



Anawim

HOUSING

4th Quarter Newsletter 2011

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OUR NAME

BY RUSS FRAZIER, ANAWIM HOUSING PRESIDENT

Even after nearly a quarter century of service we still hear many questions about the name Anawim; along with a few different pronunciations. I am often asked about the origin and meaning of the word Anawim. My typical response is to

give a very formal dictionary description of this Hebrew word. However, I have come to realize that each time someone asks about our name it is an opportunity to share a story about the important work that Anawim Housing is doing each day.

Anawim
means home
to more than
450 families.

Through the growth of our property management and program services,

Anawim Housing is serving more families today than ever before and as we move

into 2012 that number will continue to increase. It must increase because the need for the kind of safe, affordable housing that Anawim supplies in this community continues to grow as well.

So now we have an easier answer to those questions about our name. An answer that defines a mission not just a word - Anawim means home to more than 450 families.

ANAWIM HOUSING MANAGEMENT EXPANDS!

Anawim Housing is excited to be partnering with Christ The King Catholic Parish on Des Moines's south side to provide affordable housing for senior citizens. Anawim will be managing 28 units set to open by February 2012 to serve seniors in the Des Moines community.

Christ The King's Monsignor Bognanno is glad to join with Anawim. "We looked at other Management companies and we chose [Anawim] because they are local and also because they are easy to work with," Bognanno said. "They have a heart for the type of thing we are doing which is to help senior citizens who are of limited income, and that is part of the mission of Anawim."

The 28 units in the Christ The King housing project will be 1-2 bedrooms. The project was largely developed by the late Sister Stella Neill who played a major role in bringing Anawim and Christ The King together.

Visit our website at www.anawimhousing.org to see a short interview with Msgr. Bognanno.



GET TO KNOW A *Tenant:*

THE OTHER KIDS OF ANAWIM

Since its beginning in 1987, Anawim Housing has created over 376 homes for Des Moines residents giving hundreds of children safe, welcoming and stable homes. But Anawim also affects 32 other children's lives every day. These are the children of the Anawim employees.

These children and young adults have grown up understanding the organization's mission and values. They see their parents working hard to create affordable homes and safe communities. Even if they aren't old enough to understand the entire scope of Anawim's work, they are still able to understand that their parents are helping people.

Arwen Chaplin, manager of Pioneer Woods Housing units, has two children ages 13 and 6. They've followed in their mother's footsteps and begun altruistic work at young ages.

"One of the things my boys and I never participated in before we came to Anawim was volunteer work," Arwen said. As vice president of the Pioneer Park Neighborhood Association Board, Arwen always is volunteering for her community and enjoys having her boys join her. From Easter egg hunts to donating to local shelters and pantries, Arwen and her boys are willing to help out.

Through every day work, as well as putting in extra volunteer hours, Anawim employees hope to pass on a humanitarian spirit to their children.

As Arwen said: "I think it teaches them to give back and also shows them that they don't have it so bad."

Jodi Bailey's Anawim story has had as many ups and downs as any other tenant. Before coming to Anawim, Jodi turned to the Family Violence Center and another housing organization, Home Connection, for a two-year lease program. She left her schooling and clerical job in the medical field due to financial reasons and the need to care for her four boys. As her Home Connection lease was ending, Jodi met Anawim Senior Housing Manager Monica Muhammad who worked one-on-one with Jodi during the application process and was excited to place her and her family in one of the newly built townhomes on Forest Avenue.

But as Jodi's move-in date drew closer, Monica still hadn't received the rental certificate from the city of Des Moines. There was a frantic rush to complete everything on time because part of Anawim's mission is to ensure that tenants start out with as positive an experience as possible. "Making sure a unit is ready for a tenant is always my greatest concern," Monica said.

Everything came through, and Jodi and her family moved in at the beginning of September. Jodi has been very pleased with the relationship Anawim has with its tenants.

"I have friends who have been tenants for 13 years, so I know it is an excellent program," Jodi said.

Keeping an open relationship with tenants is important, according to Monica. "Anawim believes families need stable housing to have stable lives," she said. "Tenants need to feel they can communicate about concerns and needs, so we can all work together to help them succeed."



FOCUS: CELIA AND TOM MAHONEY

For the past 24 years, Anawim Housing has been building a Legacy in the Des Moines Community as a non-profit leader in quality, affordable housing. That Legacy stands on the work and dedication of Sr. Stella, our staff and our incredible Board of Directors. We have been fortunate that many of our Board Members have been involved on some level with the organization since we were founded, while most of our past Board Members remain involved as well. Included in this long list of men and women are Celia and Tom Mahoney.

Tom's service to Anawim Housing began over ten years ago as a volunteer when ITA supported a playground reconstruction on 6th Avenue. Back then, he was the Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing Leadership for ITA; now he is their CEO and still finds time to Chair the Anawim Housing Board of Directors.

For Tom, like so many of our other Board Members, Board Service isn't just a one-person job. He has engaged his entire family in the Mission of Anawim Housing. In 2008, while his youngest son was a Freshman at Dowling Catholic High School, he wrapped the school into a service project on several of our homes along 12th Street. The children, including Michael Mahoney, were able to take pride in cleaning up the neighborhood while also feeling a sense of community. "Our family is involved in Anawim more than any other organization in the community other than church and school. All three of our children have been involved in and been touched by Anawim in one way or another", says Tom.

Celia reiterates the sentiment, "It is important to us that our children know the importance of making a difference in the lives of others and that home really is everything. We have been so blessed and those blessings need to be passed on to other families".

Celia and Tom both understand the importance of providing safe, quality homes to people of lower incomes, and Tom stresses, "Logically we get the importance, but on an emotional level it is so critical to feel like we are making a difference and with the work our family engages in with Anawim, we really do feel that way".

In August, we celebrated the opening of 16 new townhomes along Forest Avenue. We had great support from the community at the ribbon cutting ceremony and are pleased to say that already eight of the homes are filled with families who now call Anawim home. The final eight will be home to families by the end of the year.

Anawim continues to diversify through the Forest and Field building project with 20 new townhomes the east side of Des Moines and eight more next to our offices on Forest Avenue. It is funded by low income housing tax credits and will be ready to occupy by fall of 2012.

In 2012 we will celebrate our 25th year of providing stable housing and strong communities. To kick off the anniversary year, we are working with advertising agency Flynn Wright to launch a campaign to spread the word about our mission. The more people that know what we do, the more families we can serve.

Anawim Housing currently manages over 450 homes in the Des Moines community. Through all of the generosity of the community and the commitment of our Board of Directors and staff, we are able to be the organization which helps over 1,200 people a year have a place to call home. Yet our work is not even close to complete. More people need more homes. Through our 25th Anniversary Sister Stella Neill Legacy Campaign, we hope to be able to do just that – empower more families to have the stability of a safe and desirable home. Stay tuned for this and our messaging campaign. 2012 will be an exciting year for Anawim Housing and the families we serve!

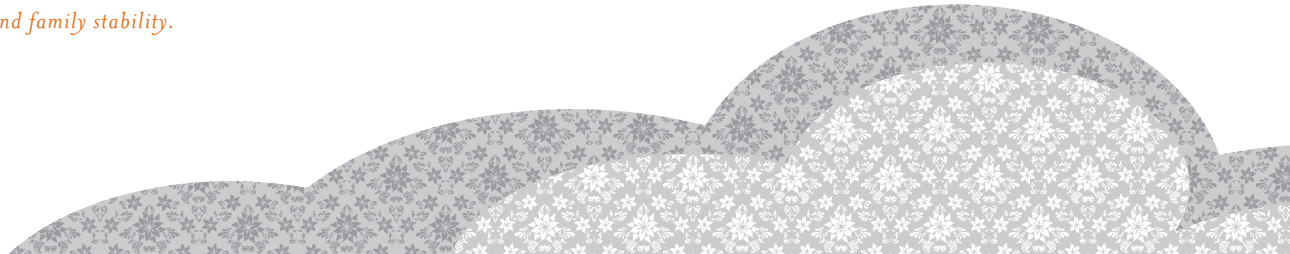




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www.anawimhousing.org

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Anawim Housing recognizes that if families can quickly access safe, affordable and permanent housing, they stand a much stronger chance of reclaiming financial and family stability.



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- | | |
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