



Learn how we've been keeping ourselves busy these past few months. To hear about our success stories, needs, volunteer opportunities and accomplishments, follow us on [Facebook](#).

Celebrating Our Executive Director's 30 years!

Porchlight's Executive Director, Karla Thennes, is celebrating 30 years with Porchlight today! She got her start as an intern 31 years ago while she was getting her social work graduate degree at UW-Madison. She knew she wanted to go into social work during her senior year of high school on a trip to Washington, D.C., and a homeless man asked her and her friends for some money. Young and warned by their chaperones not to speak to anybody, they kept moving on and the man begged them,



Karla is pictured here presenting a recognition award to Uly, a resident of Porchlight

**“Don't pretend like you don't see me.
Don't pretend like you don't hear me.”**

As they continued to walk, the man was given a dollar by somebody else, and, while the girls watched on wondering what he would do with it, he walked up to a hot dog vendor and bought a hot dog. “It was the most profound moment of my life. All we did was judge him, and pretend like we didn't hear him. It was my moment.”

Karla could not be happier that she interned at Porchlight and has been able to continue her work. She's learned the value of celebrating everything from big to small, from when somebody gets a full time job, to somebody moving into permanent housing, to somebody getting connected with their family again.

It has been a difficult year and a half with the pandemic and economic struggles, but Karla is an eternal optimist and excited for the future — especially finding a new permanent home for the men's shelter. “I love everything about my job, getting to know the clients and hearing their stories and working with an amazing group of staff.”

[Honor Karla's past 30 years by donating \\$30 to Porchlight here](#)

A word from our Drop-In Shelter (DIS) Manager

I thought I would share a picture of whom I call the first responder. Rayray (pictured), as we affectionately call him, was the very first person that came to the rescue on the night of 3/22/21. He assured me that he would stay with the injured guest and keep him alive until the paramedics showed up. And he did, wrapping and compressing parts of the guests' body until the paramedics showed up.



The first words out of the paramedics mouth was, "Do you guys have medics here that have already attended to him?" Rayray was a guest at the DIS that night. He is also one of our honorable military veterans who will walk with a limp for the rest of his life. It's no surprise that he was quick to the guests' rescue. Rayray was shot five times in the line-of-duty while serving in Iraq.

This just goes to show you that the people we serve are also heroes. You can [read his Facebook post here](#) and see how the community responded to it.

Click here to help us provide shelter to those like Rayray

PORCHLIGHT, INC. 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Persevering

Through

The Pandemic

SAFELY PROVIDING SHELTER AND SERVICES TO GUESTS AND RESIDENTS'

This year, our Annual Report's theme was "Persevering through the Pandemic". In it, we share heartbreaking stories of resilience and triumph, updates on our services, and more!

[Click here to view the full Annual Report](#)

[Click here to help Porchlight continue to persevere through this pandemic](#)



Save the date!

We will be holding our annual fundraiser, Porchlight's Annual Recognition dinner, on November 9, 2021. See you then!

[Watch last year's video here.](#)