A home provides room to dream

Melvin, 57, is a college student working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in business management. He has dreams, and a need to overcome barriers.

Formerly homeless, he once relied on Catholic Charities’ Dorothy Day Center and Mary Hall for a place to sleep. Now, he is thankful for a stable place to call home at Catholic Charities’ St. Paul Residence. There, he has a room to call his own, but Melvin has never forgotten what it was like to sleep on those mats at Dorothy Day Center, one of up to 250 bodies squeezed together on cold, tiled floors.

“I would pray on my mat every night. People would laugh at me. I was trying to pray myself out of there,” he said. “It was rough in the beginning, but things started working out.”

When Melvin needed to write a paper about an organization for his Principles of Management Class at school, he wrote about Catholic Charities, and the need for a new vision for the Dorothy Day Center.

Seeing the walls going up on Higher Ground Saint Paul gives him hope for better days ahead for those who are struggling.

“Entering permanent housing and resources to get jobs,” he said. “Higher Ground Saint Paul will be the place to stay; it’s going to be something totally different.”

A new future is taking shape

When I look through our office window at the Dorothy Day Center, I see the outline of the new Higher Ground Saint Paul building taking shape. Every day it seems a new detail is added. And every day, I am reminded that we are one step closer to a new vision that will help transform so many lives.

During these cold winter months, I realize how fortunate we are to live in a community that cares. Thanks to you, we are helping provide a safe and warm place for people to get the support they need to move forward with their lives. Maybe it is a home of their own, or a job that will help them gain independence. Each person—regardless of circumstances—is given a chance for a better life.

You are helping to build a strong foundation on which, together, we can build a brighter future for everyone in our community.

Thank you!

Wendy Boppert
Program Manager, Dorothy Day Center

Family bonding best done under one roof

Alfred is going through an adjustment period, but there’s a smile on his face nonetheless. In a matter of months, he went from living by himself in a dorm-like room at Catholic Charities’ St. Christopher Place to raising three children on his own at Catholic Charities’ Visitation Place, which provides affordable, permanent housing for low-income adults and families.

The 38-year-old single father says he’s playing “Mr. Mom” getting three children ready for school each day, doing homework together, making dinner and hanging out with them before bed each night.

“I feel good about knowing they have a decent roof over their head and they have good food to eat,” Alfred said.

For me, the fact that I get to see how they’re growing up, it’s tough, but I knew I didn’t have another choice but to step up to the plate,” he said. “Being a dad, it’s stressful, but it’s fun at the same time. They make me laugh.”

His kids praise his cooking skills. After all, Alfred did attend culinary school and used to work in kitchens. The kids list gnocchi and spaghetti as their favorite meals. Alfred said he feels fortunate to be able to raise his family at Visitation Place.

Seeing the walls going up on Higher Ground Saint Paul seems a new detail is added. And every day, I am reminded that we are one step closer to a new vision that will help transform so many lives.

When Melvin needed to write a paper about an organization for his Principles of Management Class at school, he wrote about Catholic Charities, and the need for a new vision for the Dorothy Day Center.

“Entering permanent housing and resources to get jobs,” he said. “Higher Ground Saint Paul will be the place to stay; it’s going to be something totally different.”

A new future is taking shape

When I look through our office window at the Dorothy Day Center, I see the outline of the new Higher Ground Saint Paul building taking shape. Every day it seems a new detail is added. And every day, I am reminded that we are one step closer to a new vision that will help transform so many lives.

During these cold winter months, I realize how fortunate we are to live in a community that cares. Thanks to you, we are helping provide a safe and warm place for people to get the support they need to move forward with their lives. Maybe it is a home of their own, or a job that will help them gain independence. Each person—regardless of circumstances—is given a chance for a better life.

You are helping to build a strong foundation on which, together, we can build a brighter future for everyone in our community.

Thank you!

Wendy Boppert
Program Manager, Dorothy Day Center
You provide a holistic approach to health and housing

It’s hard to imagine experiencing homelessness on the streets, even harder to imagine navigating the city—and the system—without the benefit of sight.

It was reality for Jeffrey, 57. He was homeless on the streets, even harder to imagine navigating a medical care program at Exodus is for people who aren’t considered ill enough to be hospitalized but are too ill to recover from illness or injury on the streets or in a homeless shelter. At Exodus, Jeffrey had his own room where he could stay while recuperating. He had the support of nurses who ensured he took the proper medication. He had three meals served daily. Recovery and living a healthful life was his focus.

Jeffrey’s surgery was a success and he now enjoys clear vision without the need for glasses.

“Moving up to the fifth floor at Higher Ground was kind of an upgrade. It made me feel better about myself,” he said. “Coming to Higher Ground excited me so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground is a blessing, it really is.”

The choir has grown, both in members and in esteem. They inspired a standing ovation when they sang at the groundbreaking ceremony for Higher Ground Saint Paul, part of the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center. When they performed at Catholic Charities’ Saint Nicholas Annual Dinner, they got a natural high from the experience, happily singing together in the bus from Minneapolis back to Saint Paul.

Douglass Mackabee works with clients at Mary Hall; he’s also a singer in the choir. Since the Dorothy Day Choir Project started last summer, Mackabee says he has seen people transform in positive ways.

“The choir has grown, both in members and in esteem. They inspired a standing ovation when they sang at the groundbreaking ceremony for Higher Ground Saint Paul, part of the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center. When they performed at Catholic Charities’ Saint Nicholas Annual Dinner, they got a natural high from the experience, happily singing together in the bus from Minneapolis back to Saint Paul.

Douglass Mackabee works with clients at Mary Hall; he’s also a singer in the choir. Since the Dorothy Day Choir Project started last summer, Mackabee says he has seen people transform in positive ways.

“I look forward to it every week, it’s a good way to interact with clients in a positive way,” he said.

Catholic Charities’ Office for Social Justice organizes advocates throughout the community to create change through grassroots efforts. Support us this legislative session. Sign up for Action Alerts at cctwincities.org/advocacy to learn more about the issues and how you can take action for those living in poverty. All of us together can make a difference!

To learn more about Margaret, Beverly, Daniel and Pamela, please visit cctwincities.org/choir
You provide a holistic approach to health and housing

It’s hard to imagine experiencing homelessness on the streets, even harder to imagine navigating the city—and the system—without the benefit of sight.

It was reality for Jeffrey. He was sleeping in a bathtub at Catholic Charities’ Higher Ground Minneapolis shelter and had been experiencing diminished vision for more than a year.

Jeffrey struggled to find his way from the shelter to the places he needed to go, such as Catholic Charities’ Opportunity Center and Hennepin County Medical Center. When his caregivers realized Jeffrey’s predicament, it was suggested he move to Catholic Charities’ Exodus Residence.

Jeffrey needed cataract surgery and living to Catholic Charities’ Exodus Residence. Jeffrey needed cataract surgery and could only move to Catholic Charities’ Opportunity Center shelter to the places he needed to go, such as Catholic Charities’ Opportunity Center and Hennepin County Medical Center. When his caregivers realized Jeffrey’s predicament, it was suggested he move to Catholic Charities’ Exodus Residence.

Jeffrey returned to Higher Ground Minneapolis, not to the shelter, but to a home of his own on the fifth floor.

At Exodus, Jeffrey had his own room in which he could stay while recuperating. He had the support of nurses who ensured he took the proper medication. He had three meals served daily. Recovery and living in a beautiful, clean environment for the first time was a blessing for him.

Jeffrey’s surgery was a success and he now enjoys clear vision without the need for glasses.

“I was excited so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground was kind of an upgrade. It made me feel better about myself,” Jeffrey said. “Coming to Higher Ground excited me so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground is a blessing, it really is.”

The medical care program at Exodus is for people who aren’t considered ill enough to be hospitalized but are still too recover from illness or injury on the streets or in a homeless shelter.

Jeffrey returned to Higher Ground Minneapolis, not to the shelter, but to a home of his own on the fifth floor.

The church at Exodus is a beautiful place for people to come and worship. Jeffrey’s surgery was a success and he now enjoys clear vision without the need for glasses.

“I was excited so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground was kind of an upgrade. It made me feel better about myself,” Jeffrey said. “Coming to Higher Ground excited me so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground is a blessing, it really is.”

Amidst the challenges and the worry, there is something beautiful to be found in downtown Saint Paul.

Each Thursday night since last summer, the voices of those experiencing homelessness rise in song. And with these voices, the Dorothy Day Choir Project is seeing rising confidence, increased self-esteem and pride.

The choir has grown, both in members and in esteem. They inspired a standing ovation when they sang at the groundbreaking ceremony for Higher Ground Saint Paul, part of the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center. When they performed at Catholic Charities’ St. Nicholas Annual Dinner, they got a natural high from the experience, happily singing together in the bus from Minneapolis back to Saint Paul.

Douglas Mackabee works with clients at Mary Hall; he’s also a singer in the choir. Since the Dorothy Day Choir Project started last summer, Mackabee says he has seen people transform in positive ways.

“I look forward to it every week, it’s a good way to interact with clients in a positive way,” he said.

The church at Exodus is a beautiful place for people to come and worship. Jeffrey’s surgery was a success and he now enjoys clear vision without the need for glasses.

“I was excited so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground was kind of an upgrade. It made me feel better about myself,” Jeffrey said. “Coming to Higher Ground excited me so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground is a blessing, it really is.”

Amidst the challenges and the worry, there is something beautiful to be found in downtown Saint Paul.

Each Thursday night since last summer, the voices of those experiencing homelessness rise in song. And with these voices, the Dorothy Day Choir Project is seeing rising confidence, increased self-esteem and pride.

The choir has grown, both in members and in esteem. They inspired a standing ovation when they sang at the groundbreaking ceremony for Higher Ground Saint Paul, part of the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center. When they performed at Catholic Charities’ St. Nicholas Annual Dinner, they got a natural high from the experience, happily singing together in the bus from Minneapolis back to Saint Paul.

Douglas Mackabee works with clients at Mary Hall; he’s also a singer in the choir. Since the Dorothy Day Choir Project started last summer, Mackabee says he has seen people transform in positive ways.

“I look forward to it every week, it’s a good way to interact with clients in a positive way,” he said.

The church at Exodus is a beautiful place for people to come and worship. Jeffrey’s surgery was a success and he now enjoys clear vision without the need for glasses.

“I was excited so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground was kind of an upgrade. It made me feel better about myself,” Jeffrey said. “Coming to Higher Ground excited me so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground is a blessing, it really is.”

Amidst the challenges and the worry, there is something beautiful to be found in downtown Saint Paul.

Each Thursday night since last summer, the voices of those experiencing homelessness rise in song. And with these voices, the Dorothy Day Choir Project is seeing rising confidence, increased self-esteem and pride.

The choir has grown, both in members and in esteem. They inspired a standing ovation when they sang at the groundbreaking ceremony for Higher Ground Saint Paul, part of the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center. When they performed at Catholic Charities’ St. Nicholas Annual Dinner, they got a natural high from the experience, happily singing together in the bus from Minneapolis back to Saint Paul.

Douglas Mackabee works with clients at Mary Hall; he’s also a singer in the choir. Since the Dorothy Day Choir Project started last summer, Mackabee says he has seen people transform in positive ways.

“I look forward to it every week, it’s a good way to interact with clients in a positive way,” he said.

The church at Exodus is a beautiful place for people to come and worship. Jeffrey’s surgery was a success and he now enjoys clear vision without the need for glasses.

“I was excited so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground was kind of an upgrade. It made me feel better about myself,” Jeffrey said. “Coming to Higher Ground excited me so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground is a blessing, it really is.”

Amidst the challenges and the worry, there is something beautiful to be found in downtown Saint Paul.

Each Thursday night since last summer, the voices of those experiencing homelessness rise in song. And with these voices, the Dorothy Day Choir Project is seeing rising confidence, increased self-esteem and pride.

The choir has grown, both in members and in esteem. They inspired a standing ovation when they sang at the groundbreaking ceremony for Higher Ground Saint Paul, part of the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center. When they performed at Catholic Charities’ St. Nicholas Annual Dinner, they got a natural high from the experience, happily singing together in the bus from Minneapolis back to Saint Paul.

Douglas Mackabee works with clients at Mary Hall; he’s also a singer in the choir. Since the Dorothy Day Choir Project started last summer, Mackabee says he has seen people transform in positive ways.

“I look forward to it every week, it’s a good way to interact with clients in a positive way,” he said.

The church at Exodus is a beautiful place for people to come and worship. Jeffrey’s surgery was a success and he now enjoys clear vision without the need for glasses.

“I was excited so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground was kind of an upgrade. It made me feel better about myself,” Jeffrey said. “Coming to Higher Ground excited me so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground is a blessing, it really is.”

Amidst the challenges and the worry, there is something beautiful to be found in downtown Saint Paul.

Each Thursday night since last summer, the voices of those experiencing homelessness rise in song. And with these voices, the Dorothy Day Choir Project is seeing rising confidence, increased self-esteem and pride.

The choir has grown, both in members and in esteem. They inspired a standing ovation when they sang at the groundbreaking ceremony for Higher Ground Saint Paul, part of the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center. When they performed at Catholic Charities’ St. Nicholas Annual Dinner, they got a natural high from the experience, happily singing together in the bus from Minneapolis back to Saint Paul.

Douglas Mackabee works with clients at Mary Hall; he’s also a singer in the choir. Since the Dorothy Day Choir Project started last summer, Mackabee says he has seen people transform in positive ways.

“I look forward to it every week, it’s a good way to interact with clients in a positive way,” he said.

The church at Exodus is a beautiful place for people to come and worship. Jeffrey’s surgery was a success and he now enjoys clear vision without the need for glasses.

“I was excited so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground was kind of an upgrade. It made me feel better about myself,” Jeffrey said. “Coming to Higher Ground excited me so much that it built me back up again. It gave me hope. Higher Ground is a blessing, it really is.”

Amidst the challenges and the worry, there is something beautiful to be found in downtown Saint Paul.

Each Thursday night since last summer, the voices of those experiencing homelessness rise in song. And with these voices, the Dorothy Day Choir Project is seeing rising confidence, increased self-esteem and pride.

The choir has grown, both in members and in esteem. They inspired a standing ovation when they sang at the groundbreaking ceremony for Higher Ground Saint Paul, part of the new vision for the Dorothy Day Center. When they performed at Catholic Charities’ St. Nicholas Annual Dinner, they got a natural high from the experience, happily singing together in the bus from Minneapolis back to Saint Paul.

Douglas Mackabee works with clients at Mary Hall; he’s also a singer in the choir. Since the Dorothy Day Choir Project started last summer, Mackabee says he has seen people transform in positive ways.

“I look forward to it every week, it’s a good way to interact with clients in a positive way,” he said.
Family bonding best done under one roof

Alfred is going through an adjustment period, but there’s a smile on his face nonetheless. In a matter of months, he went from living by himself in a dorm-like room at Catholic Charities’ St. Christopher Place to raising three children on his own at Catholic Charities’ Visitation Place. Now, Alfred has a room to call his own, and his kids can have same. A home provides room to dream.

A new future is taking shape

When I look through our office window at the Dorothy Day Center, I see the outline of the new Higher Ground Saint Paul building taking shape. Every day it seems a new detail is added. And every day, I am reminded that we are one step closer to a new vision that will help transform so many lives.

During these cold winter months, I realize how fortunate we are to live in a community that cares. Thanks to you, we are helping provide a safe and warm place for people to get the support they need to move forward with their lives. Maybe it is a home of their own, or a job that will help them gain independence. Each person — regardless of circumstances — is given a chance for a better life.

You are helping to build a strong foundation on which, together, we can build a brighter future for everyone in our community.

Thank you!

Wendy Boppert
Program Manager, Dorothy Day Center