

PLEASE JOIN US!



DOROTHY DAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

FRIDAY, MAY 5 7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. THE SAINT PAUL HOTEL

Visit cctwincities.org/ddcbreakfast for details

Advocate for those most in need

During this legislative session, Catholic Charities will continue to advocate for policies, programs, and funding that support housing stability, disrupt cycles of poverty, and create pathways to economic mobility. We need your help to secure funding for the Saint Paul Opportunity Center – a critical piece of the Dorothy Day Place project!

By joining Catholic Charities' **Office for Social Justice** at the Minnesota State Capitol, you have the opportunity to make a positive change for those most in need. By joining our **Sowers of Justice** advocate group, you will be a part of a huge network of people of faith advocating for social, economic and racial justice! All of us together can make a difference.



GET INVOLVED: CCTWINCITIES.ORG/ADVOCACY



VOICE

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Phone: 612-204-8500 To donate: 612-204-8374 To volunteer: 612-204-8435 cctwincities.org

Tim Marx President & Chief Executive Officer
Tom Arata Chair, Board of Directors



You made this happen



It has been an emotional beginning to the year as we've opened Higher Ground Saint Paul—welcoming new residents into their homes and opening the doors to dignified shelter for our neighbors for the first time. 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 and Chief Executive Officer

POVERTY FOR NO ONE. OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

VOICE

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017

Heading home to Higher Ground

Inside this issue:

- Homecoming stories
- A timeline on how far we've come together
- Volunteers who made it all possible!



All of Us Together

Making history with the capital campaign

In December, we announced a major milestone on our journey, raising \$35 million toward our \$40 million private capital campaign goal to fund Dorothy Day Place! Nearly 400 individuals, corporations and foundations have contributed to the campaign, which 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 Brainerd of HealthPartners and Andy Cecere 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 to the campaign is changing lives—thank you! Higher Ground Saint Paul is now open because of your generosity, and we eagerly anticipate the day when we can celebrate the completion of the campaign and the full transformation of Dorothy Day Place!



Target has generously committed over \$2 million to support the new Dorothy Day Place! Target's partnership with Catholic Charities goes back more than 30 years—this incredible gift builds on decades of volunteerism and philanthropic funding to improve the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors.



Jerome and Patricia Hartlaub are longtime friends and generous donors to Catholic Charities. Their strong commitment to helping us build Dorothy Day Place is special for a few reasons—not only is it the most significant gift that they have made to Catholic Charities, it is also leveraging significant matching gifts from the Medtronic Foundation.



Briggs and Morgan, P.A. is approaching its gift in a unique way! The firm's generous contribution will be matched by contributions from current and former firm members, all with a goal of making a larger contribution that will honor M.J. Galvin, Jr., a community and legal icon and a longtime firm partner.

"I know I'm going to be happy here. I need to pinch myself to know this is real!"

Markeus moves in



Standing outside of his new home in Catholic Charities' Higher Ground Saint Paul, Markeus fumbled with his keys and said "I cannot imagine anything making me happier than this."

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

Markeus 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.

"It's not a fun experience when you're out on the street. I know I'm going to be happy here," he laughed. "I need to pinch myself to know this is real!"

"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



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.



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 impacts thousands of lives each year, she doesn't often get a front row seat on 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 emergency shelter for 280 men and women each night.



Amy went from sleeping on the floor at Dorothy Day Center to a fourth floor home at Higher Ground Saint Paul. It's been about two years since Amy has had keys of her own, but she believes the stability and security of Higher Ground Saint Paul and her own positive attitude will help her rise above.

Eddie, 70, held 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.

Bedding blessings

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

e chaplain by trade washed, dried, folded, and prayed over all 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.

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.

ey 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 Residence.

All of us together have come so far, help us reach the next step



