

GAZETTE

Dear Friends,

August 27 marks my first anniversary as Grace House Executive Director. It's been an incredibly busy, productive and exciting year, all rolled into one. I've had the opportunity to meet nearly all of our awesome volunteers. Grace House simply could not function without this dedicated volunteer corps who comprise 50% of our workforce!

Individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness and personal crisis need stability and structure. For that very reason, we've recently instituted new chore and bedtime routines to help our guests develop consistent sleep schedules, while ensuring there's ample time for them to socialize and relax.

We are committed to providing the necessary resources and referrals that will help our guests get back on their feet again. KOOTASCA Community Action, Northland Counseling Center, Salvation Army and Minnesota Legal Aid hold regular "office hours" at Grace House each week to meet with our guests one-on-one. Individualized case management sessions are a primary factor in our guests' ability to be successful in their housing and employment searches.

This summer, students from the Minneapolis College of Art Design volunteered to create a marketing toolkit for Grace House. The beautiful new logo featured above is an accurate representation of Grace House: an independent shelter that provides a cozy, protective and nurturing environment. The students' design ideas have also been incorporated in our new website, which we plan to unveil within the next two weeks.

Participating in the Wild Rice Festival and Tall Timber Days Parade gave us the opportunity to thank Grace House's generous supporters. I got goose bumps hearing parade-goers clapping, cheering and thanking us for our work to serve individuals who are experiencing homelessness. These special events, along with the June 21 "Day of Action", have increased Grace House's visibility in the community, and heightened public awareness of the magnitude of homelessness in Itasca County.

I'm looking forward to celebrating many more anniversaries at Grace House, and to your continued involvement.

All my best,

*Sherry Shadley*

Executive Director

**A special thank you goes out to The Home Depot for donating a new patio table, chairs and umbrella to Grace House! This wonderful gift helps our shelter feel more like home to our guests.**

#### Volunteer Spotlight: A Miller Family Tradition

This month, we salute Candy Miller and her family for volunteering at Grace House. Candy often works the Afternoon/Evening Shift on Tuesdays, preparing homemade soups and casseroles for our guests. On the third Tuesday of every month, Candy heads over to the Cohasset Community Center to pick up food donated by Ruby's Pantry. She then personally delivers the food to Grace House, Community Café, Kiesler House and Midway Villa. In addition to her work at our shelter, Candy also volunteers at First Call for Help, Circles of Support and Wood for Fuel. Her grandson Anthony frequently helps out in our kitchen and is quickly becoming a junior chef-in-the-making. Candy's husband Greg has become an indispensable asset to Grace House. Greg has helped many of our guests by moving donated furniture to their new homes—regardless of the distance. Daughter Angela also got involved by providing foster care for several companion dogs while their owners stayed at Grace House. Thank you Candy, Greg, Angela and Anthony for everything you do for our guests. We hope you keep up this great family tradition!

#### Please mark your calendars for these important dates:

- ✓ **August 26 @ 6:30 p.m.** Volunteer Support Meeting
- ✓ **August 27 @ 1:30 p.m.** Volunteer Support Meeting
- ✓ **September 9 @ 5:30 p.m.** Volunteer Orientation Training

#### **Special Volunteer Alert:**

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grand Rapids is once again organizing **Itasca Community Connect**, a one-day event that connects people to needed resources and services. St. Joseph's is looking for **volunteers to fill 2 or 4 hour shifts**. Volunteers are needed to help set up, staff and tear down booths. This event will be held at the ICR Civic Center on October 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you are unable to volunteer, you can still make a difference in the lives of people experiencing homelessness by donating quilts, large fleece blankets, cookbooks (new and gently used) and personal care items. For more information, call Maryann Bartos at (218) 326-0974.

#### **Top Five Critical Needs:**

- (1). Fresh garden veggies (especially cucumbers)
- (2). Men's underwear in sizes M, LG, XL & XXL
- (3). Zippered vinyl mattress covers (Twin-size)
- (4). Cotton or flannel pajama pants
- (5). PG & PG-13 movies for our adult guests