

Anawim

HOUSING



Fall Newsletter 2013

2024 Forest Avenue, Suite 101 • Des Moines, IA 50311 • phn: 515.244.8308 • email: info@anawimhousing.org • www.anawimhousing.org



GROWING FOR OUR FAMILIES

BY RUSS FRAZIER, ANAWIM HOUSING PRESIDENT

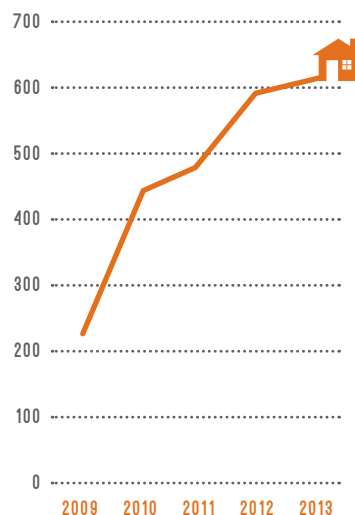
Growth is only part of the Anawim story. Over the past four years Anawim Housing has been fortunate to have the opportunity to expand the number of housing options for families in our community. Growing by more than 177% in that time, Anawim Housing has affirmed its role in our community as the leader in affordable housing.

Anawim Housing recently broke ground on 60 new homes on the east side of Des Moines. These offer a mix of one, two, three, and four bedroom apartments all co-located on an expansive development. These additions bring our total to 610 units under management; we are serving more families than ever before.

But who are the families that Anawim Housing serves? Many think of the more than 1000 children living in one of Anawim's units. But families are also older adults who live alone or who are raising grandchildren, or single men or women looking for a place to call home after experiencing a housing crisis. Anawim Housing means so much to so many.

Even with all of our successful growth, our proudest achievement may be the stability we offer. Nearly half of all of our tenants have lived in the same unit for a year or more, offering an environment of consistency for themselves and their family.

ANAWIM MANAGED PROPERTIES



THANK YOU, DOTTY AND LOREE

BY MEGAN MILLIGAN

When Anawim Housing started our story a little over 26 years ago, the four founding board members and our first Executive Director, Sr. Stella Neill, could never have imagined all the bumps and curves in the plot line. The legacy of Anawim Housing began with those first activists intent on keeping families together under one roof, but it became a stronger, more sustainable legacy because of the people that joined them along this exciting journey. People like Loree Miles and Dotty Thurston; two recently retired board members with more than 35 years of collective experience serving Anawim Housing.

“When I first met Sr. Stella, 25 years ago, it was as a banker. She came to me for a loan. Anawim was so new that it was nearly impossible to grant them the kind of loan they needed, so we worked together and convinced several banks to loan Anawim the total that they needed. I was hooked from that moment. While I retired from the board this summer, Anawim will be part of my life and my family's life forever,” shares Loree Miles.

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Dotty Thurston, on the other hand, was a donor for many years before becoming a board member a little over 10 years ago. She joined at an exciting time, being thrown right into the development of a 21 home neighborhood at 13th and Forest. “I first became intrigued with Anawim because of its service to single mothers and the restoration of so many historic homes surrounding downtown Des Moines, however being a part of building 21 brand new single-family homes in what was a blighted neighborhood before we got there was truly inspirational” shares Dotty. She continues, “Sr. Stella was tenacious. She would bang on those brick walls until her knuckles bled; she wouldn’t let anyone or anything get in the way of creating homes for the homeless. When Russ Frazier joined us as President in 2009 after Stella retired, he picked up where she left off and increased the momentum ten-fold. I just can’t say enough how honored I am to be part of something like this”.

Both women served as Board President during their tenure as well as hosted several events for the organization

“Anyone who is touched by Anawim Housing whether as a donor, a tenant or an employee is touched by the Legacy of Dotty and Loree.”

– Russ Frazier, Anawim Housing President

over the years. “I feel honored to be able to work at an organization with people like Loree and Dotty; people so completely committed to what we do. We now serve over 610 families per year. That’s more than 1100 children who finally have a decent, safe and permanent place to lay their heads at night. That growth is due specifically to people like Loree and Dotty,” shares Russ Frazier, Anawim Housing President. He continues, “Anyone who is touched by Anawim Housing whether as a donor, a tenant or an employee is touched by the Legacy of Dotty and Loree. They are as part of this organization as the foundations of our many homes”. Thank you Loree and Dotty for your time and commitment to Anawim Housing.



Loree Miles, Sister Stella Neil and Dotty Thurston in 2010 at the ribbon cutting for our new headquarters

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- | | |
|---|---|
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| Carlos Berdellans
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<i>Family Advocate</i> |



A NEW BEGINNING

BY CYNTHIA LATCHAM,
SHELTER PLUS CARE HOUSING MANAGER

I started working at the Shelter Plus Care program for Anawim in April, and already I have seen the significant impact of what we do everyday. Recently I have housed two individuals who have been chronically homeless for years, and now, for the first time in a long time, are feeling safe and settled.

Whenever I see them or talk to these two men, I can tell that they are thriving in their homes, keeping them clean and decorated. They are reveling in their domesticity; having a place to cook a meal means normalcy to them. They are stabilizing their lives, which is the first step toward a brighter future. Home is everything, especially when you are used to not having one.

Shleter Plus Care is publicly funded, and managed by Anawim Housing. This program is for those individuals that are experiencing a housing crisis combined with a mental illness, chronic substance abuse, or an AIDS related disease. This program provides hundreds of homes to citizens who might otherwise be unable to qualify for stable housing in a safe environment. Through the Shelter Plus Care program, 72% of households have achieved stability by either staying with Anawim or moving to permanent housing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FALL INTO FESTIVITIES

More than seventy Anawim board members and friends met at the home of Dotty and Stan Thurston in honor of Anawim Housing on Sunday, October 6th. It was a lovely and relaxed Sunday evening where people shared stories with each other of why and how they support Anawim Housing. The party fell on a cold fall evening. Dotty spoke, "It is rainy and cold outside and we are gathered here in a cozy home in the presence of friends. You will all go home tonight to your own cozy homes and be with your families". That is what Anawim is about: home. Home is everything; a place to gather, a place of refuge from the cold, and a place of relaxation after a long day.

Many new faces to Anawim learned what the organization does for the city of Des Moines and its citizens. Russ Frazier, Anawim Housing's president, spoke at the end of the night encouraging the evenings party attendees "whatever you do, do not let your connection with Anawim Housing end with tonight. Come on a property tour and see for yourself the impact that Anawim has on thousands of lives".



Women Empowering Families will be throwing their annual ThanksGIVING party on Tuesday, November 5th where they will be collecting gifts for Anawim Housing's tenant holiday party. If you're interested in joining or learning more about Women Empowering Families please contact Molli Kipp by email mkipp@anawimhousing.org or by phone (515) 244-8308 ext.125.

Anawim Housing will be hosting our annual tenant holiday party. Every year we ask for gift donations for this event. Some gift suggestions are: dish sets, beauty products, bedsheets, pots & pans, and home décor. If you would like to donate an unwrapped gift for this party please contact Rose Zimmerle at rzimmerle@anawimhousing.org or by calling (515)491-3637.

Mr. B is partnering with Anawim Housing on another \$100 for \$100. If you donate \$100 to Anawim Housing at Mr. B's Clothing, you will receive \$100 off of your next purchase of \$200 or more. Come to Mr. B's Clothing between Monday, November 11th and Sunday, November 17th. Mr. B's is located at 1995 NW 86th Street in Clive.

Anawim Housing is proud to be partnering with Whole Foods in West Des Moines for the months of October, November, and December in their One Dime at a Time program. When you bring in your own grocery bags to Whole Foods you can choose to give your ten cent refund to Anawim Housing. In the past this has raised over \$2000. The little bit you get for your bag can go a long way!



2024 Forest Avenue, Suite 101
Des Moines, IA 50311
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Anawim Housing is building stability to rebuild lives through safe and stable homes for families.



RIBBON CUTTING AT THE CREST

On August 29th, Anawim Housing hosted our most recent ribbon cutting. The two new properties located on Hubbell Avenue include: the Crest at Baker Creek and Baker Creek Senior Living. The Crest offers family living in one, two, three, and four bedroom units. Baker Creek Senior Living, in partnership with the Baker Group and Nelson Construction, offers senior living in two bedroom units. We had a great turnout at the ribbon cutting and encourage everyone to look for more ribbon cuttings to attend in the future.



BIRDIES FOR CHARITIES SUCCESS!

Sue Kenny joined a group of the Anawim Housing staff on September 24th to celebrate the funds awarded to Anawim Housing through the Birdies for Charity Program. Principal Financial Group held a formal ceremony to congratulate the participating charities from 2013. Anawim Housing was the top earning charity by almost \$60,000. Through donations in the Principle Charity Classic and a 25% matching from Sammons Financial Group, Anawim was able to raise **\$80,288**. Thank you to all who supported Anawim through Birdies for Charity. We are very excited to participate in this event next year.



Anawim Housing board members and staff joined us for the ribbon cutting at The Crest at Baker Creek and Baker Creek Senior Living