



**Humility of Mary
Housing, Inc.**

Supportive Transitional and Permanent Housing



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of the Quad Cities Area**

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Julie Williams, PhD resigned her position as of February 20. She has married and moved to Burlington, where her husband and stepson have lived and where Dennis works as the Finance Director for the City. Julie has assumed a position in Burlington as Executive Director of the Low Rent Housing Agency of Burlington, Iowa.

"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.



Mission Statement

Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. is a transitional and permanent supportive housing program that provides single parent families experiencing homelessness with opportunities for growth and development that could result in self-sufficient living.



Non-Discrimination Policy

Humility of Mary Housing, 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, mental or physical disability, or unfavorable discharge from the military service. HMHI is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

CORRECTION



In the last newsletter, I told you about myself, but failed to tell you my name! I am Karen Scott and I'm the new Assistant Finance Director for Humility of Mary Housing and Humility of Mary Shelter. I'm really enjoying all the growing and learning I'm doing every day. I'm so glad to be part of the team!

Employee Moves In To New Role As Assistant Director

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 QC and A 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.”



Farewell to Our Intern

This year, Humility of Mary Housing has given one Masters of Social Work student the opportunity to learn the ropes. Over the semester, foundation year intern Emily Clifton has had the opportunity to work with clients, work on grants, and even create a dataset to measure program outcomes. Her favorite part of the experience was the client interaction.

Her placement for next year is pending, but with both her final internship and future goals, she hopes to work with youth. She feels that adolescence is an important time for a young person to solidify their values and decide who they are going to be as a person. She is excited about being a part of that process. “I am thankful for HMHI’s commitment to learning and the time they invested this year in training,” said Emily. “I am also thankful to have learned about so many agencies through the networks that HMHI has in the community.”



HMHI Entrepreneur

Teresa, a mother of 4 children, has now become her own boss. She has started a home health care business. “Your Home Care Solution” offers non-medical home care services such as housekeeping, laundry, shopping, running errands and meal preparation. They assist individuals in completing every day tasks to make life easier and maintain their independence. This kind of service is a better alternative than going to a nursing home for many elderly people. Her business is just taking off and Teresa is always looking for new clients. Congratulations, Teresa, on your successful launch into the world of business!



A Brighter Future

Angela and her four children came into the program in October of 2008. Angela started school at Blackhawk in January, 2010. She is working toward a degree in Visual Communications. She will graduate in December 2011 and hopes to find a job in marketing or web design. Angela had been employed full-time prior to starting school.



Another Very Busy Mom

Lakisha and her four children came into HMHI in November 2008. Lakisha is currently in school full-time working toward a BA degree in ministry. She recently accepted a full-time position at the Annie Wittenmyer facility. Lakisha stated that once she earns her bachelor's degree, she would like to continue her educational goal and work toward a Master's degree in ministry or social work.



Ready to Get Cooking!



April and her daughter entered HMHI in November of 2008. She recently earned a diploma through Stratford Career Institute in Culinary Arts. April is currently seeking employment where she can utilize her skills.

Congratulations, April and good luck with your job search!

The Hard Part Is Over

Sharnice, pictured here with her baby daughter Hope, and Sharnice's little sister Faith, has completed her Certified Nurses Assistant certification. She did her clinicals at the Kahl Home. She will start her quest for a C.N.A. position after taking her State test, hopefully finding work in an assisted living setting. Congratulations, Sharnice!



Work, School and Family

Amanda has been working on job stability at McDonalds. She is also currently in her first semester at Scott Community College working on her associates degree in



business. When she is not working or at school, Amanda is spending time with her 3 year old son Elijah. Keep up the good work Amanda!

“Pillar of the Week”

Yesaya, who is in the first grade at Horace Mann Elementary, was named “Pillar of the Week” by his teacher. The award stated that “Yesaya has proven to be a very honest and trustworthy student who consistently shows respect to those around him. He has also demonstrated responsibility throughout the year by working hard during “centers” and setting a good example. This is why Yesaya is a great example of a “Kid of Character”. When Yesaya is not in school, he is active in Awana through his church, and he takes piano lessons. He likes cowboys, building with Lincoln Logs, painting and “rock and roll”. Yesaya’s mother, Diana, is a full-time student and is working toward her B.A. degree at Western Illinois University. She proudly states that her son always wants to try new activities and she has yet to find anything that he cannot do well.



Another Great Easter at HMHI

Each year the children of HMHI enjoy a visit from the Easter bunny, an Easter egg hunt and pizza at Legacy Church. The event is sponsored by HMHI and Project Renewal and pizza is donated by Celeste Dolan.



Tireless Volunteer Retires and Will Be Missed!

After a long tenure as what might be called our Wardrobe Mistress, Sister Harriett has retired from working with our upstairs clothing floor. If you have ever gone upstairs and looked at the clothing we have, it is very impressive thanks to Sister Harriett. She has spent countless hours putting the clothing in good order, sorting it, and being certain that the items were in good repair so that our participants could easily find clothing for themselves and their children. It is an important, but tiring job. We want to thank Sister for taking such pains, spending tireless hours making the rooms “just right” and helping participants search for what they needed.

Sister Harriett always greeted our families with a smile and was quick with suggestions for them, as she was

familiar with every article of clothing that went upstairs. Her quick wit, wonderful sense of humor and sports trivia will be greatly missed in the office, by the entire staff, and we will think of her with a smile every time we hang up a piece of clothing.

Thanks Sister Harriett!



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is the backbone of many of our HMHI activities. Without volunteers, who would sort the donations? Who would man the clothing room and keep it straight? How would phone calls be answered when the Office Manager is out of the office? Who would tend the flower beds with weeding and planting new flowers? How would the apartments get cleaned and painted when they have emptied? Who would trim the bushes or clean the gutters? These are all examples of how you might become involved at HMHI as a volunteer. These tasks may not sound exciting, but they are all very important and need to be done regularly.

At this time, we have two priorities where we need volunteers as soon as possible and on a regular basis: the Clothing Room and Phone Call/Reception. We are in need of an individual (or a team) to work in the clothing floor at the office, sorting the clothing, putting it out so that the participants can find what they need, making sure the items are in good repair (no buttons missing, etc.) and keeping the area neat. This volunteer should also be able to carry clothing up to the second floor and to use stairs easily. We are looking for volunteers who can make a regular commitment between the hours of 8am and 4pm, Monday through Friday.

The second priority is for a volunteer to help answer telephone calls in the office. This volunteer takes messages and forwards calls to the appropriate party. Phone training is provided and is not complicated. This volunteer could also help, from time to time, with assorted clerical work. We also hope to find an "on call" person who would be willing to be called at the last moment to fill in during emergencies. We are looking for volunteers who would like to serve anytime Monday through Friday, 8am until 4pm.

Contact Kate King, property manager, to become an HMHI volunteer. She can be reached at 563-322-8065, ext. 424 or via cell at 563-940-9219. We can't wait to meet you as you join our team! We need YOU!



HMHI Food Pantry

Ashley supplements her groceries with food from the HMHI pantry. A Capacity Building grant from United Way of the Quad City Area is providing funds for those impacted negatively by the economic downturn and helping agencies meet increased demand. Food is purchased at River Bend Food Bank at minimal cost. The grant is also assisting with rent and utilities and toiletry items. Recipients of funds typically are those that have lost jobs or had hours decreased due to the poor economy. The grant has allowed our single parents to remain in transitional housing without getting hopelessly behind financially.



Can You Help?

HMHI has fifteen sites and an office building. Our goal is to keep the properties well maintained and attractive inside and out. Volunteer groups are welcome to plant shrubs and flowers at the various buildings. If you have a school class, church group, organization or family that would like to donate supplies and plant at one of our sites, please contact property manager, Kate King at 322-8065.



Above: Habitat for Humanity Volunteers from Augustana painted an office for our newest service coordinator, Amanda.



On Left: Western Illinois University students prepared an apartment for an HMHI family to move in.

HMHI Gets Much Needed Equipment Through Grant

We have had the recent good fortune to receive funding from the Riverboat Development Authority for the purchase of various computer equipment and software. With this special grant, we have been able to install printers for all service coordinators, removing the need for everyone to print at one location (the Office Manager's desk). This will not only improve efficiency, but confidentiality as well. We have made the first steps in gaining our own server for housing. This server will allow data backup to greatly improve so that our storage and retention of data is much more secure. Some other articles which are being purchased include Adobe PhotoShop software (we do all of our newsletters, including photos, in-house), SPSS software (a statistics program that helps us with creating projections and tracking outcomes) plus copies of up-to-date Microsoft Office for our new employees. We are very grateful for this support in updating our office technology, which in turn supports our participants.

HMHI Welcomes Newest Team Member

Amanda Anderson is a 2006 graduate from Saint Ambrose University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Amanda is the newest service coordinator at HMHI. Since 2005 Amanda has worked for Family Resources, Inc., Ashford University and the YWCA of the Quad Cities where her jobs included Scott County Family Drug Court Care Coordinator, Residential Counselor, Enrollment Counselor and Director. In her current role, Amanda provides direct services to families affected by addictions. Past duties, combined with her special interest/training in substance abuse, bring a critical contribution to Humility of Mary Housing. Amanda currently lives in the Quad Cities and when she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, Patrick, miniature dachshund, Olive and cat, Nior, boating on the Mississippi River and volunteering. Amanda is enthusiastic about her new role at Humility of Mary Housing.



HMHI Wish List

- *Paper Products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, etc)
- *Personal Care Items (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, etc)
- *Kitchen Items (i.e. silverware, dishes, small appliances)
 - *Twin Sheets, blankets, comforters
 - *Bath towels, hand towels and washcloths
 - *Cleaning Supplies
- *Diapers, all sizes, but especially sizes 3-5
 - *Laundry Soap
- *Children's Summer Clothing (in very good shape please)
 - *Pots & Pans

*Donations can be brought to our office Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm. If you will be bringing in any items that you will need assistance carrying in, **PLEASE** contact us ahead of time so that we may arrange to have someone here to assist you. You can reach our office at 563-326-1330.*



Another Heartwarming Christmas at HMHI

As our community struggled with the economy, we began preparing for Christmas at HMHI. Knowing how difficult things were for everyone, we braced ourselves for a meager Christmas. We anticipated a decline in donors and gifts. Knowing our families would be grateful for anything and everything they receive. We knew they would appreciate whatever we were able to collect for them. Once again, however, our Christmas donors blew us away with their generosity. Not only were the children blessed on Christmas morning with beautifully wrapped gifts from Santa, but the parents were provided with gifts as well.

It is always heartwarming at Christmastime seeing what our families receive and knowing how much it means to them, but this year was extraordinary because of the difficult times we're going through. Thank you so much to all of our extremely generous Christmas donors. You made so many faces light up on Christmas morning. I can't wait to do it all again next year!

Hardcopy Pic of Angela's Children at Christmas

Mindy - Office Manager

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. is completing 20 years of serving single parent families who have experienced homelessness. During these 20 years we have served 661 families, including 1279 children. We have grown from one site (four units) to 16 sites (49 units); we own 10 of the buildings and lease six; our staff has increased from one full-time to eight full-time; six half-time and two part-time.. A strong, compassionate, professional staff working with the families, providing opportunities for growth and development have helped them move toward self-sufficiency. In previous newsletters we have reported to you how families have exceeded outcome goals and shared stories of how lives have changed. The growth of the program and the many wonderful success stories would not be possible without the generous support of **YOU**, our donors and volunteers.

Volunteer hours equate to approximately two full-time persons. Donations of gifts-in-kind help furnish the apartments, fill the food pantry and provide paper products, diapers, personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies, items not covered by food stamps. Financial gifts from individuals provide 25 percent of our operating budget. **You are an integral part of HMHI.**

As we move into our next 20 years we need the continued commitment of your support. We need a minimum of \$200,000 each year to meet operating expenses not covered by participant fees and grants. We are using every square inch of office and donation space and desperately need to find a larger space. If you have a building to donate, know someone who does, or would like to help fund the purchase of a building, please let us know. To fund future growth and operating expenses we need to grow the endowment fund. We realize we are in a very challenging economic environment. However, we know that we have a very caring and generous donor base that believes in our mission. **Please help us and invest in the futures of the parents and children we serve.**

We accept checks payable to Humility of Mary Housing, Inc. or credit card contributions. To learn how to join our Monthly Giving Club and have funds deducted from your checking account, contact Sister Mary Ann Vogel at mavogel@netexpress.net or call 563-326-1330 ext. 101.

Playcrafters Barn Theater Event

Please Join Us

Thursday, May 6, 2010

7:15pm

Any Number Can Die

by Fred Carmichael

A hilarious take-off on the mystery plays off the late Twenties complete with sliding panels, robed figures, wills read at midnight, and more. Four ingenious murders take place in an island mansion as a pair of elderly detectives set to work on their first case. The ever popular storm, the unexpected guests, the cryptic poem and the missing fortune all add to the intricate and inventive mystery off which the laughs bounce.

Enjoy this evening of theater with groups of friends, family or co-workers. Meet staff and board members, hear the story of one of our participants and learn more about HMHI. Soft drinks, coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

Reserve your tickets for this event by calling 563-326-1330 or email: mavogel@netexpress.net. The tickets are \$25. Cash, check or credit cards are accepted.



Going Green

HMHI would like to “Go Green” and cut down on some of the paper we send out by replacing it with email communication. If you would like to receive information from us via email, please send your email address to ***mavogel@netexpress.net***. We promise not to share this information with others.

Thank you!

Save The Date!

Fresh Start Benefit Sale

Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds

Opening night Tuesday, August 17, 2010: 6:00pm-8:30pm
(\$8 entrance fee for opening night only)

August 18 and 19: 8:00am-5:00pm

August 20: 8:00am-12:00 noon

As you do your spring cleaning remember this sale. We will be sending out information regarding drop off place and times in a later mailing. In the meantime, circle your calendar for some of the best end-of-summer bargains in the area.



HMHI Group Meetings

An important part of HMHI's goal of helping single parents become more independent is through our group meetings. Twice each month we bring in outside speakers to talk about life skills and inform our parents about area resources. This also gives them a chance to network with other participants.

Over the past year we have had topics ranging from crime prevention to flu and illness risk reduction. Some favorites have been methods on keeping children entertained and building healthy relationships with your children. We have had some great volunteer presenters from the Child Abuse Counsel, Blackhawk Speakers Bureau, Family Resources and the local hospitals.

While the parents are engaged with these speakers, the children are offered the opportunity to get to know one another as well. We offer childcare divided by age group. Two of our babysitters are volunteers from the Sisters of Humility.