

## Our Mission



*Our Saviour's Housing provides shelter, comfort, hope and community for people who are homeless.*

All of your gifts – time, materials, money – make it possible for another person to find a warm place to sleep tonight.

Your partnership provides...

- 40 beds each night in our emergency shelter
- 2 meals a day
- Transitional Housing for 10 men and 6 women
- Case management services
- Permanent Supportive Housing services

*Make your donation today!*

*Donate online at [osom-mn.org/donate](http://osom-mn.org/donate) or use enclosed envelope.*

## Our Saviour's Housing is a program of Our Saviour's Outreach Ministries



**Our Saviour's Housing**  
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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## New Website!

Check us out online at  
[osom-mn.org](http://osom-mn.org)

## OSH Wish List

Holiday food baskets  
Bus cards (stored value)  
Phone cards  
Target/Cub gift cards  
Dishwashing powder soap  
Laundry detergent – powder & liquid  
Coffee  
Deodorant, double-edge razors, shaving cream  
Ear plugs  
Pad locks  
Liquid laundry detergent  
Inexpensive flip-flops  
Socks  
Underwear (men's & women's)  
Personal computers (less than 5 years old)  
Weed whacker (gas-powered)  
Snow Thrower

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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 31801



## Resident Profile



Russell had been a painter for 20 years when he was diagnosed with leukemia. That was seven years ago. He lost his job and every month was a struggle to pay bills and survive. Russell applied for Social Security benefits, but the process took too long — and without family and friends to help, he soon found himself with no home.

He stayed in several shelters in town, but moved to Our Saviour's in March of 2008. Russell worked diligently with his Case Manager to find housing. He impressed the staff with his endurance, dedication, and friendliness. It seemed like he was always willing to help others when they were in need.



Russell Coates

For Russell, moving forward with his goals at Our Saviour's Housing was easier than at other shelters. "The facility was really nice and the staff always made me feel very welcome. They treated everyone with respect. The meals that volunteers brought in every night were good, home-cooked meals."

After just one month at Our Saviour's, Russell moved into a one-bedroom apartment. During his stay, he recognized his gift of caring for others, and has begun studying Human Resources at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. He wants to help others realize their true potential — just as Our Saviour's helped him realize his.

"Homelessness is very challenging," Russell says, "but with hope, faith, patience, and guidance, people can overcome their problems."

Russell's perseverance is summed up in his advice to anyone going through a difficult time.

- Keep your chin up
- Try to have a good attitude, even when things are difficult
- Utilize your resources (if you're in a shelter, that includes your Case Manager)
- Be determined — you will overcome your situation
- Always look at a challenge as just that — a temporary situation — and you will **win!**

Ultimately, Russell believes his faith in God and his own determination brought him out on top. Russell's journey is an example of encouragement for each of us, as we walk our own paths — some joyful, some challenging.

## New Website!

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[osom-mn.org](http://osom-mn.org).

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## STAFF LIST

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Case Manager

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Case Manager

**Marti Maltby**  
Permanent Supportive  
Housing Case Manager

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In this issue, I'm happy to present you with our newly-designed, compact 2008 Annual Report. During these difficult financial times, we want to be as frugal as possible with your generous donations — funneling as much of your funds as possible directly to the people we serve. To that end, we are economizing with a downsized report and capitalizing on the postage we would have already spent sending you this newsletter.

In this new, compact report, you'll find much of the same information found in the full-size reports we've sent to supporters in previous years: program outcomes, financials and a board list. A complete donor list can be found on our website. And my favorite part — the stories of lives changed through your support and our work — can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

Our Annual Report may be smaller, but our program remains full-sized! We are proud of our residents' accomplishments as they work to make positive changes in their lives. We see success here every day — both large and small.

If you have any questions about our performance in 2008, please feel free to contact me. I'm happy to chat over the phone or even over coffee.

We are grateful for your continued support of people experiencing homelessness, and I know our residents are grateful, as well. Together, we know the future is bright.

Warmly,



Sandy Aslaksen  
Executive Director

## Resident Writing

Dear Our Saviour's Housing Volunteers, Interns, and Staff,

My stay at Our Saviour's Housing has been like a monk's retreat. Why should one be ashamed to admit that there are times a person must stop, reflect, and make changes? The truth is we all need a little help every now and then. The trick is to admit there may be problems too big to solve alone.

Thankfully there was a place for me where I did not have to solve overwhelming, ugly, and painful problems alone — people at Our Saviour's Housing helped. I needed the focused efforts and care of volunteers, interns, and staff to put my mind and spirit in a position to heal. Not everyone is ready to do what I've accomplished with the help and kindness of strangers — I had to swallow a lot of pride to give in and let myself be led to change.

Thank you good people for your help — I couldn't have done it without you!

Sincerely,

Timothy Lee Arney 2009  
Resident from the Transitional  
Housing Program

## Volunteer Highlights

What brought Adam to OSH?

Adam came to OSH as a participant of Chrestomathy — an organization that provides guidance and support to adults with developmental disabilities. We partnered with Chrestomathy to offer Adam an opportunity to gain vocational experience and increase his involvement in the community through volunteering. Adam visits OSH once per week accompanied by his supervisor, Beth Stok from Chrestomathy.

Why was Adam drawn to OSH as a volunteer opportunity?

Adam says OSH is a good match because of the proximity to Chrestomathy, the opportunity to garden and work on landscaping. Adam wanted to use his gifts and knowledge about plants and the outdoors to make the Housing Program look nice. Adam's duties consist of pulling weeds, trimming bushes, and planting flowers.

What makes Adam return to OSH year after year?

Adam has volunteered summers at OSH for three consistent years. He says his favorite part is seeing smiling faces in the neighborhood and working with the friendly staff. He says he feels appreciated by OSH and knows he is making a difference. Many people notice the improvements in the environment. Adam enjoys returning each summer noticing there are less weeds to tackle because of his yard care the previous year.

Why are we at OSH thankful for Adam's dedication?

Adam's volunteer work indirectly touches the residents' lives in a major way. Many of our residents have gone through multiple crisis



Adam Steffey

situations, are stressed, and find great discomfort in their homeless state. OSH provides a welcoming environment that is supportive, clean, and appealing inside and outside of our buildings. Adam's landscaping does wonders for our yard and the appearance of residents' temporary home.

How has Adam benefited from his OSH volunteer work?

Adam says he is able to gain work experience, feels a sense of accomplishment and pride in his contribution, and utilize his love for landscaping to help OSH.

For more information about Chrestomathy — <http://www.chrestomathyinc.org/>

## Volunteer Opportunities

Ever thought about coming down to help out in person? Here are some opportunities for individuals or small groups:

### Individual Volunteer Opportunities

- Job Club Volunteers  
Wednesdays or Thursdays;  
5:00–6:00)
- Computer Lab Volunteers  
(6:00–9:00)
- Shelter aides (6:00–9:00)

### Small Group Opportunities

- BINGO night
- Breakfast providers
- Lunch Makers

Have another skill you'd like to share? We can use you! Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 612.872.4193 x25 or [volunteer@oshousing.org](mailto:volunteer@oshousing.org).

## Meet At the Market

### Make a Difference

A relaxed fundraiser supporting the services provided by Our Saviour's Housing and the English Learning Center.

**Thursday, Oct. 29,  
5-8:00 p.m.  
Midtown Global Market,  
10th and Lake Street**

**Tickets:** \$20 if purchased by Oct. 15; \$25 after Oct. 15

To purchase tickets online, or to make a donation, go to [osom-mn.org](http://osom-mn.org) or to order tickets by phone, call 612.871.5900.