Director’s Update

I have grown and changed so much in the past year. The NDC and our clients are at the root of this growth. A year ago I could fill a small notebook with my knowledge of mental illness and homelessness. Now, I could write a book or three! I have come to the complete awareness of several fundamentals.

“I didn’t wake up today and decide to become homeless.”

Client Quote ~

Many of our clients struggle with homelessness as a generational issue, an unexpected dramatic change in circumstances or mental illness.

Mental illness and homelessness go hand in hand. Some of our clients struggled with mental illness before they became homeless. Most however, are dealing with issues that homelessness triggered. Imagine the stress you would be dealing with if you didn’t know where you were going to sleep.

Addicts generally go through at least 3 and up to 10 attempts before they are in complete recovery. I see it every day, a client wants to become sober, starts the process then fails for any number of reasons. Discouragement sets in, the cycle repeats and it takes time before the client feels confident enough to attempt sobriety again.

Most of us are one crisis away from homelessness. Some of our clients are homeless because of a crisis, the death of the caregiver in the family, loss of job or even the separation from a spouse or partner. We are working with partner organizations to help keep people in housing so the issue of homelessness will diminish in Coos County.

I value each of our clients. Each one is unique and walking a different path. Are they perfect? No. Am I? Nope – Are we learning and growing together? Yes, resoundingly. Our clients blossom when we show them respect and offer them assistance with whatever the need of the day is.

How can you help? Most importantly right now, we need funding. Currently we have paid staff hours for 1 full time equivalent employee – everything else is volunteer hours. We have multiple new programs we want to implement but quite frankly, we don’t have the man power to accomplish it.

Another opportunity to help is volunteering. You can offer as little or as much time as you want. We need volunteers to help sort donations, clean, track and log statistics, enter mailing and email addresses, help staff our Emergency Warming Center during storms and so much more! Give us a call and ask for Ginny to set up an appointment.

UPCOMING:
Thanksgiving Meal: Nov. 21
Donor/Volunteer Appreciation: Dec. 5, 7, 9
Christmas Meal: Dec. 19
We will be open: Dec. 26 & Jan. 2
We will be closed: Nov. 25
Volunteer & Donor Appreciation Week

We are welcoming each of our generous donors and our phenomenal volunteers to tour the center, ask questions, meet clients and learn about our upcoming projects.

We will have extended hours on Wednesday, December 7 from 8 am to 6 pm with light refreshments. Guests are also welcome to stop by on Monday, December 5 and Friday, December 9 from 8 am to 2 pm. Please call ahead if you would like to make an appointment with Tara, our director for budget or additional project information.

Land Acquisition

We recently closed on a property in the Empire Area that we hope will ultimately house 8 to 24 low income or housing challenged people. The “Anchor Village” is a long term project with the first phase including clean up and a request for variance. We are writing grants and seeking cash and in-kind donations for labor and expenses. We have a generous in-kind donation from local architect, Lon Samuels for those costs.

“Where everyone is welcome!”

Warming 911

In collaboration with THE House, we are working on a 3 fold project for the winter months. We are procuring supplies for warm/dry kits which will offer bare minimum items for staying dry and somewhat warm, tarps, blankets, a poncho, etc. The second project is offering the Devereux Center as an Emergency Warming Center during extreme storms with gale force winds or temperatures under 34 degrees. We did a trial run of this during the “storm that wasn’t” in October with huge success. Our third project is to offer a sleeping bag exchange program which will keep wet sleeping bags out of the waste cycle, save donor money and overall increase the health of our clients.

We are actively looking for partners in this project, both volunteers and financially. Please contact us with questions, email, ndc.coosbay@gmail.com or 541-888-3202.

Holiday Cheer

We will be making wreaths and swags to help you decorate for the holiday season. Our wreaths and swags will come decorated with a lovely bow and pine cones. Farm fresh greens and holly will lend a fresh smell to your porch or office door. The cost of $20.00 will directly benefit the Devereux Center. Call 541-888-3202 to order yours today or email us at ndc.coosbay@gmail.com.

Www.thedevereuxcenter.org