



COMMONPLACE

MARCH 2011

The F-M Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Inc.

“A Christian community providing services to the homeless and hungry.”

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Management

Sonja, *Director*
 Edie, *Assistant Director*
 Ruth, *Food Pantry Coordinator*
 Judy, *Food Pantry Coordinator*

Service Coordinators

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Cheryl	Amanda
Sarah	Jessica

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One Brick at a Time

Sonja Ellner, Director

In constructing our home, the builders found it easiest to lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. In doing this, they built a strong foundation, one that is firm and strong and holds the rest of the house. Next, they created the walls which took a bit more planning and evaluating before determining exact placement. After that, they installed the windows and began to see the character of our home evolve. Finally, they added the roof and suddenly heard the sound of cheering and laughter from the crowd, as our home was finally complete. The process took months, and they endured fatigue, hunger, anxiety, and struggle; however, they did it.

The guests deal with some heavy bricks here at the Dorothy Day House. Some continue to weigh them down, while others are easier to manage. However, they follow the same process as the builders who created our home. First, they nourish their body and soul in order to have a strong foundation. Next, they set goals for themselves, create an action plan, and work towards attaining their goals. Then, they find a job, get enrolled in a treatment program, pay off outstanding medical bills, and visit their children. A sense of pride and accomplishment emerge. Finally, after months of tears, sweat, frustration, and hard work, they move into their own place, a home of their own.

This is precisely the reason we measure success in small doses; if we did not, we would have to wait months to celebrate the completion of our home. A few months ago, a guest brought a “chip” home for achieving 6 months of sobriety; taking life one day at a time – this is success. Just yesterday, a guest said to me, “I am so relieved that you have empathy”; fostering understanding – this is success. We move guests into housing on a regular basis; overcoming barriers – this is success. All of these successes are about building our home from the foundation to the roof – laying one brick at a time, taking one step at a time. I thank each and every one of you for being a part of our building team!

“People say, “What is the sense of our small effort?” They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time.” ~Dorothy Day

NEWS & EVENTS

Thanks You

We sincerely appreciate all of our loyal supporters who bring home cooked meals and hand-made quilts to the shelter. In addition, we could not survive without all of our volunteers at the food pantry who help with sorting, stocking, and food distribution.

Giving Hearts Day 2011

A special THANK YOU to those who participated in Giving Hearts Day!

STRETCH YOUR DONATIONS

When you donate food and money in March and April, our agency receives monetary incentives from both MN FoodShare and the Feinstein Challenge.

This is a great way to help your community and make your contributions go farther.

Ways you can help:

- Start penny wars at school or work
- Collect canned goods
- Raise money by selling hot chocolate
- Have a competition between classes or departments

How to “Stamp Out Hunger”

1. Place bags filled with nonperishable food items next to your mailbox by May 14th.
2. Your letter carrier will pick them up May 14th and deliver them to the Dorothy Day Food Pantry.

Fargo Marathon

The F-M Dorothy Day House of Hospitality invites you to join our GoFarCharity team as a runner, walker, or volunteer! As a member of our team, you would run/walk/volunteer in the Fargo Marathon on May 19 - 21, 2011, collect donations for our organization, and receive VIP benefits on race days! You can find more information at www.gofarcharity.com. For more information, call Sonja at 218-233-5763.

America's Farmers Grow Communities



Congratulations to Gerald Zimmerman who was the Clay County winner of “America’s Farmers Grow Communities” through Monsanto. Thank you for choosing the Dorothy Day Food Pantry as the recipients of the \$2,500 gift!

Gene's Retirement



The Board of Directors, staff, and guests thank Gene Thompson for dedicating over 11 years to serving the homeless and hungry at the Dorothy Day House! We wish Gene lots of happiness and plentiful fishing in his retirement days!

MY FOOD PANTRY EXPERIENCE

Romina Hillier

My family has been coming to the food pantry as volunteers for about one year. We started coming when my sister-in-law needed to come for a project and didn't want to come alone. After the first night, we were hooked. We truly enjoy coming and try to make it in once a week.

My children are both teenagers and I really feel it is important to have them see that all types of people in different families need help at some point in time. You never know when that could be you and your family. They have both seen people that they know outside of the pantry and it hits home. It has instilled a sense of giving and also the importance of confidentiality. It has also taught them about respect. It doesn't matter what the situation is, the clients that come into the food pantry each deserve to be treated with respect.

There are many families that I have come to recognize over the last year. However, the people that I seem to make a connection with are the elderly gentlemen that come in. I have found that if you greet them with a "Hi, how are you doing today?" and a big smile, you will have a friend for life. I enjoy going to pick out their food with them, you can swap cooking ideas! I truly believe that the "choice model" at the Dorothy Day Food Pantry is one of the best. It cuts down on waste and gives the clients choices, which they don't get elsewhere. People are so appreciative of the items they receive.

Kianna Hillier

I am 17 years old and me and my mom and younger brother have been coming and volunteering here at Dorothy Day Food Pantry for a year now. We usually come once a week and whenever there is a shortage of volunteers. We started coming because my aunt came for a project during the summer. We had such a good time with it that we kept on coming. We enjoy coming and helping because it's a great way to help out the community. I personally like coming because it's a way to spend time with my family. Another thing I like coming for is meeting all the different people and seeing how appreciative they are when you help them get food for their families. If they didn't come here, they may not eat. Some of my favorite memories are when I get to help with the kid's cabinet because of how excited and happy they get. Another thing that made me want to keep coming is when I helped a person and at the end she said she felt like she was winning the lottery!

Derrek Hillier

Hi, I'm the brother and I like to work here because I like to see the look on their faces when they get all the food. I mostly work in the house hold room or stock shelves, but it's still fun to be back there. I have helped people, but I like the back stocking better. I think it's amazing how people donate all this stuff and how it's all free!

We believe in loving our brothers regardless of race, color or creed and we believe in showing this love by working for better conditions immediately and the ultimate owning by the workers of their means of production.

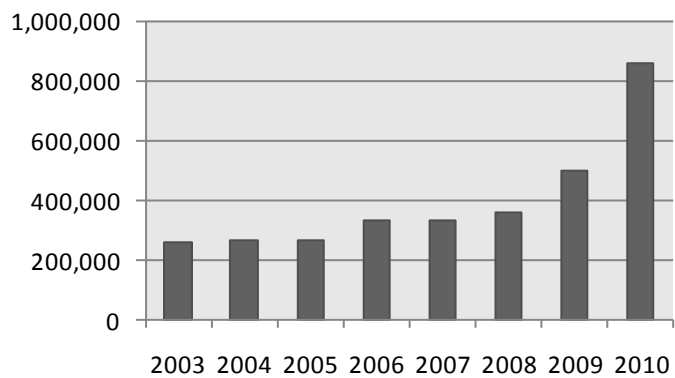
~Dorothy Day

We want to GO GREEN! If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address (_____) and return this in the envelope provided or send an e-mail to Sonja at fmddh@702com.net.

THE IMPACT

- We give our neighbors in need basic necessities like food, clothing, and shelter and have given them dignity and hope.
- We provide children with the nourishment necessary to grow and develop.
- We improve upon our programs.
 - At the shelter, we connect guests to resources like housing, employment, and treatment. Accessibility to these resources improves their daily living skills and ability to find and sustain long-term stability.
 - At the food pantry in Moorhead, we remodeled in order to transition to the Choice Model of food distribution that reduces waste and accommodates ethnic tastes and dietary/medical restrictions.
 - We added a supplemental food pantry site in West Fargo, Dorothy Day West, to provide additional food assistance.
- We educate community members about the issues of homelessness and hunger and encourage them to invest in our agency and help those in need.
- We advocate for our guests and clients, giving them a voice.

Pounds of Food Distributed



Food distributed at our Moorhead food pantry has more than doubled in the last seven years!

In 2010, we provided shelter for **333** men, 33 of whom eventually found their own housing. **473** men and women used our shower and laundry facilities and accessed clothing and toiletry donations. In addition, our two food pantries fed **46,724** men, women, and children amounting to an astounding **857,277** pounds of food. What is more, we had over **3,000** volunteers help make our programs successful!

"What we would like to do is change the world--make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute--the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, in other words--we can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world. We repeat, there is nothing we can do but love, and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as our friend." ~Dorothy Day

Six Months with Dorothy Day Food Pantry

Ruth Smith

Time sure goes by fast, I've been here six months now and I can hardly believe it! What fascinates me the most about this job is the number of people who volunteer. Operating the pantry on a daily basis requires at least ten to twelve volunteers for evening food distribution, stocking shelves and cleaning the pantry during the day. There is a wide variety of people who volunteer at the pantry from individuals, church, college and community groups. If you are interested in volunteering for a couple of hours a week/month or whatever fits your schedule, I'm sure I could find a job for you; 218-284-8895, ask for Ruth.

OUR STAFF

The Day Shall Come

Jessica Gibson

In a world where people are suffering
In a world where people are dying
In a world where people are in need
There should always be a helping hand

In a world of poverty
In a world of desperation
In a world of hunger
There should always be a smiling face and giving heart

In a world of sacrifice
In a world of disaster
In a world of uncertainty
There should always be a prayer offered up

Grief stricken
Pain and homelessness
Open your eyes
Look towards the heavens

The Son shall rise once again
The dark clouds will part
The Risen One is here forever more

The day is coming
Where pain is gone; suffering and pain no more
The King shall answer the prayers of the nation

One Year

Sarah Smith

I have worked at the Dorothy Day House for about a year now, and the one thing I have learned to keep close at hand is patience. Patience is what helps the guests here thrive and keeps staff on track. Some days it is hard to come by, but you always remember what it is you are working for and what you are trying to help these men accomplish. It is worth it in the end, to see the guests succeed and get housing or a full-time job.

Two Worlds

Amy Troxel

In some ways, I feel like I live in two worlds. The first world is that of need. I see men come into this shelter with almost nothing and strive to make something out of their situation. I see the struggle that these men go through, the struggle that sometimes takes months and months to win, and finally get the shelter they need. Then I go home. I go home and see the world of excess. As a new worker at Dorothy Day, I am still working through my guilt of living a middle class life-style. But sometimes, this world of excess blows me away too. Just today, Dorothy Day received a monetary donation from a college student. As I talked to the student, I realized that she herself did not have much money, but she decided to donate anyway. She knew that her donation will change someone's life, and decided that she could live without her extra. When she left the Dorothy Day House, I felt newly resolved to do as much as I can for the people that come through this shelter.

Lost Your Footing

Cheryl Payton

You say you lost your way; I tell you I can help you find it again.

You say it's so hard; I let you know I understand.

You tell me you don't know where to go; I direct you to the sources you need.

You have a bad day; I listen.

You worry you aren't doing enough; I let you know you're doing exactly what we ask of you.

You have a good day; I listen.

You tell me about your support system; I congratulate you on all the progress.

You realize you're progress; I am excited for you.

You are moving on with your life; I smile with happiness for you.

	<p>Summer Volunteers Needed</p> <p>June</p>
	<p>Fargo Marathon Stamp Out Hunger</p> <p>May</p>
	<p>Feinstein Campaign</p> <p>April</p>
	<p>Minnesota Food Share Feinstein Campaign</p> <p>March</p>

We're Online

The Dorothy Day Food Pantry Volunteer Network is the group to join if you want to be informed about the happenings of the food pantry. Join the group today and remember to invite your friends too.

Also, if you like what we do you can "like" the FM Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Inc page like the 312 other people that already have. See photos of the house and pantry, start a discussion, or just stop by and leave a comment!



www.fmddh.org



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