

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

VOICE

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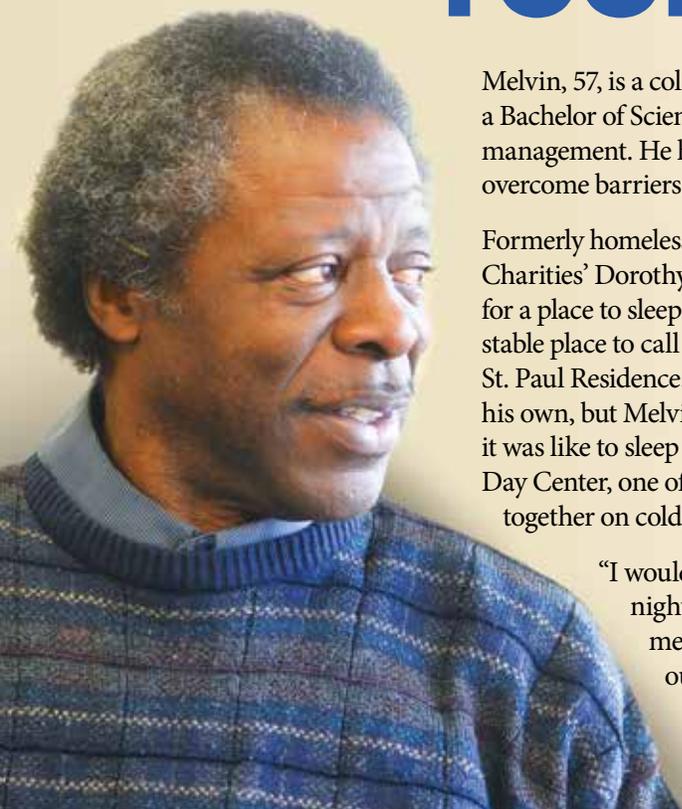
Homeward bound

Inside this issue:

- Honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Choir brings magic to Saint Paul
- The power of having a home

Construction continues on Catholic Charities' Higher Ground Saint Paul, scheduled to open Fall 2016. Follow the progress at DorothyDayCampaign.org

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.

"It will offer 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."

