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Anawim Housing is building
stability to rebuild lives
through safe and stable
homes for families.



Anawim HOUSING

Fall Newsletter 2014

2024 Forest Avenue, Suite 101 • Des Moines, IA 50311 • phn: 515.244.8308 • email: info@anawimhousing.org • www.anawimhousing.org



DYK – A FEW FACTS ABOUT ANAWIM HOUSING

BY RUSS FRAZIER, ANAWIM HOUSING PRESIDENT

Each week I send out an email to our Board, staff and other friends that feature a quick “Did You Know” fact about Anawim Housing. These facts help to highlight the important work we do and the ongoing need for affordable housing in our community. Below are a few of the DYK emails.

- Did you know that when Anawim Housing’s waitlists are full we have to turn away approximately 20 families a day? A majority of the families that come into Anawim looking for a home are seeking a two bedroom unit or larger. Those units fill fast and the demand is consistently high – 20 families a day, 100 families a week looking for a safe, affordable place to call home.
- Did you know that a majority of Anawim families fall in between 30-50% of the median income for the Des Moines area? For a family of four, this means earning between \$22,340 and \$37,450 for the year. At Anawim, we make sure these families have a place to call home that they can afford. Our rents are set so that families in these income ranges will be able to spend an affordable percentage (30% or less) of their income on housing.

- Did you know that affordable housing and children’s intellectual abilities are positively linked? According to a study done by Johns Hopkins University, children who grow up in affordable housing (30% of household income spent on rent), are more likely to have better cognitive outcomes.
- Did you know that a family with one full-time minimum wage worker cannot afford market rent anywhere in the United States? According to HUD, around 12 million families in the United States (renters and homeowners) pay over 50% of their income on housing. Paying over 30% of your income on housing is considered unaffordable.
- Did you know that, according to the *Cost of Living in Iowa 2014 Edition*, over half of the jobs in Iowa pay less than what is needed for many families in central Iowa to achieve basic self sufficiency? Self sufficiency is the basic needs of childcare, housing and transportation.

- Did you know that in order for a minimum wage earner to afford an average two-bedroom rent in Iowa he or she must work 73 hours a week?

Want to learn more? Sign up for our weekly DYK email by contacting mkippp@anawimhousing.org.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to make a donation for the tenant holiday party this year, please contact Tiffany King by December 1st. (tking@anawimhousing.org or 515.244.8308 ext. 119). Suggested donations include kitchen items (small appliances, dishware), bed sheets and blankets, vacuum cleaners, bath and beauty products, gift certificates and gas cards, spa and health services, home décor, and other household items.

Over \$155,000 was raised through the Principal Charity Classic’s Birdies for Charity program this year! Thank you to all of our donors who gave to Anawim through Birdies for Charity.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2014 WOMEN EMPOWERING FAMILIES THANKSGIVING EVENT: **NOVEMBER 13!**

LEARN MORE AT WWW.ANAWIMHOUSING.ORG/GIVE-HERE/WEF-ANNUAL-THANKSGIVING-EVENT



DONATE
— THE DIFFERENCE —

A big thank you to this year’s DTD sponsors:

Mr. B Clothing, Bankers Trust, Entrepreneurial Technologies, KCCI 8 Des Moines, Malo, McGladrey, and TownCrier.

A Special thanks to our presenting sponsor Mr. B Clothing for hosting an awesome \$100 for \$100 event in support of Donate the Difference.

Don’t worry; you can still participate in Donate the Difference by going online to www.anawimhousing.org/dtd



Pictured is a special event Mr. B Clothing held in support of Donate the Difference.

MEET THE ANAWIM HOUSING BOARD CHAIRS

MICHELE WHITTY

Chair, Operating Board
Training Consultant, Tero International



WHY ANAWIM?

I'd like to say I was smart enough to recognize Anawim's good work in our community, but actually, Bill McCabe walked into my office eight years ago and thought it might be a good idea for my husband and I to

consider financially supporting Anawim. Because we respected Bill, we did just that. When Mary Nelson asked us to attend an Anawim home tour, we were hooked! The homes and properties were impressive.

WHAT DOES HOME MEAN TO YOU?

To me, HOME is a landing pad where I've always felt secure, safe and grateful.

WHAT DOES ANAWIM DO FOR DES MOINES?

Anawim has a reputation as a leader in development and management of affordable housing in Des Moines. Anawim's influence has been a key asset in initiating revitalization and stabilizing several city neighborhoods. Anawim

provides safe, affordable housing for over 630 families in our Des Moines community with options for supportive services and programs to assist them in staying in their homes - which no other affordable housing organization offers!

HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK A STABLE HOME IS IN A FAMILY/CHILD'S WELL-BEING?

Home is a basic factor for family stability. Our children experienced moves to six different homes in three cities during their childhood. The change, disruption, anxiety, that can come with a physical move is minimized when a family has housing options suitable for their family situation and people who support them.

KEVIN WAETKE

Chair, Foundation Board
VP of Strategic Communications,
National Pork Board



WHY ANAWIM?

I have been involved with Anawim since 1999. I joined the board purely due to the connection between developing affordable housing and the role it plays in stabilizing families. I was

invited to join the board by a Sister of Mercy in 1999 while I was working in the energy industry. The connection between providing utilities and maintaining a home was obvious. But over the years, as I moved from the energy industry to appliance manufacturing to home mortgage - the mission of Anawim was something that just naturally fit

where I was. Anawim has done so much for so many in the Des Moines area. I appreciate playing a small role in that history.

WHAT DOES HOME MEAN TO YOU?

It's simple: home is where you feel safe and secure. A home is more than four walls and a roof. It is the central gathering place for families. In short, having a place to call "home" provides the much needed foundation that allows a family to flourish. Children grow up and move away from "home" but they always remember home. And they leave to create one of their own.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY OF THE PLACE YOU CALLED HOME AT THAT TIME?

I grew up on a family farm. My home was built in 1880, and here I was 100 years later "growing up" in it. What I most remember is the family history that played out in this home throughout several generations. My home was not just a house, but a farm where we all

worked hard and where the extended family regularly gathered together for life celebrations and holidays. I recall having a lot of fun. So what I remember most is not so much the physical structure of the home - as that changed from decade to decade - but the sense of history and family connection that home offered.

HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK A STABLE HOME IS IN A FAMILY/CHILD'S WELL-BEING?

Studies have shown that there is nothing more important to a child's sense of well-being and self-esteem than their personal understanding of feeling loved and that they belong. If you take away a place for them to call home, you take away a child's sense of stability. If a child doesn't feel "at home" then they have difficulty focusing in school and building relationships. Additionally, this sense of stability transfers to how they view life. Home is vital and the feeling it provides starts young and is carried by a child as they mature.

THE FAMILIES WHO CALL ANAWIM HOUSING HOME



JENNIFER'S STORY

When Jennifer and her three boys came to Des Moines, they lived in a shelter together for three months while she searched for housing they could afford. Jennifer found Anawim and moved into a refurbished three bedroom duplex. With a stable home and a great support system, Jennifer was able to build their lives in Des Moines. Since she has lived with Anawim, she has gotten her CNA, found a full time job and will work towards her advanced CNA in the near future.



ALYCIA'S STORY

Alycia, single mother of six, came to Anawim Housing over 10 years ago. To her, Anawim has been a permanent solution where she can safely raise her children. Instead of always searching for the next place to live, she was able to focus on the education and livelihood of her children and herself. As Alycia's family grew, she was able to move into larger Anawim homes; she now lives in a large four bedroom single family home. Alycia is currently at DMACC studying to obtain her Human Services degree.

THE ANNUAL WOMEN EMPOWERING FAMILIES THANKSGIVING EVENT



Each year, Anawim Housing's Women Empowering Families group puts on a thanksGIVING event that raises money and supports Anawim's Supportive Services. Each guest is asked to bring an unwrapped gift that will be given out at the annual tenant family holiday party in December. This year's event will be held on November 13. If you would like to attend the November event or if you would like to learn

more about getting involved with Women Empowering Families, please contact Molli Kipp at mkipp@anawimhousing.org.

Pictured above are our 2014 WEF Committee members hard at work. This year's committee members are: Sarah Bacehowski, Diane Todd Brown, Marilyn Carroll, LaNae Ceryanec, Christy Cownie, Caroline Fitzgerald, Sara Gaskell, Liz Goodman and Sheila Rayburn.

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