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The stories we’ve heard—some which you will read in this issue—show how this has already been life-changing for those we serve.

The historic public-private partnership that has come together to transform the Dorothy Day Center—advancing permanent solutions to prevent and end homelessness—is a powerful example of what can be accomplished when all sectors of our community focus on a common goal.

As a result of the incredible goodwill of this community and your generosity—we now have both Higher Ground Minneapolis and Higher Ground Saint Paul and a clear vision for finishing the Dorothy Day Place project in Saint Paul.

It is truly remarkable, and we could not have done this without the amazing support of our donors, volunteers and advocates. You made this happen. You are changing lives!

Thank you,

Tim Marx
President & Chief Executive Officer

All of Us Together
Making history with the capital campaign

In December, we announced a major milestone on our journey, raising $85 million toward our $400 million private capital campaign goal to fund Dorothy Day Place! Nearly 400 individuals, corporations and foundations have contributed to the campaign, which’s launched in 2014 with an incredible $5 million lead grant by the Richard Schulze Family Foundation.

This historic effort has been led by campaign co-chairs Doug Baker of Ecolab, Mary Brandle of HealthPartners and Andy Cooce of U.S. Bank, along with a group of volunteer campaign leaders working tirelessly to raise the funds to meet our goal.

Every donor’s story is different, and each one of our stories together forms a powerful example of what can be accomplished when all sectors of our community focus on a common goal.

The firm’s generous gift in a unique way!

Standing outside of his new home in Catholic Charities’ Higher Ground Saint Paul, Markus reflected on his key and said “I cannot imagine anything making me happier than this.”

Markus, 40, has been experiencing homelessness on and off for the last dozen years. Financial problems and mental illness have made stability seemingly unattainable.

Markus knows shelter mats, old beds and radiators that hiss through the night. For him, it’s more than a new building, it’s a new opportunity to move forward with his life. Since moving in he has been busy applying for work.

He was nervous about the change and worried about the move and thinking about how he never wants to live on the streets again. Higher Ground Saint Paul seems to have given him a permanent grin.

“I know I’m going to be happy here. I need to pinch myself to know this is real!”

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“I’m going to be happy here,” he laughed. “I need to pinch myself to know this is real!”

Markeus moves in

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POVERTY FOR NO ONE. OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

February / March 2017

Headings Home to Higher Ground

Inside this issue:
• Homecoming stories
• A timeline on how far we’ve come together
• Volunteers who made it all possible!
“I loved having the opportunity to move people into their new homes. It’s one of the most gratifying experiences of my career.” —Tracy Berglund, Catholic Charities

Happy homecomings

Most Ray, the very first person at Higher Ground Saint Paul! “It’s even better than I ever imagined! I feel at home.”

In her role overseeing shelter and housing at Catholic Charities, Tracy Berglund works hard to make sure those most in need have a safe, dignified, and secure place to sleep each night. While her daily work currently focuses on housing, she doesn’t often get a front row seat to move-in day. It was all hands on deck as people moved out of homelessness and into homes at Higher Ground Saint Paul.

Because of you, people will never again have to sleep on thin mats on a cold, hard floor at Dorothy Day Center. The shelter at Higher Ground Saint Paul provides permanent housing for 200 men and women each night.

“Any work from sweeping the floor at Dorothy Day Center to fourth floor home at Higher Ground Saint Paul. It’s been about two years since Amy has had her own bed. She believes the stability and security at Higher Ground Saint Paul and her own positive attitude will help her rise above.”

“Through several weeks this fall, volunteer David Moss would travel to the laundry room at Catholic Charities’ St. Anthony Residence and get to work.”

“Happy homecomings

Bedding blessings

Volunteers make it possible!

Opening Higher Ground Saint Paul last month would not have been possible without the amazing team of volunteers who stepped up to welcome shelter guests and residents into the new facility.

More than 130 volunteers logged 537 hours cleaning, assembling welcome baskets, purchasing and packing hygiene kits, making beds, hanging towels and performing every other task that needed doing. As residents moved in, volunteers were there to welcome them and show them around their new homes.

They did this work on some of the coldest days of winter and showed up on the snowiest days to make it all possible. We are so incredibly grateful!

Volunteers from Ecolab came in to prepare and clean before opening. They also packed welcome baskets for each new tenant at Higher Ground Saint Paul.

To become a volunteer, visit cctwincities.org/volunteer

Thank you for your generous gifts! Visit cctwincities.org/donate

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVES THOSE MOST IN NEED.

Through several weeks this fall, volunteer David Moss would travel to the laundry room at Catholic Charities’ St. Anthony Residence and get to work.

“The chaplain by trade washed, dried, folded, and pressed over 1,400 sheets we needed at Higher Ground Saint Paul. Each time, he would recruit a friend or family member to help him fold—and to keep him company as the machines ran.”

“As you’re doing laundry, you start thinking about where the sheets are going to go,” he said. “Hopefully, people who sleep in them will receive the message that they matter.”

Not one to leave a job undone, David even went to Higher Ground Saint Paul shortly before it opened to help get rooms ready.

Thank you, David, for truly making a difference for those most in need.

Eddie, 70, holds a key in his hand before walking into his new third floor home recently. A simple key means so much to those who do not have a home to call their own. Higher Ground Saint Paul has a range of permanent housing options for 193 people.

Meet Rai, the very first guest at Higher Ground Saint Paul! “It’s even better than I ever imagined,” he said with a big smile.

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Catholic Charities launches a $40 million private capital campaign with a $5 million lead grant by the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation—the most significant private investment to support Catholic Charities in recent history.

Construction begins on Higher Ground Saint Paul. The State of Minnesota and Minnesota Housing invest $23 million in first phase of this historic public/private partnership.

Higher Ground Saint Paul officially opens with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. It includes 193 permanent housing units and dignified shelter and pay-for-stay for 280 men and women.

Bedding blessings

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS! VISIT CCTWINCITIES.ORG/DONATE

1981

1999

1999

2015

2015

2011

2011

2017

2017

1981

1981

2001

2013

2014

2014

2017

2017

The Dorothy Day Center opens to downtown Saint Paul, serving coffee and rolls to an estimated 50 men daily, with no overnight shelter.

The number of people needing shelter surpasses capacity for the first time, and people are turned away.

Community leaders acknowledge the incredible need for a new vision for the Dorothy Day Center. Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman launches a task force for the future of the Dorothy Day Center.

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“I wanted to move people into their new homes,” she said. “It’s even better than I ever imagined.”

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1981
The Dorothy Day Center opens in downtown Saint Paul, serving coffee and rolls to an estimated 50 men daily, with no overnight shelter.

2001
The number of people using the shelter’s overnight capacity is 600, 10 times as many as when it opened. A new shelter opens on Grand Avenue.

1999
Community leaders acknowledge the incredible need for a new facility.

2011
The Dorothy Day Center opens in downtown Saint Paul, serving coffee and rolls to an estimated 50 men daily, plus an overnight shelter.

2013
Catholic Charities launches a multi-year, private, capital campaign to raise $25 million to build higher ground.

2014
A new permanent shelter opens in downtown Saint Paul.

2015
Construction begins on Higher Ground Saint Paul.

2017
Construction is completed.

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Volunteers have worked for years in partnership with Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis to provide emergency shelter, support and housing services to thousands of men and women in need.
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This historic effort has been led by campaign co-chair Doug Baker of Ecolab, Mary Brainerd of HealthPartners and Andy Cooce of U.S. Bank, along with a group of volunteer campaign leaders working tirelessly to raise the funds to meet our goal.

Every donor’s story is different, and each gift builds on decades of volunteerism and philanthropic funding to improve the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. And we eagerly anticipate the day when we can celebrate the completion of the campaign and the full transformation of Dorothy Day Place!

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Support these efforts by volunteering, donating or giving the gift of volunteerism!

For more information or to get involved, please visit cctwincities.org/advocacy.

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To donate: 612-204-8774
To volunteer: 612-204-8435

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FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017

VOICE