



DOING THE MOST GOOD

THE SALVATION ARMY OF DANE COUNTY
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Madison Genesis Corps
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January 24, 2014

Dear CDBG Committee Members,

The Salvation Army of Dane County operates the only shelter for single women in our community. During a woman's stay the great majority of her basic needs are met: shelter, food, laundry and shower. Paramount to our service delivery is case management. In 2013, we sheltered 394 single women. Of these, 148 participated in case management with a bachelor's or master's level case manager (1.5 FTE). The provision of case management is unique to our shelter program; one that sets apart the homeless experience of single women from single men and translates into shorter lengths of homelessness. In 2013, 30% of single women transitioned to permanent housing and 13% *increased* their total income.

We know that our homeless neighbors face incredible barriers to permanent housing and 60 nights in shelter/year is insufficient to make remarkable, measured progress, all of which makes the folks we serve increasingly transient and programmatic efficacy difficult to track. Of those that participated in case management in 2013, 53% experienced a mental illness(es), 49% experienced domestic violence, 41% had a physical impairment, 21% had substance abuse issues and 10% had a developmental disability. Despite these inherent challenges, case managers work with their clients to make small progress towards their goals each day. Women learn to budget, establish payment plans with creditors, connect with medical care, obtain a mental health diagnosis, enroll in public benefits, develop communication and problem-solving skills, complete job applications, etc.

Currently, The Salvation Army of Dane County receives \$37,509 from HUD towards Single Women's Shelter case management expenses (total program expense: \$75,019; TSA contribution = \$37,510). Because of HUD's changing priorities and our CoC's desire to align with their goals, this supportive services only program was withdrawn from the current HUD application. Effective, June 1, 2014, case management for single women will be largely unfunded. As such, this program, and the folks that it serves, is in great need of alternate support.

The ramifications of eliminating this program are substantial and would create a cavernous gap in homeless services. Our local housing climate demands case management for the hardest to house among us.

Please accept this letter in support of reallocating \$22,358 to The Salvation Army of Dane County's Single Women Shelter Case Management program for use in 2014. Our intention is to apply for CDBG funds during the summer funding process to help sustain this program in 2015 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Leigha Weber
Director of Social Services
The Salvation Army of Dane County

"Have you remembered The Salvation Army in your will?"

Donations by phone (608)256-2321 or internet www.salvationarmydanecounty.org