



Solutions to Homelessness

SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER * PORCHLIGHT, INC.

From the Desk of Steven Schooler,
Executive Director

My grandmother often told me, "Nothing really worth doing is ever easy." She must have had capital campaigns in mind. For the past two years, we have been exploring the idea of raising enough money to build a new facility for our Safe Haven program. We'd like this to include additional permanent housing for persons suffering from disabilities, primarily persistent mental illnesses. Safe Haven is an extremely successful housing program that serves homeless adults suffering from illnesses such as schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, major (clinical) depression and post traumatic stress disorder (returning veterans often experience post traumatic stress disorder as a result of combat experience). Since its inception in 1995, Safe Haven has served over 1,000 disabled persons with housing and thousands more with daytime resources.

Persons with persistent mental illnesses comprise approximately 50% of the adult homeless population, a figure that is only expected to increase with the worsening economy and significant numbers of veterans returning from combat experience in Iraq and Afghanistan. The primary reason for this very large percentage is the fact that we have deinstitutionalized those with mental illnesses and have not provided alternative low-cost housing with support services for these persons. A main focus for Porchlight, in furtherance of its mission to reduce homelessness, is to provide the support services and housing needed to ensure that these vulnerable and often ignored members of our community can live stable and decent lives.

Kathy Sandefur, a member of our Capital Campaign Committee recently described Safe Haven in the following way:

For the past several years, I worked almost daily with Porchlight staff, at the Brooks Street location, at Hospitality House and as a representative payee for many persons housed and cared for at Porchlight's Safe Haven. Safe Haven is a

temporary housing program for homeless men and women with persistent mental illness. Safe Haven serves as a "portal of entry" to the community service system and offers basic services as well as a psychiatric clinic. Fourteen beds are available for overnight guests with additional day time services for drop-in visitors. Three meals are provided daily and laundry facilities, showers, phone and mail services, and referrals to community agencies are available. Safe Haven is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Safe Haven provides the initial stability necessary for these disabled persons to start to put their lives together. Once that initial stability is achieved, the residents and guests can move into long-term housing, often Porchlight's housing program that offers low-cost housing combined with supportive services.

Recently, with the assistance of the Bureau of Housing for the State of Wisconsin, we undertook a study of just how successful this program has been. Approximately 60% of the residents of Safe Haven actually move into housing and, through the assistance of United Way of Dane County, we employ a social worker that follows these persons for six months. However, we wondered how well these persons actually did in retaining housing over time. It's a challenge to follow these persons over the long term and we do not have the staff resources for long-term follow up. Yet, long term stability in housing is the essence of Porchlight's mission to reduce homelessness.

For several years, the Bureau of Housing, along with HUD, has required grantees that receive funding to track services provided to guests through an extensive data network. This network includes almost all shelter providers in Wisconsin. In essence, if anyone seeks shelter in Wisconsin, they will appear in this database with the night they sought shelter. Using this database, we can determine whether anyone leaving Safe Haven has sought shelter in Wisconsin. Thus, we were able to conduct a survival analysis of all residents of Safe Haven that exited the program over the last three years.

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The results of this study are shown on the graph below. The solid line is the three-year survival (without seeking shelter) for all residents of Safe Haven. It shows that approximately 60% of all residents do not seek shelter after leaving for up to three years; this is an incredible success rate. The total persons exiting Safe Haven (which is the solid line) actually comprise two groups: those that exit Safe Haven successfully and those that do not exit Safe Haven successfully (most of these are asked to leave for breaking rules, before they have found alternative housing). The dashed line is the three-year survival rate for Safe Haven residents successfully leaving the Safe Haven program with housing. The survival rate for those residents is over 90%! The dotted line is the survival rate for residents asked to leave.

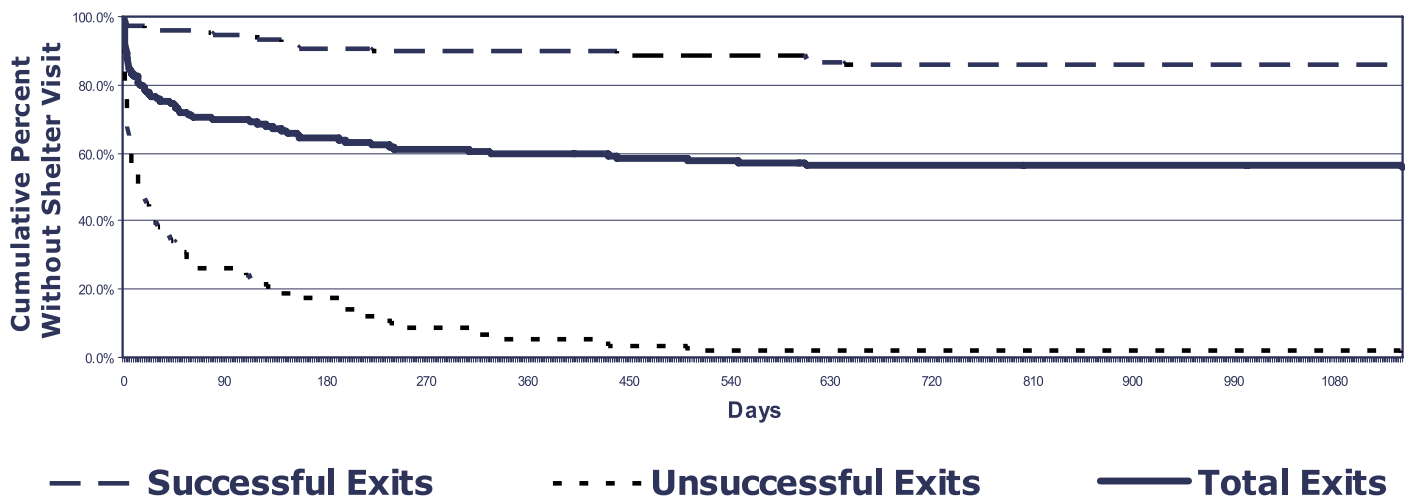
This third group holds the greatest potential for improved success. Currently Safe Haven resides in an inadequate facility with a lack of resources to focus on the major issue the unsuccessful group faces in addition to mental illness; that issue is substance abuse. At present, there are minimal resources available to adequately assist those suffering from a dual diagnosis of both mental illness and substance abuse.

With a new facility and greater resources we will have the opportunity to have increased overall successful exit rates. A new facility designed to serve the needs of these residents with adequate space for dining rooms, group meetings, professional consultations and staff offices would measurably improve the services we can provide to this difficult to serve population. We currently pay \$40,000 plus utilities in rent. With a new facility, rent would be eliminated and energy-efficient construction with solar power would provide additional savings. Both the rent and utility savings could be used for additional professional staff, focusing on the treatment of these dually diagnosed persons. We believe we can make this excellent program into a truly great program with an overall success rate in the 80% range.

Safe Haven deserves a decent facility in which to do its incredible work. Raising the capital funds for this new facility will not be easy, but there can be no doubt that it is an extremely worthwhile endeavor. We need your help in making this a reality. ✨

Safe Haven Long-term Success

3-Year Success Rate



With Locally Grown Produce, Porchlight Products Expands

With summer in full swing, local farmers are supplying fresh produce to the makers of Porchlight Products, an innovative part of the food program at Porchlight.



Using the licensed kitchen at the Brooks Street housing facility, kitchen staff turn seasonal ingredients into high quality products to sell through wholesale and retail outlets. These products – which change with the seasons – include jams and jellies, sauces and pickled specialties.

As an important added benefit, this program provides employment training and meaningful experience to Porchlight clients.

Crisp, tangy dill pickles made with lovely pickling cucumbers from Keewaydin Farms will be available soon. Carandale Farms again delivered beautiful, sweet strawberries for jams. The Orzo and Vegetable salad we make for the Daisy Café and Cupcakery features farmer fair trade cheese from Cedar Grove Cheese. And Gentle Breeze Honey and the Krause Farm provide our fantastic local sweeteners. These and other area farms help make Porchlight Products great by supplying superior ingredients. *

To see a complete list of available Porchlight Products, visit: http://porchlightinc.org/porch_products.html

Where to Find our Products
Daisy Café and Cupcakery
The Old Fashioned
Metcalfe’s Sentry Hilldale
Fraboni’s Italian Specialties & Delicatessen in Monona

Join us for these fall events:

Sweet Relief
 Bunky’s Café
 2425 Atwood Ave.
 Thursday, September 24th
 5:00 to 8:00pm
 Tickets ~ \$15 at the door



Come check out Bunky’s in its new location and enjoy a selection of fine wines, Bunky’s famous hors d’oeuvres, and chocolate delicacies from Porchlight Products.



Pink Poodle Charity Tent Sale
 Thursday—Sunday
 September 24-27th
 9:00am to 6:00pm
 6017 Odana Road

Featuring a treasure trove of designer men’s and women’s clothing, household items and furniture — all available at bargain prices. Proceeds from this sale support Porchlight’s efforts to reduce homelessness in the Madison area.

Porchlight Annual Recognition Dinner
 “Overcoming Adversity”
 Wednesday, November 18th
 Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center

5:00 to 7:00pm Silent Auction & Social Time
 7:00 to 8:30pm Dinner and Program
 \$70 per person (\$45 is tax deductible)
 \$500 per table of eight
 Sponsorships are available

For more information call (608) 257-2534.





Porchlight Needs List

The following items are in high demand and in short supply at the Porchlight donation warehouse. If you would like to donate any of these items, please call (608) 257-2534 or drop them off at the donation warehouse at 1490 Martin Street at Door #3 on the side of the building during regular business hours.

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|--|-----------------------|
| Twin bed sheets | Women's undergarments |
| Twin bed mattresses and box springs | Deodorant |
| Full beds with and without box springs | Laundry Detergent |
| Towels | Baby diapers |
| Toasters | Non-perishable foods |

The following items are needed by the Brooks Street food pantry. The pantry serves Porchlight residents living at 306 N. Brooks Street.

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| Canned meats and stews | Frozen meat |
| Peanut butter | Jam/jelly |
| Pasta sauce | Canned fruits |
| Cereal | Frozen pizza |
| Juices | Microwave dinners |



This publication was made possible with help from the Chrysalis Work Center.

Chrysalis volunteers complete bulk-mail projects for non-profit organizations at no charge.

Chrysalis' Work Center program provides low-stress opportunities for people with mental illnesses to gain work experience, enhance social interaction and increase meaningful day structure.

Please contact 608.256.3102 or chrys_workcenter@sbcglobal.net



www.workwithchrysalis.org

Our Mission: Porchlight strives to decrease the Dane County homeless population by providing shelter, housing, supportive services, and a sense of community in ways that empower residents and program participants to positively shape their lives.

www.porchlightinc.org

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306 North Brooks Street
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