

A second chance. A warm bed. Hope. Opportunity. A helping hand, not a handout. This is what Porchlight, Inc. is all about. Our mission in the community is a challenging one. The causes of homelessness-inadequate job skills, a dire shortage of affordable housing, mental illness, and substance abuse-defy easy solutions. It is only the generous support of the community and the dedication of our staff and volunteers that make it possible for us to help people overcome homelessness.

As a not-for-profit, volunteer-intensive agency, Porchlight provides emergency shelter, food, employment services, and affordable transitional and permanent housing. Our primary mission is to meet the needs of homeless households in the Madison area through services designed to foster the transition into permanent housing and employment. Porchlight is an ecumenical ministry of concerned people committed to ensuring that all residents of Madison have a place of shelter, freeing them from the fears and intimidation of living on the streets, and offering them respect and dignity as they search for solutions to their dilemmas. In 2011, Porchlight programs provided services to over 11,000 people including more than 150,000 nights of shelter.

## Men's Drop-In Shelter

In 2011, 1,225 homeless persons received 34.772 nights of emergency shelter, two hot meals per day, personal grooming supplies, counseling services, and access to laundry facilities at the Men's Drop-In Shelter located at Grace Episcopal Church. A weekly on-site Medical Clinic assisted more than 300 individuals. With the support of over 60 churches and other community groups providing over 1,800 volunteers, the shelter provides a warm, safe, and compassionate respite from the struggle of survival without a home. The shelter is open 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. daily from spring through fall. During the winter months, the Shelter is open from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. to all men who are not incapacitated by drugs or alcohol abuse and who abide by the shelter rules. Originally sponsored by Madison-Area Urban Ministry, the shelter has been operating at the Grace Episcopal Church site since 1985. Shelters include overflow shelters at St. Johns Lutheran Church and beginning in 2007, First United Methodist Church.

# **Hospitality House**

Opened in 1990, Hospitality House is both a multi-faceted resource center and a warm, safe place for homeless and near-homeless families and individuals to seek assistance. In 2011, approximately 6,000 guests received a variety of services from simply a place to warm up to housing/employment counseling, telephone/mail services, and medical/legal assistance. Hospitality House, located at 1490 Martin St., serves on average over 80 people each day. As a direct result of assistance by Porchlight staff, over 1,000 households secured housing.

### DIGS (Dwelling Intervention Grants and Sustenance

A long-standing eviction prevention program known as DIGS (Dwelling Intervention Grants and Sustenance) also operates from Hospitality House and Sunshine Place in Sun Prairie. DIGS is a collaborative effort with area faith communities to centralize emergency eviction prevention assistance. In 2011, a over 1,300 households were counseled and of those more than 1,000 received financial assistance through DIGS. Follow-up checks on a group of those receiving financial assistance through DIGS directly confirm that 80% of those families assisted remain in housing at six months and 74% remain in housing at twelve months, and over 69% at eighteen months.

### Safe Haven

To address the growing number of homeless individuals with a severe mental illness, our Safe Haven began operating in June 1995. Men and women with serious and persistent mental illness are often unconnected to the shelter system and necessary social services. Safe Haven is a "soft-entry" program, allowing staff to slowly develop relationships of trust with participants and ultimately connecting them to appropriate housing and mental health services. With semi-private rooms, three meals per day, bathing and laundry facilities, storage space, and a mailing address, Safe Haven provides an atmosphere of support for this vulnerable segment of the homeless population. In 2011, 53 mentally ill persons received 5,210 nights of shelter, and an additional 135 persons received drop-in services.

Transitional and Permanent Housing

Low-cost transitional and permanent housing with case management services are offered to homeless individuals and families through Porchlight's Housing Program. Operating more than 240 units at locations throughout Dane County, this program provided more than 112,000 nights of shelter to men, women, and children in 2011. Properties vary in size and scope from Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) units for homeless single individuals to multi-family units. 102 units of SRO and efficiency housing can be found at Porchlight's main building at 306 North Brooks Street. Support services for residents include counseling for employment and more permanent affordable housing and assistance in developing better skills in money management, personal health, and parenting. Referrals to other agencies are made as required for education, legal, medical, or mental health services. All residents are responsible for paying rent, which varies by program requirements. The goal for all residents is to establish a good rental reference by paying their rent on time and maintaining their units, so they can move to independent permanent housing.

**PTO** 

The Partnership for Transitional Opportunities (PTO) program is an 18-unit program located at the Brooks Street facility. This program is for individuals who are in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. As the name implies, the program is transitional and participants stay for a maximum of two years. During that time they work with one of two dedicated case managers to devise and follow a recovery plan. The expectations and requirements of the program are high, but the successes can be remarkable. In general, PTO residents can access the same supportive services that the other Brooks Street residents enjoy.

**STABLE** 

The Skills Training And Barrier Limiting Education Program (STABLE) started in August of 1998 at a 12-bedroom SRO (Single Room Occupancy) facility, primarily for women with mental health issues. Participants are taught independent living and money management skills. Leases are month-to-month for up to two years. A Social Worker is available to provide case management for participants.

**START** 

The Sobriety Training After Recovery Treatment Program (START) provides housing at a 16 one-bedroom units with supportive sober living environment. Residents must have a minimum of 6-12 months of consistent recovery from addiction. Group therapy occurs every two weeks. Participants must be involved in service to the community.

**Brooks Street Kitchen Program** 

Porchlight residents have the opportunity to receive life skills and employment training through the Kitchen Program at the Brooks Street facility. Participants in the program learn food preparation skills that can help prepare them for employment in the food service industry but more importantly, a sense of pride in themselves and their accomplishments they have never known before.

Your contributions are needed and greatly appreciated. All gifts are tax deductible and can be sent to:

Porchlight, Inc. 306 North Brooks Street Madison, WI 53715 (608) 257-2534

Web Site Address: www.porchlightinc.org







# PORCHLIGHT PROPERTIES

