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SNAP SHOT OF FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM

small percentage of the total cost. This creates a sense of ownership for the request they are making for Family Wellness monies. Bus tokens are also available for tenants to promote community volunteer opportunities within our families. By encouraging volunteerism, we feel this will expand our tenants' experience, skills and assist in their potential for employment and increased self-esteem, while positively assisting others in the community.

Some of the specific ways tenants have participated in Family Wellness include:

- Obtain GED, by providing materials for class, transportation and fees for tests
- Access college course work and training in specific fields
- Provide summer camp opportunities for children
- Nurture opportunities for social and cultural activities. Families with disabilities such as identified in Shelter Plus Care require structured time together, which nurtures family relationships, self-sufficiency and self-esteem. These experiences might include: a membership to Blank Park Zoo, The Science Center of Iowa, Living History Farms, or the YMCA to address stress, weight loss, or child development; i.e. infant swimming, exercise equipment.



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GROWTH AND PRESERVATION PAVES THE PATH FOR 2011

We are always aware of the nonstop need for more affordable housing and through that we are finding ways to provide giving opportunities for our donors while providing new homes at the same time. Stay tuned! On top of all that we are busy rehabbing and revitalizing our properties, raising funds to support our operating efforts and of course, managing over 400 tenants a year as they continue on their journeys of creating a home. Because at the end of the day, that is the most important work we do. We believe that Home is Everything. And to many, Anawim Housing is Home.

DRAKE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS – PROMOTING ANAWIM HOUSING

In 2009, when Anawim Housing cut the ribbon on our nine new town homes in the Drake neighborhood, it launched a relationship with Drake University. The University has become not only an advocate of our organization but a partner as well.

Continuing that trend, a senior level marketing class, “PR Campaign Strategy” led by Assistant Professor Dr. Kelly Everling has dedicated their curriculum to researching and proposing a Public Relations Strategy for Anawim Housing.

The 38 students in the class have divided into 5 agencies for this semester, each developing their own campaign which they are pitching to the Anawim Housing Administration and Board of Directors at the end of April.

As the exclusive “homework” of the course, Dr. Everling has dedicated her semester to Anawim Housing and she notes, “The students are excited to use their skills to promote such a worthwhile organization. They see value in the work that Anawim Housing does tirelessly, and they have enjoyed creating campaigns to promote that work in the Des Moines community”.

Russ Frazier, Anawim Housing President stresses that, “while this gives us another welcome opportunity to work with our neighbor, it is also addresses a real and critical need for Anawim Housing – and that is increasing our visibility in our community enabling us invite even more people to invest in affordable and desirable housing”.



2024 Forest Avenue, Suite 101
Des Moines, IA 50311
www.anawimhousing.org

Anawim Housing recognizes that if families can quickly access safe, affordable and permanent housing, they stand a much stronger chance of reclaiming financial and family stability.



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GROWTH AND PRESERVATION PAVES THE PATH FOR 2011

BY RUSS FRAZIER, ANAWIM HOUSING PRESIDENT

Spring is finally here. For Anawim Housing that means we can pick up where we left off last fall with all of our outdoor projects. With 226 Units, we are almost always at 100% capacity. Turning away prospective tenants – especially in the cold of winter – is one of the hardest parts of our work. Now that it's warm out though, the construction of 16 new town homes at 24th and Forest will start moving at an even quicker pace. Soon enough 16 more families will have a safe, affordable – and brand new – place to call home!

This is also the season when our tenants breathe a little easier, knowing the most expensive months of the year are behind them. The colder it gets, the higher the utility bills spike and for low-income families those heat bills become another burden on a list that is already heavy with groceries, medical expenses, child care and transportation. Our Sr. Stella Neill Rental Relief Fund was able to help several of those families by providing forgivable loans for those critical necessities.

The best part of spring though, in my opinion is the reminder that all things become new again, keep growing, keep becoming stronger with each year. As Anawim Housing celebrates its 24th year, we are again ready to move forward. 2010 was a year to reflect on our legacy, of Sr. Stella Neill and her work in building Anawim Housing to

what it is today. That legacy is our foundation. 2011 is the year to take that legacy and build upon it. There is so much work still to be done!

The year has gotten off to a great start. The Tenant Holiday Party and the 500 Club Valentine's Day Luncheon were both a success – one providing an opportunity for tenants and their children to relax, play games and of course, see Santa in February; the other thanking the members of our 500 Club for their ongoing and extremely generous support of the work we do.

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As Anawim Housing celebrates its 24th year, we are again ready to move forward.

16 new Town Homes on the corner of 22nd and Forest will be completed in fall of 2011



SNAP SHOTS OF FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM

Anawim Housing feels that a family's potential for stability and ability to thrive are directly related to their well-being – both mental and physical. When parents and/or children are under stress they must find an outlet in order to ensure that their stability is not threatened. The Family Wellness program empowers stabilization within our tenant families and enables them to become a part of the neighborhood communities in which they live. Education, recreational opportunities for children and families, social and cultural outlets, and even access to public transportation all strengthen the mental and physical wellbeing of individuals and families.

In order for families to apply for Family Wellness, they must complete a one-page application describing the activity and how it will benefit them as individuals or as a family. Those who successfully complete the application gain access to opportunities such as: social and cultural opportunities, assistance in attaining a GED and/or college diploma, education and access to volunteerism opportunities as a method of helping find employment, gaining experience, and assisting the community in a positive way. Each participant is required to contribute toward the activity they choose. They may contribute by volunteering with an organization or church, or we ask them to pay a

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MEETING SPACE AVAILABLE!

We would like to offer our beautiful new Board Room to those Anawim friends and donors who are looking for a great space to host a meeting. Already breakfast groups, book clubs and corporate teams have made our office their temporary home. The Board Room offers seating for up to 20, a power point projector and a large white board as well as an adjacent kitchen. For more information or to book a room, please contact Sierra at Anawim Housing, 244.8308

A LETTER from a Tenant:

Our families have continuously commented on how much they value the Family Wellness Program. Many even take the time to send in a thank you note reflecting on how this program has made an impact on their lives. One tenant, a single-mother, sent this letter in to our offices:

“This program has benefited me in so many different ways. I was able to take my family to do fun activities, I have got my body looking better, and I feel like I am achieving my goal to become more active and healthy. It also gives me opportunity to socialize and meet people with the same interests as me. I can really say it made me feel better about myself and realize I can set goals and actually achieve them. Thank you”.



FOCUS: KATHLEEN LILLIS ANAWIM HOUSING ADVOCATE

Behind each Board Member is a story of how they become engaged in Anawim Housing and what prompted their involvement in the Board of Directors. In the case of Bill Lillis, the story starts with his wife, Kathleen.

The Lillis family raised their three kids just north of Des Moines, in Urbandale but found themselves downtown on a daily basis for work or evenings out with friends. Their interest in the revitalization of Urban Des Moines ran deep. About eighteen years ago Sr. Stella picked up on that enthusiasm and asked Bill to serve on the Board. With a busy law practice and even busier family, he turned her down. Not a small thing for a man with catholic school roots to turn down a nun. Sr. Stella was persistent though. Even if Bill hadn't seen it just yet, she knew the value he would bring to Anawim Housing.

Finally, after the third or fourth request, Kathleen pulled her husband aside and said, “you have to say yes to the Sister”. And so, Bill said yes. Almost two decades later, Bill is still serving on the Board and one of the organization's biggest supporters on every level.

The story doesn't end there for Kathleen either. With most of our Board Members, we have been fortunate to also have the support and engagement of their spouses and with Kathleen Lillis, that commitment has been instrumental in many of our events and initiatives. When Bill joined Anawim Housing, so did Kathleen. “Bill and I knew Sr. Stella before she even created Anawim Housing. When she became the Executive Director an amazing change came over her. She had found her mission in life, an extraordinary purpose for her passion to

serve the families of this community. And that is what Anawim Housing does. It changes everyone it touches, whether it is the families that have a place to call home for the first time or the Board Members who help to raise the funds to serve its mission. Anawim Housing changes lives. It has certainly changed mine”.

As one of our inaugural 500 Club Members, Kathleen has recognized the need for women to empower their fellow women. The 500 Club asks member to contribute a minimum of \$500 a year which goes to our Annual Operating needs, including serving Anawim Housing's countless single mothers who are struggling to provide a safe, affordable and sustainable home for their children. On top of that, Kathleen was the Committee Chair for Sr. Stella's retirement events last year. She was there on the ground, planning the event, from the venue to the menu and everything in between including shuttling staff to different meeting locations during the planning process.

While Kathleen – and Bill's – commitment to Anawim Housing may have been invited by Sr. Stella, their continued service to the organization is based on an enthusiasm that was ignited by their passion for our mission.

Kathleen Lillis and Anawim Housing Board of Directors Chair, Tom Mahoney at an Anawim Housing event honoring Sr. Stella Neill.



ANAWIM HOUSING'S MISSION AT WORK

BY AMANDA MURPHY, MEMBER
OF ANAWIM HOUSING'S IN-HOME
SUPPORT TEAM

Homelessness. Mental illness. Addiction. Many of us have been fortunate enough not to have been touched by these tragedies in our own lives. Sometimes we choose the path we take in life, and sometimes that path is chosen for us. As the Housing Manager for the Shelter Plus Care program, I have seen firsthand how uncontrollable circumstances and choices have combined to set our tenants on paths that are often far different from the path that I have known in my own life. However, just like me, I believe that our tenants are simply trying to do the best they can with what they have. Many have tremendous obstacles to overcome, but thanks to Shelter Plus Care, what they also have is a safe and stable home, a place from which to start a new path in life.

Five years ago, Marie* took that first step on her own new path. She was struggling with about as many obstacles as one person can face in life. Marie was considered chronically homeless, she had been living on the streets and in shelters for years, bouncing from place to place. She was fighting to overcome a long battle with addiction, and she knew she

had to beat it. She had been diagnosed with a serious medical condition, which left untreated could be fatal. But it was hard to keep medical appointments and track medications, since most nights she was sleeping in a park or an abandoned building. She was a person who had given up on hope of a better life. Without the care she needed, she was literally dying on the streets.

Anawim Housing has helped change the direction of her life. Marie's case manager brought her to the Shelter Plus Care Program of Anawim Housing where she was given the one thing that could truly change the direction of her life: a key to a one bedroom apartment, all her own.

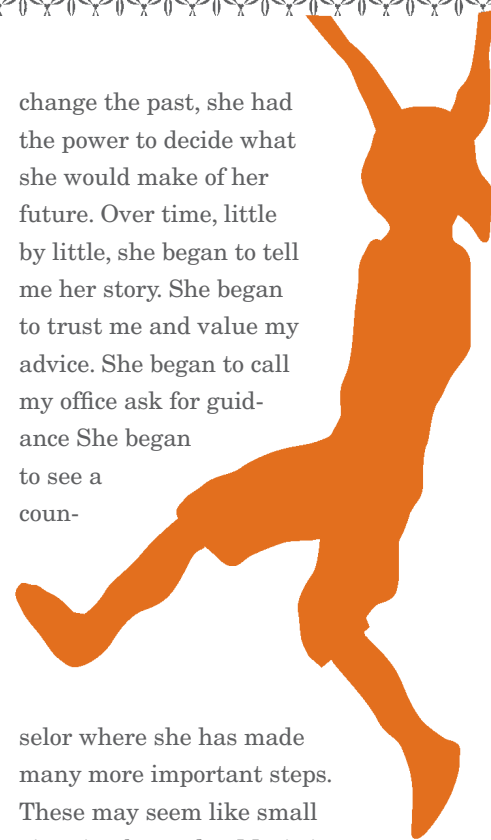
While this key opened a door to a new life, the journey has many small steps in between. When I came to work for Anawim Housing and met Marie, she had been in her apartment for a little over a year, but was still struggling to find her way on that path. Life on the street often leads to mistrust. Marie tried to push away those who were there to support her. But I didn't give up, and visited Marie every week. Each time I reminded her that though we couldn't

change the past, she had the power to decide what she would make of her future. Over time, little by little, she began to tell me her story. She began to trust me and value my advice. She began to call my office ask for guidance She began to see a coun-

selor where she has made many more important steps. These may seem like small victories, but today Marie is living a life that she never would have imagined in all the years she spent sleeping out on the streets.

For Marie and many others like her, Home Is Everything. Anawim Housing gave Marie a chance at survival, a place of safety, healing, learning, and growing, one step at a time.

**Name changed.*



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I/WE WISH TO MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN ANAWIM HOUSING and its commitment to safe, affordable housing for low-income families in the inner city of Des Moines.

Name(s) _____
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ANAWIM GIVING LEVELS

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Partner (\$2,500+)
Associate (\$1,000+)
Friend (\$500+)
Advocate (\$250+)
Assistant (\$100+)
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(3) organization