



THE ANAWIM HOUSING WOMEN EMPOWERING FAMILIES

ThanksGIVING event

Thursday, November 21st 5 - 7 PM

At The Thoreau Center • 3500 Kingman Blvd. Des Moines

Save the Date & Join Us! Guests are asked to please bring an unwrapped household item that will be donated to an Anawim Housing tenant moving into housing from homelessness. See our Amazon Wish List on our website for suggested donations!

RSVP: www.anawimhousing.org/announcements/15 or to Hannah Landgraf at 515-809-1156

ANAWIM HOUSING



ANAWIM
HOUSING

FALL 2019



ANAWIMHOUSING.ORG

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Des Moines, Iowa 50309



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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Research consistently shows that moving to a new home is one of life's most stressful events. The anxiety and pressure of finding a new home, coordinating logistics, packing, and physically moving items can cause a major disruption in our routine.

In August, Anawim Housing moved to 1535 Linden Street and felt that disruption firsthand. As we settle into our new space and unpack final boxes, we remember the people we serve and the stress they face when it comes to moving. For many of our tenants, behind the joy of move-in day is the trauma of being displaced and the stress of not knowing where their family might sleep the next night. At Anawim, we help reduce this stress by connecting tenants with a support system of program managers and advocates who work with each household to gain housing stability.

While the stress of moving offices has slowed, Anawim has also embarked on an organizational change. This August, we moved all of our property management operations under the name of our third-party management entity: Allterra Property Solutions. This change is immediately evident when you visit our new space. Come in the front door at 1535 Linden Street and you'll see a



Our New Office: 1535 Linden Street

bright yellow Anawim Housing door to your right and a green Allterra Property Solutions door to your left. This change has allowed us to provide a specific focus on our mission oriented work of providing permanent supportive housing solutions for our community's most vulnerable individuals and families.

Ensuring the stability of these households is one of the most vital roles we provide and we believe we must continue to strengthen our efforts on behalf of all those we serve. This focus further achieves our goal of better communicating Anawim's overall purpose to the community, our supporters and all those that have come to know the work of Anawim Housing.

RUSS FRAZIER
ANAWIM HOUSING



All revenue from Allterra Property Solution's property management operations funnels directly into Anawim Housing

Anawim Housing uses the revenue from Allterra to support our permanent supportive housing programs and family services

Through this sustainability model, Anawim Housing will continue to directly support the people we serve for many years to come



Anawim tenants help plan community event to share stories of overcoming homelessness

The Summer Solstice is the first day of summer and the longest day of the year. It's a day filled with light. A day when communities across the nation join together to celebrate the stories of those who have overcome homelessness. This June, Anawim Housing and the Polk County Continuum of Care hosted Des Moines' first summer solstice celebration - Rising Toward Community - to honor the strength, resilience, and spirit of the people we serve.

When Cynthia Latcham, Director of Programs & Services, talks about the people we serve, she uses person-centered language. This approach focuses on the who, not the what. Homelessness is not permanent, but the stigma often stays with people after they regain housing. At Anawim, we focus on the person and their unique history and experience.

"The people we serve are tenants, vulnerable populations, people who have lived experience," says Cynthia. "Those who are currently homeless are people experiencing homelessness. Labels can be expedient, but also dehumanizing. Just as your experiences are valuable, so are those who have lived experience."

Rising Toward Community put that person-centered commitment into action by giving people with lived experience the voice and power to make the celebration their own. Full Circle participants from Anawim's peer support group met throughout the spring to plan the event. They showed up early on June 21st to set up chairs, pass out programs, and welcome guests. Three Full Circle participants, Bonnie, Tonya, and Courtney, took the stage to tell their story of overcoming homelessness and call us to action. Mayor Frank Corniie and State Senator Claire Celsi shared remarks about political policies and practices needed to end homelessness. We look forward to Rising Toward Community becoming an annual, community-wide celebration each June. ■



Full Circle participants and our inspiring guest speakers (L to R): Courtney, Bonnie, and Tonya.



Community partners, public officials, community members, Anawim staff and board, and Full Circle participants gathered together for the event.



Senator Claire Celsi pictured with Tonya. Tonya reached out to the Senator with a personal letter about homelessness in our community. The Senator made a point to attend this event and show her support.

RANDY'S story



Anawim Housing met me without judgment, pressure, or agenda."

- Randy



If you are around Anawim Housing long enough, you're bound to read or hear our tagline - **home is everything**. It is on t-shirts, thank you notes, our videos, and social media accounts. It is a line that gets to the heart of our work and the language is intentional. We do not say "housing is everything", and participants in our permanent supportive housing programs know that distinction better than anyone.

"In the beginning, Anawim was just shelter, a place to sleep, a room with a door," says Randy who has been with Anawim Housing for 10 years, "but it became something so much more because Anawim gave me the space, the resources, and the time I needed to create a home."

Randy was experiencing homelessness and still remembers the day Anawim Housing staff found him in a soup kitchen line. During that period he saw his peers gain and lose housing. He witnessed the cycle of homelessness. Even at that point, he understood the difference between a house and a home. He recognized that stable housing was about far more than a new lease and a set of keys.

Part of creating a home for Randy has been developing strong friendships and relationships. "You need people that know you, people you can trust, people who think of you as an equal," says Randy. "Anawim Housing met me without judgment, pressure, or agenda."

Cindy McGrane, Anawim's Senior Program Manager, began working with Randy in July of 2017. "Randy does the footwork and trusts the process," says Cindy. "He has a simple but steady attitude of gratitude."

When asked about the challenges he's faced and overcome, Randy laughs, "you'd think the biggest one would be the booze, but that wasn't it. It has been trying to find rhythm in the insanity."

It's a challenge that we all face - balancing work, creating positive routines, developing good habits, handling the chaos and hardships that will inevitably come our way. "I'm able to see things clearly. It's a good thing rather than going through life blind or bleary-eyed," says Randy, reflecting on sobriety.

Shortly after Cindy and Randy met, Randy decided to quit drinking. "This was a huge accomplishment! He worked with Scott Sithonnorath, Anawim's Employment Specialist, who assisted him in getting a job at the Altoona Outlet Mall. These two accomplishments paved the way for Randy to clear his head and feel good about himself again," says Cindy.

Stable housing has helped Randy find balance amidst the insanity. He has a job he likes with a boss who supports him. He has time and energy to learn new things. "Expansion is a really good thing. It's a quirk of mine, but every year I commit to learning something new."

Having a safe place to call home gives Randy - and all of the households Anawim serves - the time and security they need to define and start working toward their goals.

"It's simple," says Randy, "Anawim Housing saved my life."

Anawim Housing Foundation News

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Hannah Landgraf, *Director of Advancement*



Hannah Landgraf transitioned into Anawim Housing's Director of Advancement position in September. After two years as a Program Manager, she comes to the position with passion, purpose, and a goal of widening and strengthening Anawim's circle of support.

"The story of Anawim Housing is the story of changed lives. It's the story of stable homes and a strong, vibrant community. Anawim's tireless work to move people out of homelessness and provide them with the opportunity to thrive is a story I believe in and a story I am excited to bring to the forefront of our community's consciousness."
- Hannah Landgraf



Thursday, October 24 | 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

At The Cub Club at Principal Park

Join us for breakfast at the ballpark as we hear from Anawim leaders about work being done in our community and ways that you can help us make an impact

RSVP

At: www.anawimhousing.org/announcements/110



Anawim's Supportive Services Manager, Stacie O'Connor, and volunteers from Wiz Kidz, are pictured providing fun summer activities and programming for kids living at Anawim's The Crest Apartments.

FAMILY SERVICES

Summer Happenings at Anawim's The Crest apartments:

It was a wonderful summer at The Crest, with fun activities, exciting developments, and positive opportunities for our tenants.

WhizKidz Throughout the summer, on the last Thursday night of the month, we were thrilled to have the WhizKidz program at The Crest, brought to us by our community partners at the East Side Community Center, Freedom for Youth, and several participating churches. WhizKidz is a mentoring and tutoring program that meets weekly throughout the school year. To help our families get an idea of what the program was all about, WhizKidz volunteers brought games, craft activities, wonderful meals, and Bible lessons out to the property. They spent time getting to know our families while everyone enjoyed food, fun, and community.

Gardens Our community garden program out at The Crest is led by intern Jamie Guley who is a recent graduate of Project Iowa and an Anawim tenant. She has been working to promote gardening, healthy nutrition, and positive community connections. Thanks to a grant from the United Way, Anawim will soon have a rain barrel system and composter to help us learn about and utilize sustainable gardening practices.

Full Circle



Our Full Circle program has continued to grow and flourish over the past year! Full Circle was created in April of 2018. Since its inception, it has become a place for tenants in Anawim's permanent supportive housing programs to meet every Friday to connect, grow, learn, and build community. Participants have come together as a family and have participated in helping plan and host Anawim Housing's "Rising Toward Community Event" last June. The group also gathers outside of regular meeting times for additional activities that create community.

Fishing Trip One such experience was a summer fishing trip and lunch at Raccoon River Park. Several members of Full Circle participated, as well as a few Anawim staff. James, a member of Full Circle, provided a supply of fishing poles and tackle for everyone who wanted to fish. Some of the participant's family and grandkids came and joined in the fun. This was one participant's first time fishing and another had been hoping for someone to take him fishing for a long time so he was very excited by the opportunity. Although not many fish were caught, everyone found enjoyment in the relaxing time spent together.



Volunteers with WhizKidz leading kids in a game of limbo at The Crest

JOIN US FOR
THE ANAWIM HOUSING



FALL HOME TOUR

Wednesday, October 30th | 11:30 - 1:00PM

Interested in learning more about Anawim Housing? Join us as we hop on the bus to visit revitalized neighborhoods, houses and new developments where Anawim is providing safe, affordable places for families in our community to call home.

RSVP at www.anawimhousing.org/announcements/93

ANAWIM HOUSING & ALLTERRA STAFF

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Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute Greater Des Moines LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

ANAWIM HOUSING PROGRAM SELECTED FOR CLASS PROJECT

We are proud to announce that we have been selected as one of five class projects for the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute's 2020 Community Leadership Program. Anawim Housing will serve as a learning lab for 10 participants committed to building their leadership skills throughout the next seven months. Their work will help us address the sustainability of our peer support group and ensure the benefits of Full Circle are accessible to even more of the people we serve. In the past, the Community Leadership Program has contributed more than 10,000 hours of service to their class projects. We are excited to partner with this dynamic group.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES



Cedar Rapids, IA - Ashton Flats

The Ashton Flats Apartments and The Washington Apartments are both nearing completion and have begun lease up. Anawim Housing is partnering on these projects, located in Cedar Rapids and Ottumwa, along with TWG Development. Each building offers 54 total units comprised of one, two and three bedroom apartments. Units are a mixture of affordable and market rate.



Ottumwa, IA - The Washington Apartments

Anawim Housing received Low Income Housing Tax Credit awards for these projects in 2017. After just five weeks of lease up, Ashton Flats is already 52% full, and The Washington Apartments are 35% full.

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