

# GRACE House Gazette

June 12, 2013

Issue 1, Volume 8

Dear Friends,

June is already proving to be a busy and exciting month at GRACE House— one that is filled with plenty of collaborative projects and events. **Thursday, June 13**, marks the inauguration of **"There's No Place Like Home"**, a collaboration between GRACE House and Judy Garland Museum designed to raise public awareness about homelessness in our community.

"There's No Place Like Home" kicks off at the museum at 5:00 p.m. on the eve of the Judy Garland Festival weekend, with a free reception featuring wine and appetizers. With transportation provided by Arrowhead Transit, "There's No Place Like Home" participants will be shuttled to GRACE House at 6:00 p.m. for a soup line fundraiser. For a free-will offering, event participants will be treated to homemade soups, breads and pies as well as tours of our homey shelter. This event is an important reminder that everyone deserves a home!

We're teaming up with United Way of 1,000 Lakes on the **June 21 international "Day of Action"** to give GRACE House's exterior a much needed facelift. Our mutual goal is to recruit and mobilize 100 "Day of Action" community volunteers who will engage in activities such as: painting the shelter and fencing, gardening and landscaping projects, and assembling personal care packages for local agencies serving people who are homeless.

Additional volunteers are still needed to ensure completion of all these projects. Individuals, families, youth groups (ages 6-18), and teams of employees are encouraged to pre-register for the June 21 "Day of Action." Call GRACE House at 326-2790 to sign up for the 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. morning shift, the 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. afternoon shift, or both. Volunteers will receive a "Live United" T-shirt and a free lunch sponsored by Subway.

From mid June to the beginning of August, we'll collaborate with a team of talented students from the Minneapolis College of Art Design (MCAD) who are pursuing Master's of Fine Arts degrees. The students will create a new logo and other marketing tools to more effectively represent the mission of GRACE House and our vision for the future. MCAD students will also work with E3 Consulting Services to contribute photos and design ideas to enhance GRACE House's new website, which we hope will be launched at the end of this month. We are so pleased to be working with these students and we welcome their creativity and artistry.

Best Wishes,

*Sherry Shadley*

Executive Director

## Volunteer Spotlight:

GRACE House truly has an abundance of talented and committed volunteers. Every month, it gets tougher and tougher to narrow down which one of our fantastic volunteers to highlight in the newsletter. However, after talking with my staff team, one name kept coming to the top of our list...Cheryl Shepard. She is one of our most flexible and dependable volunteers, filling in on a number of overnight shifts when already scheduled volunteers become ill or run into last minute conflicts. A GRACE House volunteer since 2006, Cheryl's always willing to step up to the plate whenever she's needed. A busy grandmother, avid cook, and soccer enthusiast, Cheryl also regularly volunteers for a number of events held at United Methodist. Thank you, Cheryl, for your dedication to GRACE House and to the safety and well-being of the guests we serve. We appreciate your many years of service, and we look forward to many more.

### Important Dates To Remember

- June 13: "There's No Place Like Home" reception at the Judy Garland Museum from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. followed by a soup-line fundraiser at GRACE House from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- June 21: Volunteer "Day of Action" at GRACE House from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- June 24 at 6:30 p.m. and June 27 at 1:30 p.m.: Volunteer Support Meetings
- July 8: Volunteer Orientation & Training from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

### MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

As many of you already know, **Tara Venema** is now serving as GRACE House's Program Director after Ami Bolster vacated the position to become a stay-at-home mom. Tara's doing a fantastic job and has adapted quickly and proficiently to her new responsibilities! **Jennifer Poore** was recently hired to fill the position of Administrative Assistant. Jen, who worked as a Behavior Technician in the Juvenile Division at Northland Counseling Center for more than three years, brings a wealth of experience working with individuals who are experiencing chemical dependency, mental illness, and homelessness. **Vanessa Eichorn** was also recently hired to serve as GRACE House's Overnight Site Supervisor. For the past six years, Vanessa has been working full-time as Esther House, a residential group home for adults who are living with persistent mental illness and chemical dependency. I hope you will join me in welcoming Jen and Vanessa to the GRACE House fold. I am confident you'll enjoy getting to know them. They will compliment the stellar work of GRACE House's Site Supervisors: **Tiffany Beckman, Heidi Madsen, and April Christensen**. I'm grateful to have such a talented, well-rounded and experienced staff team!

### Top Five Critical Needs List

Every month, we create a list of critically needed items in hopes they will be donated to GRACE House. Some items are re-occurring as they are things that our guests need most during their stay at the shelter. Here's what is needed most this month:

1. New jogging pants (M, L, & XL)
2. A 13" TV/DVD/VCR combo for use by preschool children during the day when their parents are working on housing and employment plans. **SECURED on June 29<sup>th</sup>**.
3. Women's underwear in sizes 6 through 8 (New only, please)
4. Women's socks
5. Children's fleece tie blankets