

City of Madison and Dane County: homelessness: obstacles to helping people get out of homelessness and into housing: information

I. Information

2010 Salvation Army: Social Services: homeless shelter services

**info below does NOT include single men served by Porchlight (Grace Church), individuals/families served by Road Home Dane County (Interfaith Hospitality Network), Briarpatch, YWCA, or Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS)*

Single Women's Shelter (2010)

*only shelter in our City/County for single, adult women

370 served

331 adults (18-64 years old)

21 adults (65 or older/senior citizens)

18 unknown

Family Shelter (2010)

*information for family homeless shelter at Salvation Army facility and in public-funded motel vouchers; does not include information for families served by YWCA

Salvation Army is gate keeper for all public-funded family homeless shelter, placing families into openings at our facility, the YWCA, or in a local motel.

226 families

202 children (under age 6)

149 children (6-12 years old)

83 children (13-17 years old)

256 adults (18-64 years old)

1 adult (65 or older/senior citizens)

Warming House (2010)

This program is meant to be our City/County's safety net for families waiting to get in to the Family Shelter (residential) program that occurs at Salvation Army, YWCA, or local motel. Families served by this program include: families eligible and waiting for Family Shelter, families who are not eligible for Family Shelter (ex: because "out of days"), families who Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) wants to serve but cannot due to their services and shelter being full, etc.

*many of the families who used Warming House, used Family Shelter, when a Family Shelter spot became available

*literally mattresses on a floor in the west end of our building

*became year-round in 2008 (prior was Nov-March, hence the name)

225 families

224 children (under age 6)

147 children (6-12 years old)

66 children (13-17 years old)

287 adults (18-64 years old)

1 adults (65 or older/senior citizen)

II. Affordable Housing in our community

*Disclaimer: Sarah Gillmore personal and professional opinion—I do **not** represent the Salvation Army of Dane County*

Multiple factors seemed to have contributed to our community's general lack of affordable housing, including, but not limited to: economy, neighborhood revitalization (i.e. gentrification), future reduction in W2 reimbursement to eligible families (will soon be by \$653/month), high rent costs, job market, and (seemingly) discrimination.

Economy (example): several landlords who used to "take risks" on households with poor credit and/or poor housing history do not exist (eg foreclosures) or are no longer able to afford taking a risk on a household that, on paper, does not appear the ideal tenant.

Neighborhood Revitalization/Gentrification (example): Madison and Dane County have beautiful neighborhoods and towns. Households who used to be able to afford living near downtown simply can't any longer. As new households move into neighborhoods and rents are increased, the other households have to live somewhere and it definitely seems like the areas of our community which have lower rents are only in certain pockets, versus scattered throughout our community. *this is something that I am aware our community had worked very hard to get away from in the past

W2 reduction (example): Currently W2 is \$673/month. Everyone who receives W2 has to complete a work program; this is not free money. Soon the typical W2 amount will be reduced to \$653/month. This is simply not enough income for landlords to consider as reliable income. Households with children are eligible for W2, not singles.

Rent costs (example): a truly affordable housing situation is one in which the household contributes 30% of their income to rent. Households in poverty typically pay 80-90% of their income in rent.

Example: Eastpointe Apartments (Meridian) Darbo neighborhood

1BR w/heat \$555/month

2BR w/heat \$760/month

3BR \$795/month

*these are typical rates for landlords who work with households we serve

Job Market (example): despite articles that our local media releases, it is not an easy to obtain competitive employment in Madison without significant work history, work references, and/or education. The jobs available to people who do not fit into these three categories are typically low-paying and do not provide health insurance and/or assistance with childcare.

Example: Sarah and her partner both work FT at Taco Bell. The family has two children. Even with full time employment, the family is still very low-income.

Discrimination (example): shelter addresses are on housing applications. Landlords recognize and regularly don't even return communication when a household coping with homelessness attempts to apply. Neighborhoods with "affordable" housing are off the beaten-path (ex: Nakoosa Trail, Allied neighborhood, far west side complexes). Not all landlords are altruistic and interested in helping a household that does not look like them. Also LGBTQ discrimination.

Example: recent call from apartment complex, seeking a housing reference for a household. Without exaggeration the landlord representative asked if the family was Hispanic, as that is what she believed based on the family's surname. I questioned how that was important and she said, "because those people usually bring more people in to stay with them."

III. Household situations/root-causes (here are just a few...)

- a. Mental Health conditions
- b. Medical conditions
- c. Senior Citizen and/or out of workforce
- d. Disability that makes her/him unable to work
- e. Transportation (nothing in rural Dane County, minimal outside of heart of Madison)
- f. Child Care
- g. Limits on public benefits
- h. Generational homelessness and/or poverty
- i. Education (lack of education)
- j. Literacy
- k. Problem-solving skills
- l. Money Management skills
- m. Credit history
- n. Substance use problems
- o. Legal problems
- p. Custody issues
- q. Programs determine family structure, not family
- r. Lack of family supports
- s. Lack of proper nutrition
- t. Dental pain, unresolved dental issues
- u. Children's behavior at home and/or in school
- v. Trauma: present or past
- w. High occurrence of sexual abuse and intimate partner violence survivors throughout households in homelessness
- x. Lack of self-advocacy skills
- y. Income
- z. Language barriers

Homeless Services Consortium

monthly meetings

1st Tue of each month at Noon*

Warner Park Community Center

*2nd Tue on voting months

Shelter Providers in Madison/Dane County

Salvation Army (single women and families)

Porchlight (single men)

YWCA (families)

Road Home Dane County (families)

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (households fleeing intimate partner violence)

Briarpatch (short-term assistance for unaccompanied, homeless youth)

Examples of Shelter gaps in Madison/Dane County

1. Transgender
2. Folks with significant disabilities
3. Unaccompanied youth
4. Unaccompanied youth who are parenting

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Warming House (overflow shelter) usage from 1/1/2011-

*we are funded and able to *best-serve* 14-16 people (not 14-16 families)

*we try to help as many people as we possibly can

*this is for families who are waiting to get into public-funded family shelter (which occurs at Sal. Army, YWCA, or in a motel), because family shelter is full

*reminder this is mattresses on a floor in the west-end of our building

1/1/11 11 people (4 families)
1/2/11 11 people (4 families)
1/3/11 11 people (4 families)
1/4/11 8 people (3 families)
1/5/11 10 people (3 families)
1/6/11 6 people (1 family)
1/7/11 8 people (2 families)
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1/9/11 6 people (1 family)
1/10/11 6 people (1 family)
1/11/11 13 people (2 families)
1/12/11 20 people (4 families)
1/13/11 13 people (4 families)
1/14/11 15 people (5 families)
1/15/11 2 people (1 families)
1/16/11 2 people (1family)
1/17/11 2 people (1 family)
1/18/11 0 people (0 families)
1/19/11 8 people (4 families)
1/20/11 10 people (5 families)
1/21/11 14 people (6 families)
1/22/11 2 people (1 families)
1/23/11 6 people (2 families)
1/24/11 11 people (4 families)
1/25/11 10 people (4 families)
1/26/11 10 people (4 families)
1/27/11 6 people (3 families)
1/28/11 4 people (2 families)
1/29/11 6 people (3 families)
1/30/11 2 people (1 families)
1/31/11 2 people (1 families)
2/1/11 4 people (2 families)
2/2/11 0 people (0 families)
2/3/11 0 people (0 families)
2/4/11 0 people (0 families)
2/5/11 0 people (0 families)
2/6/11 0 people (0 families)
2/7/11 3 people (1 families)
2/8/11 3 people (1 families)
2/9/11 3 people (1 families)
2/10/11 7 people (2 families)
2/11/11 3 people (1 families)
2/12/11 3 people (1 families)
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2/25/11 8 people (3 families)
2/26/11 8 people (3 families)
2/27/11 8 people (3 families)
2/28/11 8 people (3 families)
3/1/11 8 people (3 families)
3/2/11 16 people (5 families)
3/3/11 16 people (5 families)
3/4/11 23 people (6 families)
3/5/11 10 people (2 families)
3/6/11 7 people (1 family)
3/7/11 10 people (2 families)
3/8/11 7 people (1 family)
3/9/11 13 people (3 families)
3/10/11 12 people (3 families)
3/11/11 9 people (2 families)
3/12/11 14 people (4 families)
3/13/11 7 people (1 family)
3/14/11 7 people (1 family)
3/15/11 17 people (4 families)
3/16/11 18 people (5 families)
3/17/11 16 people (4 families)
3/18/11 21 people (6 families)
3/19/11 15 people (4 families) *not able to serve 8 people (2 families) due to lack of space
3/20/11 17 people (4 families) *not able to serve 11 people (2 families) due to lack of space
3/21/11 17 people (4 families) *not able to serve 12 people (3 families) due to lack of space
3/22/11 15 people (4 families)
3/23/11 18 people (5 families) *not able to serve 4 people (1 family) due to lack of space
3/24/11 16 people (5 families) *not able to serve 8 people (2 families) due to lack of space
3/25/11 21 people (6 families) *not able to serve 5 people (1 family) due to lack of space
3/26/11 20 people (5 families) *not able to serve 2 people (1 family) due to lack of space
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4/27/11 2 people (1 family)
4/28/11 6 people (2 families)
4/29/11 11 people (4 families)
4/30/11 10 people (3 families)
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5/4/11 19 people (6 families) *not able to serve 2 people (1 family) due to lack of space
5/5/11 13 people (4 families) *9 people (3 families) no call/no show: unable to serve 5 people (2 families)
5/6/11 10 people (3 families)
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6/10/11 18 people (6 families) *not able to serve 17 people (4 families) due to lack of space
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6/13/11 19 people (6 families) *not able to serve 17 people (4 families) due to lack of space
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