

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 or use enclosed envelope.

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



Our Saviour's Housing
2219 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Phone: 612.872.4193

Fax: 612.872.4442

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

New Website!

Check us out online at
osom-mn.org

OSH Wish List

bus cards (stored value)
ear plugs
raincoats
inexpensive flip-flops
water bottles
deodorant
razors (double edge preferred)
new socks
new underwear (men's & women's)
Target gift cards
twin mattresses
pots & pans
toaster oven
personal computers (less than 5 years old)
baseball gloves

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Resident Profile



At the invitation of a friend, Aaron Crawford boarded a bus in California and came to live in



Aaron Crawford

Minneapolis. He planned to stay with his friend until he found a job and a place to live. His fiancée was in Seattle, waiting to join him in Minneapolis as soon as things came together.

Aaron was confident Minneapolis was a good place for them. His tour in the military had ended just a year prior, and he'd learned valuable skills during that time that would

help him get a job. But he'd also returned with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and a disability.

Just days before Aaron was scheduled to leave — his expensive bus ticket already purchased — his Minneapolis friend wasn't returning calls. Aaron got on the bus, hoping to hear from his friend along the way.

A couple of days later, Aaron arrived at the Minneapolis bus station on a snowy Monday with a high of six degrees. He still was not able to contact his friend, had no money and no place to live.

Although Aaron was scared and discouraged, he was determined. He called the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and was connected with the local veterans' service agency — Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MAC-V). A case manager from MAC-V picked Aaron up from the bus station and brought him to the local "shelter bed lottery" that takes place on Monday nights. There, Aaron was introduced to our shelter manager, who provided Aaron a bed.

During the following months, Aaron worked tirelessly to achieve his goals. He spent the cold days pounding the streets for work. He was

offered a job with a security company, but shortly before his training was to begin, he discovered an outstanding warrant in California. Would the company hold his job?

Aaron worked persistently with the courts in California to clear up the warrant, and did begin work with the security company. They'd held his job!

Aaron received his first paycheck and moved into an apartment in St. Paul one week later. He received furniture and other household goods from a local social services agency, and his fiancée has come to visit a couple of times. They await her permanent arrival in June.

Aaron learned from his experience that, "...no matter what life throws at you, break down the walls, push through the barriers, and keep your focus on your goals. Keep your head up high and your sight on the horizon. That is what will get you where you want and doing what you want."

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New Website!



Check us out online at
osom-mn.org.

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Case Manager

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Housing Case Manager

Letter from the Executive Director

I am so grateful, so very grateful.

This past spring, we put out a plea for financial assistance. So many of you responded! Your generous gifts were amazing. In addition, the notes and phone calls I received from you personally were both humbling and inspiring. For your gifts and words of support, I am grateful.

Also this past spring, the congregation of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church made the decision to forgive some significant debt we accumulated. This debt mostly occurred at the start-up of Our Saviour's Outreach Ministries, in 2004 and 2005, although some debt was from this past fiscal year. With congregational action, our debts were wiped clean. For the ability to start anew, I am grateful.

There are many individuals and many groups who come back week after week, month after month, year after year to serve at our shelter. On page 3, you'll read about such a group — the people of First Lutheran Church, who have been faithful to us since we first opened our doors. They are regular meal providers, have sent talented individuals to serve on our Board, and are generous financial supporters of this work. For First Lutheran Church, and so many other similar congregations, I am grateful.

These are challenging financial times. However, your ongoing financial support that is necessary to continue our mission — providing for the most basic needs of shelter and food for tonight — remain an inspiration. And for this inspiration, I am grateful.

Warmly,



Sandy Aslaksen
Executive Director

Resident Writing

Editor's note: Shawn was an Emergency Shelter resident in early 2009. His outgoing personality was a great addition to our programs.

Relief is in Sight

I've went through strife, torture, shame, insults, being kicked out and down.

My life was not always good growing up; but that's what was handed to me.

My wicked life provoked me to use and be used by people.

Race had nothing to do with it.

I'm at an age where I'm asking for a change.

Maybe one day; until then, I will still focus on tomorrow.

I, being human will make sacrifices for the good in me...

And ask for forgiveness until life gets better.

Let's Retreat

Time has come to lay down our armor and use our minds.

Let's gather wisdom from our losses in history,

We realize that without knowledge we can't fully take on tasks because we don't truly know the origins.

Stand up and be noticed for what you believe in.

Don't be silent to disbelief of other people or yourself.

We can do something about this, but we just sit in fear like lint on a ceiling,

Get back into the world.

Make yourself shine!

Volunteer Highlights

First Lutheran of St. Louis Park has been involved at OSH since its inception. Here, longtime supporters Jeanne Worm, Wendi Harmsen, Joanne Stone, and Glenn and Eileen Soderberg share their thoughts on this partnership.

How did you get involved in First Lutheran's partnership with OSH?

Glenn & Eileen S. — We heard about the shelter in the early 80's. Our daughter Wendi (now serving on OSH Board) was in college then. We would stay overnight at the shelter from 6 p.m. until 7 a.m., chatting and visiting with guests. The guests would spread out mats on the church's gym floor to sleep.

Wendi H. — I started volunteering with my folks in the 80's when I was in college.

Joanne S. — Having the opportunity to serve opened my eyes to the need in our own backyard. In the late 80's, each night was "first-come, first-served". Guests lined up outside and doors opened at 7 p.m. Once spots were full, everyone else was turned away — very sad. We served food until it ran out. I thought about what I served guests at my home, and we started bringing home-style meals.

Jeanne W. — In the late 90's Sandy (OSH's Executive Director) called our pastor to recruit for the Board. I joined, and one cold, snowy night, toured the Minneapolis shelters. We began at the "Monday lottery" — a weekly event where beds are doled out via lottery to the homeless.

I happened to look at one gentleman when the last number was called — not his. I left the room because I knew I would cry. I thought about that gentleman, and prayed he would be okay.

What has supporting Our Saviour's meant for your church?

Jeanne W. — This experience has given us a common bond to be proud of. We are able to do this with all-volunteer servers, as well as food and money donations. The love of God keeps us inspired to continue.

Wendi H. — Building relationships. Staying overnights at the shelter you got to know the guests. I loved playing games, watching TV and talking. Our church's ongoing partnership has allowed me opportunities for new relationships that I can share with my children — like my parents did with me.

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)
- Lawn maintenance (flexible hours)

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, Maryellen Skan, 612.872.4193 x25 or volunteer@oshousing.org.



Join Hands Day!

On Saturday, April 25th, over 20 junior & senior high school students and adults from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (Minneapolis) donated 4 hours to spiff up our emergency shelter. Financial support provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans — Central Minneapolis Chapter.