

GRACE House Gazette

July 12, 2013

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Dear Friends,

June 21, 2013 was a day of epic proportion for Grace House—one like none other I've ever experienced. More than 150 volunteers flocked to Itasca County's only homeless shelter on the first day of Summer to participate in United Way of 1000 Lake's inaugural "Day of Action."

It was amazing to see the outpouring of support for, and interest in, giving Grace House's facility and grounds a complete makeover. Teams of volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the day to paint the building, install a new vegetable garden, plant flowers and grass seed and add mulch to trees and landscaping.

I will never forget how virtual strangers came together to make this "Day of Action" such a rewarding and memorable experience. I am especially grateful to the legion of businesses, organizations and agencies that encouraged their employees, members and clients to volunteer: Essar Steel, Expert Building Services, Minnesota Power, Lakehead Construction, KMK Construction, KOOTASCA Community Action, Salvation Army, Itasca County Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Northland Counseling Center, Kiesler House, Midway Villa, ODC, North Homes Inc., MDI, Blandin Foundation, United Way of 1000 Lakes, University of Minnesota Extension Service, Deer River Northstars 4-H, Minuteman Press, Peer House, Support within Reach, Terex Corporation, and Affinity Plus Credit Union.

An army of Grace House volunteers filled many pivotal roles throughout the "Day of Action". Most notably, members of our Building Committee were instrumental in planning the day's logistics and providing supervision and direction to everyone who participated. My heartfelt thanks to GRACE House Building Committee Members John Schirber, Al Zachman and Kevin Krautkramer for all they did to make this massive undertaking safe and enjoyable.

Special thanks goes out to the following "Day of Action" sponsors and businesses that supplied vital equipment, services, and products: Expert Building Services, Essar Steel, Terex Corporation, Subway, KMFY & KOZY, Arrow Embroidery & Screen Printing, L& M Supply, Sherwin Williams, Bloomer's Garden Center & Landscaping, Dan's Greenhouse, Grand Rapids Greenhouse, and McDonald's.

On behalf of Grace House's board and staff, I would like to thank United Way of 1000 Lakes for choosing GRACE House to be the beneficiary of this awe-inspiring, community-supported endeavor!

Best Wishes,

Sherry Shadley

Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight:

Although he hasn't been volunteering as long as some of our seasoned veterans, **Dave Roerick's** service to Grace House is unmistakable. In addition to filling countless volunteer shifts, he eagerly makes himself available to help us out whenever he's needed. Most recently, Dave spent the better part of his day traveling to Duluth to load and deliver Valspar Foundation paint products used during the June 21 "Day of Action." The morning of the event, he was busily picking up last-minute supplies and donations. Dave also regularly helps Candy Miller, another highly valued volunteer; deliver Grace House's food donations from Ruby's Pantry. Dave's community commitment is well-evidenced by his ongoing volunteer service with many nonprofits organizations, including: Circles of Support, RSVP, Habitat for Humanity, Advocates for Family Peace, Knights of Columbus, Minnesota Forestry Association, Let's Go Fishing with Seniors, 12-Step Leadership Program, and Pastoral Council. Thank you, Dave, for everything you do to help individuals break the cycles of homelessness, domestic violence, poverty, and chemical dependency.

Important Volunteer Training Opportunities:

July 22 @ 6:30 p.m. — Grace House Evening Monthly Volunteer Support Meeting

July 21 @ 1:30 p.m. — Grace House Afternoon Monthly Volunteer Support Meeting

July 30 @ 5:00 p.m. — CPR & First Aid Training (Please RSVP immediately as participation is limited to the first 16 registrants)

August 13 @ 5:30 p.m. — Volunteer Orientation Training

New Volunteer Opportunities:

Tall Timber Days Parade (Sunday, August 4th @ 1:00 p.m.):

Please walk with us in the parade to help show our gratitude for our community's ongoing and generous support of Grace House. For information on parade route logistics email: april@gracehousemn.org.

Bedtime Storytellers:

Considering the volume of families who've been staying at Grace House over the past year, we're actively recruiting volunteers who are available to spend an hour reading books to children from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. We've recently instituted a new Quiet Time Policy that's designed to enable parents to establish a structured bedtime routine for their children. Bedtime storytellers will provide a critical service by reading to children while their parents are completing nightly chores and/or preparing them for bath time (7:30 to 8:00 p.m.). Bedtime storytellers need no special training—just a love of children and an interest in promoting literacy. If you're interested in becoming a bedtime storyteller, call Tara or Jen at 326-2790 for more details.

Special Events Photographers:

We're looking for 1-2 volunteers with flexible schedules who can take photos during special Grace House events. Prospective volunteers will be asked to bring standard or digital cameras to planned events to take photos that can be uploaded to Grace House's new website. If interested, please call Sherry at 326-2790.

Top 5 Critical Needs Lists:

- 1. Plastic/resin or sturdy lawn chairs**
- 2. New bath towels w/matching wash cloths**
- 3. Women's underwear (Size 5-7)**
- 4. Tomato cages (for our garden)**
- 5. Men's boxers/underwear (S,L,XL)**