connect volunteer life coaches with Prevention clients. The ESFV is deepening its relationship with NAMI, NEW Mental Health Connections, and Outagamie Health and Human Services to better serve the needs of clients with mental illnesses. All of these initiatives will ultimately strengthen the ESFV's mission and better serve those in need.



*ESFV Volunteer of the Year Cindi MacSwain and members and staff of First Congregational United Church of Christ (Appleton)*

Volunteer Coordinator Beth Servais recognized the 1,600 volunteers who contributed 16,625 hours to the ESFV in 2012. Beth said, "It's amazing to have so many people willing and ready to serve our organization and make our mission a reality."

Cindi MacSwain was recognized as ESFV Volunteer of the Year for 2012. Cindi is the force behind E2F (Empty to Full), a program at First Congregational Church that makes it easy for members to prepare and donate meals to the ESFV. Since its implementation in 2011, First Congo has provided over 500 pans to the ESFV, equating to the main dish for 83 dinners. Cindi's goal is to eliminate the ESFV food budget for an entire year. "Cindi was recognized not only for her dedication of time and talent to our organization but for her ability to inspire others to act as well," said Community Relations Director Jennifer Dieter.



*Executive Director Jerome Martin presents at the Annual Report to the Community*

A copy of the 2012 Annual Report is available at [www.emergencysHELTERfoxvalley.org](http://www.emergencysHELTERfoxvalley.org).

## Upcoming Events

### **23rd Annual Garden Walk Saturday, July 13, 2013**

*See article for more information about this year's event*

### **Trinity Lutheran Church Charity Golf Outing Sunday, July 28, 2013**

**2:00 p.m. at Winagamie Golf Course (Neenah)**

*Cost is \$50.00 per player for 9 holes and includes green fees, power cart, meal, awards, and prizes. Proceeds benefit the ESFV and Trinity Lutheran Church. Registration forms are available on the ESFV website.*

### **5th Annual Ton of Food Picnic Saturday, September 7, 2013**

**11 am—2:00 pm**

**Memorial Park Apple Blossom Shelter (Neenah)**

*A bag of food or supplies for the ESFV is your ticket for the picnic. Mad Dog and Merrill will be there for the food and fun! Sponsored by the North Winnebago Thrivent Chapter. To RSVP or for more information contact Mark Armstrong at 886-3963.*

### **8th Annual Benefit Gala: "Hope has an Address" November 12, 2013**

**Radisson Paper Valley Hotel**

*For more information about these and other upcoming events, please visit [www.emergencysHELTERfoxvalley.org](http://www.emergencysHELTERfoxvalley.org).*

## **23rd Annual Garden Walk**

The ESFV and Appleton Coated host the 23rd Annual Garden Walk on Saturday, July 13, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Garden Walk features eight beautiful gardens located throughout the Fox Cities as well as the Paper Valley Garden Club's "Garden Cornucopia" Flower Show at the Gardens of the Fox Cities.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the walk. Tickets can be purchased at the ESFV (400 N Division Street) and select garden outlets throughout the Fox Cities.



"Last year, the ESFV provided services to over 3,200 men, women, and children who were homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.

Events like the Garden Walk provide much needed revenue to execute our mission and serve those in need," said Executive Director Jerome Martin.

The Garden Walk features a wide variety of planting styles, annual and perennial plants, shrubs, trees, water features and hardscape. The ESFV is grateful to this year's hosts: Dr. Fred & Susan Bartizal, Bob & Jane Delso, Jim & Sarah McRae, Troy & Lisa Noel, Steve Soileau & Kay Villa, Jim & Audrey Temmer, Mary Jane Vought, and Tom & Barb Wentzel.

For more information on where to buy tickets or to read descriptions of the featured gardens, visit our website: [www.emergencysHELTERfoxvalley.org](http://www.emergencysHELTERfoxvalley.org).

## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BRITTANY**



If you have found yourself at the ESFV on a Wednesday morning, chances are you have had the privilege of meeting Brittany. Brittany has been volunteering with the ESFV since October 2012. She has taken on many tasks—from shredding paper, assembling intake folders, putting together large mailings, dating or sorting donated items, cleaning kitchen appliances, to sanitizing toys. Brittany's favorite task, however, is to wash dishes in the kitchen. What she likes best about it is the ESFV's automatic washer.

When Brittany is not volunteering, she keeps busy. She swims at the Neenah YMCA and competes in the Special Olympics in basketball, usually as the center. Brittany also takes drum lessons and has her very own drum set. She is proud of the fact that she can play three beats at one time!

Volunteering makes Brittany feel good as she knows she is helping others. The interactions that Brittany has with residents show her that even though they are at the shelter and going through difficult times, they still want to help and get to know her. She related a time when she was working on dishes in the kitchen and dropped some plastic cups. Residents who were nearby came in and helped Brittany pick up the cups. She was very grateful for their kindness.

The ESFV is very fortunate to have a dedicated and helpful volunteer like Brittany. Sometimes it bothers her to know that residents are struggling in their lives, but it makes her happy to also know that at the ESFV they are receiving the help they need. She is pleased to be doing her part to help them as well.

## Director's Column



My family and I enjoy the outdoors and all that Mother Nature has to offer. One of our favorite family activities is to pack or canoe into a remote campsite and rough it for a couple of days. We pitch a tent, sleep on the ground, cook over a campfire, ration drinking water and pack small amounts of food that can be eaten cold if necessary.

We recently took such a trip, staying just one night. During our adventure, we battled mosquitos and other bugs, high winds, a short night time rain shower and none of us slept well. My oldest son built a survival type shelter like he had learned to do in Boy Scouts, but after battling the bugs and winds for an hour or two, he pitched his own tent and was able to rest more comfortably.

That night, I think I woke up every time I heard a twig snap or leaves rustle. Was it a raccoon? Sounded like something heavier. Was a bear visiting our site? Instantly, I was wide awake and listening intently. After a while, though, I drifted back to sleep.

A few hours later I heard the sharp crackle of a camp fire. My oldest son, Garrett built a fire to warm up. It had gotten down into the upper 30s. Soon we were all up. We quickly broke camp, ventured back to the parking area, loaded the truck and headed for home.

On our way home we talked about the "fun" we had. We talked about how hungry we were, dirty we felt, how poorly we slept, and the cold, wind and rain we encountered. As we were talking, I mentioned how fortunate we were to have nice tents, warm sleeping bags, food, and water while roughing it.

We know there are many people living among us that do not have adequate food. Those that are living on the streets rough it every day. They do not have a tent to use for shelter, or sleeping bags to stay warm. They battle the weather and tolerate the bugs. They're always alert to danger. How can they even sleep? They are not able to pack up, go home, shower, do their laundry and make a good, healthy breakfast. They rough it, not to enjoy the beauty of Mother Nature, but to survive. I admire their resiliency and am more impressed with their ability to overcome their situation with the guidance of our Outreach Program and case management staff.

If you want to see what I'm talking about, you can join us (along with partner Fox Cities Housing Coalition agencies) for our upcoming **Point-In-Time Count** on **Wednesday, July 31** when we organize volunteer groups to fan out across the Fox Cities in search of people who do not have a place to stay and are roughing it in areas not meant for human habitation. This not only helps us connect with these people to find them a place to stay, it provides us with a snap shot of how many people are actually homeless. I'll be there. I hope to see you, too.

### Team ESFV at Human Race 2013

We collected over \$1,400 for the ESFV!



### CURRENT URGENT NEEDS

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Men's flip flops        | Ankle socks for men, women, and children |
| Razors                  | Boxers for boys and men                  |
| Foot powder             | 3 oz. cups                               |
| Toilet paper            | Tall kitchen garbage bags                |
| Paper towel             | Lunch items—granola bars, chips          |
| Size 4, 5, 6 diapers    | Ground beef                              |
| Toe/fingernail clippers |  |
| Hangers                 |  |
| Dryer sheets            |  |

## Meet Beth Servais



I began as the volunteer and special events coordinator at the ESFV in March 2013. Since starting, I have been able to attend volunteer orientation, serve dinner with volunteers, organize a volunteer appreciation brunch, and participate in the ESFV's Annual Meeting.

Day-to-day business has kept me busy—meeting and interviewing volunteers, organizing projects for volunteer groups, and planning upcoming ESFV events.

After a few months with the ESFV, I am even more excited to be a part of this extraordinary organization. I hope to bring great things to the volunteer program, as the organization looks to fill more roles with volunteers, allowing the volunteers to make the best use of their time and talents.

Thank you to everyone involved with furthering the mission of the ESFV. I look forward to working with you!

To learn more about ESFV volunteer opportunities, you can contact Beth at [bethservais@esfv.org](mailto:bethservais@esfv.org) or 882-0346.



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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/esfvinc](http://www.facebook.com/esfvinc)

*Serving homeless families and individuals in  
the Fox Valley since 1981.*

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**ATTENTION:**

Our PO Box was discontinued starting 6/1/2013.  
Please mail all future correspondence to:  
400 N Division Street  
Appleton, WI 54911-4611

## Board of Directors

**President:** John Russo, McCarty Law

**Secretary:** Brenda Nelson, Kimberly-Clark Corporation

**Treasurer:** Brett Schroeder, Anchor Bank

Terry Dawson, Volunteer

Val Dreier, Appleton Area School District

Jenni Eickelberg, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Terry Ellenbecker, Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction, Inc.

Natalie Heinan, Grant Thornton

Brenda Klister, Volunteer

Maria Nelson, Red Shoes PR

Greg Pawlak, RBC Wealth Management

Tom Veaser, Affinity Health System

## Hope for a Better Future: A Success Story



We received this letter from a young couple who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl while staying at the ESFV. Your support made their success possible:

“Thank you guys for everything you have done for us since we got here. You have helped us with so many things food, clothes, a place to live in our struggling times, and a new place to call home. I really hope one day we can repay you, but honestly, I can’t even imagine where to start. The services you have provided us while we were here have been so helpful. Also, you guys have helped us support our daughter and gave us hope that we could give her a life she needed. I know this letter isn’t much but its all we can do right now to let you know how thankful we are for everything you have done for us. I hope we never get stuck in the position we have been for the last few months, but I hope we can come back and visit.”

This family represents three of the 819 people who benefited from the ESFV’s Shelter Program in 2012. Their daughter was one of 199 children and one of two babies born into homelessness at the ESFV last year.