



Resident Profile

“P.S. Dear residents of OSH, stay focused on the positive and you will persevere.”

That’s what Edmund Taylor, a former OSH resident, wants others to know. Edmund and his fiancée Vanessa were OSH guests earlier this year. After departing to their first apartment, Edmund contacted his case manager, eager to share messages of hope with others — and appreciation to staff and volunteers.



Edmund and Vanessa

Their story reflects the importance of maintaining a shelter where men and women can both reside — thus decreasing the stress on couples experiencing homelessness together.

But Edmund expresses it best. Here he is, in his own words:

How did you find out about Our Saviour’s? I heard about OSH from my niece in 2000. Back then, I stayed at OSH for 30 days and saved money for my first apartment. I returned home in 2003 because of the Minneapolis bus strike.

How did you become homeless? We came back to Minnesota from another state. The same day, we went to Simpson’s for the lottery and I was chosen for OSH. Vanessa was able to get a bed as well. OSH never made us seem like we were homeless.

What are a few things you would like to share about being homeless? Being homeless can cause a lot of stress. But it caused us to stay strong. We had to keep praying, and did not get discouraged because one door closed. We kept going. Keeping God first all the way.

What do you think needs to happen to end homelessness? More community action, spiritually-based programs. More public awareness (TV, newspapers). Also more financial support.

What were the greatest challenges you faced? How did you get through them? Staying focused financially. Talking with positive people. Making something positive happen everyday.

We were able to make it through by keeping God first in our lives. Having Liz Gitler as a case manager was a real blessing. She provided us with the tools we needed to make it where we are today.

To Residents: Please take advantage of leads and information provided by OSH, and you will come out a winner as we have.

(For the full text of Edmund’s interview, please see our website at www.oshousing.org)

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Save the Date!



Friday, October 24th
7th Annual Our Saviour’s
Housing Benefit

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Construction Zone

When you come by the shelter for the next several months, you might see signs of heavy construction! Our Saviour's Housing received a generous grant from the City of Minneapolis' Emergency Shelter Grant program. We are now able to make significant upgrades to our building! New heating and air conditioning units and a powerful fan system will make the building more comfortable in both winter and summer. New lighting will save on energy, and a dishwasher will reduce the amount of trash we produce. Outdoors, we will get a new parking lot and some attractive upgrades to our landscape. And inside, a fresh coat of paint throughout will brighten and renew the building for everyone!

Although the shelter will be a construction site for a while, our residents, volunteers and staff will continue to use the building every day. There will be some disruption, but we are excited about the improvements. We expect the major work to be complete by mid-June. After that, the staff will be happy to show you around. Call or stop by during the day to ask for a tour.

Warmly,



Sandy Aslaksen
Executive Director

P.S. Please join me in welcoming Crystal Frank, our new Housing Program Director.

Resident Writing



Editor's note:

Eddy Rogers, a former Our Saviour's resident, lives his poetry. During his stay at the shelter, Eddy developed lasting friendships with other guests. He and his friends organized guitar-playing jam sessions and applied for housing together.

In everything he does, Eddy brings people together. His carefree spirit puts everyone at ease. Eddy believes that people, no matter their situations, already have everything they need to enjoy life together.

After nearly three months at Our Saviour's, Eddy moved into more stable housing. He continues to enjoy visiting staff and friends who participate in the program.

In his poem, "Prospect to a Friend," Eddy cleverly personifies names we give our conditional commitments to others — until they become friends.

Prospect to a Friend

An introduction creates,
an opportunity, to become,
an acquaintance

Once an acquaintance; an
eligibility is created, to
become, a prospect

Once a prospect; an eligibility
is created, to become, a friend

Once a friend....
well....
all is unconditional

Eddy T. Rogers

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Volunteer Highlights



Did you know only six groups serve breakfast every month – compared to 30 or more for dinner? Yet, just like any other meal, our residents eat breakfast every day of the year!

Why should you come and serve breakfast? Let's find out from Ben Stapp, whose family and Men's Bible Study group both serve breakfast once a month.



Men's Bible Study Group

Why did your family and the Men's Bible Study group become involved at Our Saviour's?

Four years ago, around Christmas, our family decided to find a place to serve. We called different shelters and heard, "We have all the volunteers we need during Christmas. Any other time we could use you." Jerry, our "wisest" family member said, "We shouldn't just serve around Christmastime. If we're going to serve, we should do it all year. You don't just care about someone once a year." He was spot on. So we decided to find a place where we believed in the mission and served once a month.



The Stapp/Aasen Family

(The Men's Bible Study group meets) once a week to become better men, parents, and husbands. We study the Bible and/or some sort of supplement. We were challenged to be the hands and feet of Jesus in those studies. Jesus served constantly.

What has supporting OSH meant to you? What inspires you to continue? OSH has done more for us than we have for them. The reason we continue to serve is because of the people. All of us have been helped a great deal at different times in our lives and we truly believe the "pay it forward" theory.

What stories can you share?

My two daughters, ages 8 and 14, have served with us for four years. The first year it was not an option. After that, they were given the option to attend or not. In the three years since, they have not missed. They get up at 4:30 by themselves and get ready. The sacrifice is sleep. We have told them it is not an option to be crabby the rest of the day because they are tired.

Serving goes beyond the shelter itself. We are serving The Lord, so

their attitudes the rest of the day must be positive. I enjoy listening to the residents have conversations with my kids. It has broken down the stigma of homeless people. My kids have come to realize that there is nothing "different" about them. They are people just like us.

(For the full text of Ben's interview, please see our website at www.oshousing.org)

Volunteer Opportunities



Ever thought about coming down to help out in person?

Here are some opportunities:

- Employment Center volunteers
- Shelter aides
- BINGO night
- Breakfast providers
- Lunch makers

Have another skill you'd like to share? We can use you! Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Maryellen Skan, 612.872.4193 x25 or volunteer@oshousing.org.

JOIN HANDS DAY!

On Saturday, April 5th, over 30 Junior and Senior High School students from five Lutheran congregations (Virginia, MN) donated six hours to "spiff up" OSH facilities. Financial support provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans – Central Minneapolis Chapter.



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, 6 women and 3 families
- Case management services

Make your donation today!

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



Our Saviour's Housing

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date!

7th Annual Our Saviour's Housing Benefit
Friday, October 24th

OSH Wish List

bus cards
ear plugs
stamps
phone cards
deodorant
washcloths (new & used)
towels (new & used)
shower sandals
toothpaste (travel-size)
laundry detergent (liquid & powder)
socks
underwear (men's & women's)
Target gift cards

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