

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION:

SERVING FAMILIES AND PREGNANT WOMEN WHO ARE
TEMPORARILY HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS BY
PROVIDING RESOURCES IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE,
STABILIZATION, AND PREVENTION.



United Way of the
Greater Chippewa Valley



Introduction

Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. 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 decreased from 46 days in 2013 to 37 days in 2014. This was mostly attributed to HUD's commitment to Rapid Rehousing and making dollars available for security deposits and short term rental assistance. 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. Vacancy rates are low thus driving up the prices of apartments. Although 46 families received shelter, another 668 individuals were turned away due to lack of space.

ECIHN is looking forward to 2015 and a change in philosophy. Housing First will be the focus, essentially getting families into housing then wrapping services around them rather than the other way around.

We are thankful for the support of the Eau Claire community and will continue to maximize its resources to provide quality services in 2015 through the use of volunteers as well as partnering with other agencies.



2014 Board of Trustees

(December 31, 2014)

Jerilyn Kinderman, President

Katie Zook, Vice President

Tom Gillett, Treasurer

Ellen Higley, Secretary

Beverly Wickstrom

Dana Smetana

Paulette Magur

Jen Conaway

Penny Graham

Daniel Brandt

Jennifer Brantner

Amy Ripley

Tim Kaiser

2014 Administrative Staff

(December 31, 2014)

Kelly Christianson, Executive Director

Vacant, Administrative Assistant

2014 Congregations

First Lutheran	Immaculate Conception
Grace Lutheran	Newman Parish
Immanuel Lutheran	Peace Lutheran
Lake Street UMC	Hope Lutheran
St. Olaf Catholic	St. James the Greater
First Congregational UCC	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
First Presbyterian	Christ Church Cathedral
Trinity Lutheran	Hope United Methodist
Sacred Heart of Jesus-St. Patrick's	University Lutheran
Faith Lutheran Mission	Saving Grace Lutheran

2014 Partners

LSS Women's Way	City/County Health Department
LSS Intensive in Home	Feed My People
LSS Positive Avenues	Goodwill Industries
Bolton Refuge House	Stepping Stones Shelter - Menomonie
Catholic Charities	Salvation Army
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic	University of WI-Eau Claire and Stout
City of E.C. Housing Authority	Boys & Girls Club
Community Table	St. Francis Food Pantry
E.C. Area School District	McKinley Charter School
E.C. County-Dept. of Human Services	Aging and Disability Resource Center
Job Center	Hope Gospel Mission Bargain Center
UW Extension	YMCA
Career Development Center-FSET Program	WestCap
Western Dairyland, EOC	Literacy Volunteers
Family Resource Center	Paws & Claws
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	Eau Claire County Probation & Parole
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Eau Claire Children's Museum
Workforce Resources	King's Closet
E.C. County Housing Authority	Sojourner House

2014 Financial Support

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley	City of Eau Claire
FEMA-Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Eau Claire County
Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	Wisconsin Department of Administration-
Contributions	Bureau of Housing
Individual	
Church	
Corporate	
Groups/Organizations	

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-Bureau of Housing
Housing and Urban Development-HUD
Donations

Staff

Case Managers (12/31/14)

Ryan Graham
Lisa Wilson
Brenda Plahuta

During 2014

46 families received shelter
71 adults received shelter
88 children received shelter
6,015 nights of shelter were provided at Beacon House
6,741 volunteer hours were provided
16,717 meals were served
668 individuals turned away

2014 Targets and Outcomes

95% of families are accepted into the shelter within 48 hours of application.	2014 Actual 100%
90% of eligible families stay at the shelter for up to 30 days until housing is in place.	88%

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.

Funding Sources

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

Staff

Case Managers (12/31/2014)

Ryan Graham
Lisa Wilson
Brenda Plahuta

During 2014

Assisted families with 52 bus passes/tokens
Assisted families with 63 gas vouchers
151 bags of food were distributed
21 families received rental assistance
12 families received security deposit assistance
20 rental application fees paid
54 vouchers for clothing at Goodwill and Hope Gospel Mission store distributed
20 families received donated furniture after securing housing
11 adults pursued their GED/HSED
36 educational info sessions provided

2014 Targets and Outcomes

70% of families will have stable housing after leaving ECIHN.
70% of families will have stable employment/income after leaving ECIHN.

2014 Actual
76%
88%

Support Program

The Support Program assists families for up to six months after they leave Beacon House. Case management, including home visits, is key to breaking the cycle of homelessness. Assistance in the areas of employment and transportation needs is also available.

Funding Sources

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

Staff

Case Manager (12/31/2014)

Amy Giani

During 2014

52 families were served
184 individuals were served [73 adults and 111 children]
14 families received public housing assistance
214 gas vouchers were issued
6 bus passes were issued
18 families received assistance with employment needs
92 families were sponsored at Christmas
5 adults were assisted in continuing their education
6 families received transitional housing through ECIHN

2014 Targets and Outcomes

60% of families remain in stable housing 6 months after leaving the shelter.	2014 Actual 81%
60% of employable parents retain their employment 6 months after leaving the shelter	84%
70% of families in Transitional Housing will obtain permanent housing	100%

Financial Report (unaudited)

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