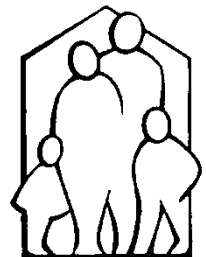
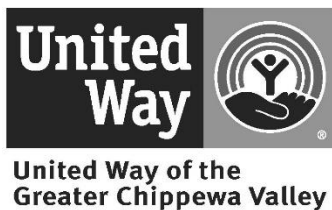


# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



## OUR MISSION:

The Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. will advocate for and support families who are homeless in our community by providing temporary housing and support services, and by fostering independence.



## Introduction

Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. (ECIHN) began serving area homeless families in 1995. Founded by a dedicated group of community members, the organization became a local affiliate of the National Interfaith Hospitality Network now known as Family Promise. The premise was churches hosting homeless families by providing meals and shelter each week. With the vision of providing more stability to families and especially the children, the staff, Board of Trustees, volunteers and concerned citizens established a permanent shelter, Beacon House, in 2001. 2010 saw the expansion of the agency again as a Transitional Housing duplex was opened providing safe, affordable housing for families, giving them extra time to become stable. The Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. truly is a team effort requiring the combined talents of the staff, volunteers, congregations and Board of Trustees.

The average length of stay at the Beacon House increased from 37 days in 2014 to 43 days in 2015. After seeing a decrease for two years, the increase is being attributed to changes in the ESG Rapid Rehousing Standards and switching our COC Supportive Services Only Project to a Rapid Rehousing Project. The Standards and the program change both occurred on July 1, 2015. This required some adjustment for the staff to function within the new expectations. Families continue to find employment quickly but housing is often the biggest barrier. Household income is such that many families are paying 50% or more towards housing. Low vacancy rates in Eau Claire along with new development are thus driving up the prices of apartments. Although 43 families received shelter, another 595 individuals were turned away due to lack of space.

Also occurring on July 1, 2015 was a 50% reduction in United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley funding. Although appreciative of what was received, this added with a change in HUD funding priorities, the agency saw an approximately \$50,000 (one sixth of the total budget) reduction in funding specifically for staff salaries. In 2016 ECIHN will be focused on increasing revenues so that necessary services can continue to be provided.

We are thankful for the support of the Eau Claire community and will continue to maximize its resources to provide quality services in 2016 through the use of volunteers as well as partnering with other agencies.



### **2015 Board of Trustees**

(December 31, 2015)

Jerilyn Kinderman, President

Katie Zook, Vice President

Tom Gillett, Treasurer

Ellen Higley, Secretary

Jennifer Brantner

Jen Conaway

Tom Hanko

Ellen Jacobs

Tim Kaiser

LeAnn Pfremmer

Amy Ripley

Jessie Weber

Haley Wright

## **2015 Administrative Staff**

(December 31, 2015)

Kelly Christianson, Executive Director  
Betsy Patchet, Administrative Assistant

## **2015 Congregations**

Christ Church Cathedral  
Faith Lutheran Mission  
First Congregational UCC  
First Presbyterian  
Grace Lutheran  
Hope Lutheran  
Hope United Methodist  
Immaculate Conception  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Lake Street UMC

Newman Parish  
Peace Lutheran  
Sacred Heart of Jesus-St. Patrick's  
St. James the Greater  
St. Olaf Catholic  
Saving Grace Lutheran  
Spirit Lutheran  
Trinity Lutheran  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
University Lutheran

## **2015 Partners**

City of Eau Claire Housing Authority  
Eau Claire Area School District  
Eau Claire County-Dept. of Human Services  
    Job Center  
Eau Claire County Housing Authority  
Eau Claire County Probation & Parole  
City/County Health Department  
Career Development Center  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
WestCap  
Western Dairyland, EOC  
Workforce Resources  
LSS Women's Way  
LSS Intensive in Home  
LSS Positive Avenues  
Aging and Disability Resource Center  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Bolton Refuge House  
Boys & Girls Club  
Catholic Charities

Central WI Community Action Council, Inc.  
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic  
Chippewa Valley Technical College  
Community Table  
Eau Claire Children's Museum  
Family Resource Center  
Feed My People  
Goodwill Industries  
Hope Gospel Mission Bargain Center  
King's Closet  
Literacy Volunteers  
McKinley Charter School  
Paws & Claws  
St. Francis Food Pantry  
Salvation Army  
Sojourner House  
Stepping Stones Shelter - Menomonie  
University of WI-Eau Claire and Stout  
UW Extension  
YMCA

## **2015 Financial Support**

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley  
FEMA-Emergency Food and Shelter Program  
Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
Contributions  
    Individuals  
    Churches  
    Corporate  
    Groups/Organizations

City of Eau Claire  
Eau Claire County  
Wisconsin Department of Administration-  
    Department of Energy, Housing, and  
    Community Resources

# EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM

With the incredible volunteer efforts of over 20 area faith based organizations, emergency shelter, meals, and hospitality are provided to families and single pregnant women for up to 30 days. Extensions beyond 30 days are granted if families are working on their goals and need extra time. Families are accepted from all counties although priority is given to current county residents and those showing a strong intent to remain in the area.

## Funding Sources

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley  
Emergency Food and Shelter Program  
State of Wisconsin Department of Administration-Department of Energy, Housing, and  
Community Resources  
Housing and Urban Development-HUD  
Donations

## Staff

### Case Managers (12/31/15)

*Ryan Graham*  
*Kendra Mai*  
*Lisa Wilson*

## During 2015

43 families received shelter (48 adults and 70 children)  
48 adults received shelter  
70 children received shelter  
5,387 nights of shelter were provided at Beacon House  
7,133 volunteer hours were provided  
15,395 meals were served  
595 individuals turned away

**Zero dollars were spent on food to feed 6 families, three meals a day for the entire year  
thanks to our volunteers!!**

## 2015 Targets and Outcomes

90% of eligible families stay at the shelter for up to 30 days until housing is in place. **2015 Actual** 79%

## Transition Program

The Transition Program assists families as they secure housing and employment through case management, rental assistance, and transportation assistance. Families review goals and accomplishments at least twice each week. HUD's focus has shifted to Housing First, get people into housing, shorten their length of homelessness then wrap services around them.

### Funding Sources

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley  
Eau Claire County Department of Human Services  
State of Wisconsin Department of Administration-Department of Energy, Housing, and  
Community Resources  
Housing and Urban Development-HUD  
Donations

### Staff

#### Case Managers (12/31/2015)

*Ryan Graham*

*Kendra Mai*

*Lisa Wilson*

### During 2015

Assisted families with 10 bus passes/tokens  
Assisted families with 27 gas vouchers  
108 bags of food were distributed  
13 families received rental assistance  
8 families received security deposit assistance  
22 rental application fees paid  
46 vouchers for clothing at Goodwill and Hope Gospel Mission store distributed  
25 families received donated furniture after securing housing  
11 adults pursued their GED/HSED  
32 educational info sessions provided at the Beacon House

### 2015 Targets and Outcomes

	2015 Actual
70% of families will have stable housing after leaving Beacon House.	79%
70% of families will have stable employment/income after leaving Beacon House.	89%

## Support Program

The Support Program assists families for 3-12 months after they leave Beacon House. Case management, including home visits, is key to breaking the cycle of homelessness. Short and longer term rental assistance is available. On July 1, 2015 the focus shifted to shorten the length of time that families are homeless and provide support services once they are in their home.

### Funding Sources

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley  
Eau Claire County Department of Human Services  
State of Wisconsin Department of Administration-Department of Energy, Housing, and  
Community Resources  
Housing and Urban Development-HUD  
Donations

### Staff

Case Manager (12/31/2015)  
*Amy Giani*

### During 2015

34 families were served  
118 individuals were served (51 adults and 67 children)  
11 families received public housing assistance  
131 gas vouchers were issued  
2 bus passes were issued  
12 families received assistance with employment needs  
138 families were sponsored at Christmas  
3 adults were assisted in continuing their education  
**5 families received transitional housing through ECIHN**

### 2015 Targets and Outcomes

60% of families remain in stable housing upon exiting the Support Program.	<b>2015 Actual</b> <b>78%</b>
60% of adults will maintain income upon exiting the Support Program	<b>80%</b>
70% of families in Transitional Housing will obtain permanent housing	<b>100%</b>

**Financial Report (unaudited)**

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**FAX (715) 834-1886**  
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**Kelly S. Christianson, Executive Director**  
**[www.beacon-house.org](http://www.beacon-house.org)**