

Dear Friends,

On October 23 we learned that the **\$8.6 million Beacon Hill affordable housing proposal was approved** by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency! The 48-unit affordable housing project is the vision of the Itasca County Housing Institute Team, comprised of Grace House, Northland Counseling Center, Itasca County Housing & Redevelopment Authority, MN Department of Corrections, Itasca County Health & Human Services, KOOTASCA Community Action and Itasca County Probation. Construction is slated to begin next spring with an anticipated completion date of early 2016. Beacon Hill will help former Grace House guests break the cycle of homelessness by securing safe, affordable housing.

Grace House's third and final mortgage payment is due December 15, 2014. We hope we may count on your support to help pay off our building loan in a record-breaking three-year period. Consider making a donation during the **November 13 "Give to the Max Day"**. This designated day of online philanthropy is your chance to support causes in our community that are near and dear to your heart. Please visit [www.GiveMN.org](http://www.GiveMN.org) and enter "Grace House of Itasca County" in the *Find a Cause* search field. Your donation will help us continue providing supportive services and individualized attention that enable our guests to move from homelessness into stable housing and employment. Volunteers from local nonprofits will offer technical assistance at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (GRACF) from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on November 13 to help donors navigate through the online giving process.

Grace House and members of the Housing Issues Advisory Committee (HIAC) invite you participate in our annual **"One Night without a Home" walk on Wednesday, November 19** in observation of National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (November 15-23). Participants will gather at Grace House at 3:30 p.m. and walk to Old Central School and return to the shelter for an old-fashioned soup line. The walk will raise awareness of the pressing issues of hunger and homelessness in our community and nationwide.

Please make plans to join us **Saturday, December 6** for Grace House's **9th Annual "Home Is Where the Heart Is" Dinner Dance** at Timberlake Lodge from 5:00 to 11:00 PM. Our signature fundraiser includes a scrumptious champagne chicken dinner, silent and live auctions, door prizes, raffle drawings, and music by The Groove Merchants. "Home Is Where the Heart Is" helps raise critical funds that enable Grace House to provide safe, temporary shelter for 200-300 individuals and families each year while they search for homes to call their own. Tickets can be purchased at Reed Drug and Grace House by calling [\(218\) 326-2790](tel:2183262790). Tickets purchased before November 29 are \$50 per person and \$55 per person afterward.

All my best,

*Sherry Shadley*

Executive Director

### **Volunteer Spotlight:**

This month, we salute Miriam "Mimi" Eisele for her commitment to Grace House over the past eight years. In addition to serving as an overnight volunteer at our shelter, Mimi's dedication to community service is demonstrated by her active involvement with Elder Circle, Habitat for Humanity, Itasca Community Connect and Zion Lutheran Church. Mimi has served on the board of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Mimi and her husband Gerald live on Pokegama Lake, but spend their winters in Twin Cities to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Thank you, Mimi, for your contributions of service to Grace House and the greater Grand Rapids community. We will miss your presence at Grace House and sunny disposition this winter.

### **Please Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates:**

- November 12, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. — Itasca County Housing Institute Team & Maxfield Research unveil the 2014 Grand Rapids Comprehensive Housing Market Study at Blandin Foundation Institute. This event is open to the public.
- November 13, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. — "Give to the Max Day" at GRACF and [www.GiveMN.org](http://www.GiveMN.org).
- November 19, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. — "One Night without a Home" homelessness awareness walk from Grace House to Old Central School. Please join us at Grace House for homemade soups and breads afterward.
- November 24, 1:00 p.m. — "Coffee, Chocolates & Conversation" Volunteer Support Meeting.
- November 25, 5:30 p.m. — "Coffee, Chocolates & Conversation" Volunteer Support Meeting.
- December 1, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. — Monthly Church Coordinator Meeting
- December 6, 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. — 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Home Is Where the Heart Is" Dinner Dance at Timberlake Lodge.
- December 8 @ 5:30 p.m. — Volunteer Orientation & Training

### **Top 5 Critical Needs List:**

1. Men's **new** underwear in sizes S, M & L
2. Women's **new** underwear in sizes 6, 7 & 8
4. H.E. laundry detergent
5. Sweatpants in all sizes

3. Whole turkeys and hams for holiday meals at Grace House