

ANAWIM HOUSING



What do you do if you're told to stay at home, but you don't have a home?
 You call **Anawim Housing.**
 Please look to Page 6 for ways you can help us answer this urgent need.



ANAWIMHOUSING.ORG

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 Des Moines, Iowa 50309



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At Anawim Housing, we believe **Home Is Everything.**
 Our Full Circle support group works to combat loneliness and build community for its participants. Members have come from homelessness and are now living in housing and receiving support through an Anawim Housing program. A few weeks before the group paused their in-person meetings due to COVID-19, members took time to create art together. We asked the group to illustrate their response to the question "what does home mean to you?"



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A reflection on Anawim's past decade of leadership

"Surround yourself with good people" - Russ Frazier

In March, Russ Frazier celebrated ten years in leadership at Anawim Housing. A decade of work doesn't just bring experience, it brings expertise. It brings wisdom, patience, and the ability to think strategically about the future. Frazier has been a tireless advocate for affordable housing. As the second President in Anawim Housing's over 30-year history, his steady guidance has ensured Anawim's work remains focused on developing stable homes and strengthening the community.

His vision and drive have contributed to Anawim's growth allowing us to make a bigger impact, serve more households, and create more homes. *"Surround yourself with good people,"* said Frazier reflecting on the recent words of an Anawim Housing supporter and past board chair. Part of Anawim Housing's legacy comes from the people we surround ourselves with—our hardworking staff members and our dedicated Board of Directors. Our success relies on the expertise of community partners—our neighbors and allies who provide healthcare, education, and job training. It depends on our commitment to listening to and learning from the people that we serve. Anawim Housing relies on you—our donors and friends—who give generously to support the projects, programs, and services that are making our community stronger.

We thank you, Russ, for a decade of leadership. Thank you for your dedication and for helping Anawim build relationships that will carry our mission into the future.

Sincerely,
Your friends at Anawim Housing



PAST BOARD CHAIR, LIZ GOODMAN, PRESENTS RUSS FRAZIER WITH PLAQUE FOR 10 YEARS OF DEDICATED LEADERSHIP TO ANAWIM HOUSING



ASPHATE - Graffiti Artist

LOCAL ARTIST ASPHATE BRINGS INSPIRATION AND ART TO ANAWIM APARTMENT

Last summer, Anawim staff members and community volunteers rallied together to help paint one of Anawim's 3-story apartment buildings. While painting, the energy of the building noticeably lifted and conversations began regarding the impact of paint and art on quality of life.

One block away, on the corner of 13th and Forest, a heart-wrenching tribute to the toll of gun violence is displayed on the wall of Creative Visions. The mural was created by Des Moines artist, ASPHATE.

In an anything-can-happen mindset, an Anawim staffer contacted ASPHATE to discuss the possibility of adding art to the recently painted apartment building. We

were humbled when ASPHATE shared his appreciation for Anawim's work in our community. In support of those we serve, he offered to bring his talents and countless, colorful, non-toxic spray paints to the blank canvas walls of our apartment.

ASPHATE and his team had some memorable interactions with tenants throughout his painting sessions. The first day when the Louie Armstrong mural was coming to life, one resident smiled and exclaimed, *"I am never moving!"* His work was already bringing a sense of pride and belonging to the building. During another session, a couple approached ASPHATE and asked if he was the one who had painted art by the MLK bridge. When they learned yes, they shared a memory with him:

"You took a break [from painting the MLK bridge] and were eating a pizza and shared some with us. We were living under the bridge at the time and now we live here... This means you are painting our home for the second time."

About The Artist:

ASPHATE, commonly known as PHATE, moved to Des Moines in 2002. He has

been a graff writer for the past 13 years. Graff writing is an art that involves all [spray] can control. No stencils or projectors. Most of ASPHATE's art is improvised at the wall, but he sometimes will sketch out a concept beforehand.

On why he chose to work with Anawim Housing:

"I enjoy new experiences and rocking the interior of an apartment building (with permission) was definitely a new experience that I welcomed. I could identify with the people in the neighborhood and the residents. Myself and my partner LIM were given creative freedom, which is extremely important to me. We wanted to bring color work and imagery that would add uplifting energy to the space." - ASPHATE

ASPHATE's artwork can be found all around Des Moines.

Here are some locations you can find it: 9th & Mulberry (Formerly the Des Moines Social Club) | Audio Labs (Ingersoll Ave) | RoCA (Court Ave.) | Creative Visions (Forest Ave.)

We at Anawim Housing and Allterra Property Solutions are profoundly grateful to ASPHATE, LIM ONE, and DERSK ONE for creating uplifting and inspiring messages within our building. These works of art are appreciated daily and will be loved for years. Thank you for this gift! ■

Genesta's story

EXPANDING CHOICES IN HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

By the time Genesta came to Anawim Housing at the age of 29, she had experienced homelessness five different times. “I’ve been through a lot. I aged out of foster care when I was 18,” she said, “but I’m still here and I’m still moving forward.” After achieving housing stability and gaining full-time employment, Genesta is preparing to move on.

“I appreciate everything Anawim has done, but I’m ready to leave,” said Genesta who is taking advantage of Anawim’s newest program Expanding Choices in Housing Opportunities (ECHO). ECHO maximizes Anawim’s ability to serve more of the most vulnerable individuals in our community and helps transition households into the level of support that best meets their needs.

According to Cynthia Latcham, Director of Programs & Services, “for some this means greater oversight and for others less.” It is all about choice and giving participants a way to exercise that choice in their housing. For Genesta, she is choosing to move to a community closer to her place of employment and choosing to live more independently. The commute to her job in Pleasant Hill requires multiple bus transfers and takes an hour each way. Genesta also has a dream of becoming a foster parent someday. Moving out of supportive housing will allow her to work toward that dream.

Anawim Housing staff provide support as participants prepare to move on. Taz Clayburn-Stills is a Program Manager on the frontlines of this effort. She works closely with households who are ready and have a desire to move off of Anawim’s Permanent Supportive Housing programs. “ECHO is the next step,” says Taz, “it’s a final step toward independence, and we provide support to bridge the gap.”

Taz helps participants cultivate lists of apartments, prepare for meetings with landlords, and understand the responsibilities that come with signing a new lease. “There are new expectations and new relationships,” says Taz. The change can be difficult, and our staff works hard to ensure participants are ready. “If they aren’t there yet, we don’t push them,” she says. “We want them to be confident and successful.”

Through ECHO, tenants have access to assistance for moving costs and security deposits. They are also able to stay connected with Anawim for six months after —



Genesta is ready to move on from Anawim Housing through our ECHO program, after having achieved housing stability and full-time employment

providing continuity and ongoing support. As individuals like Genesta move on, Anawim can offer supportive housing to individuals experiencing homelessness who require a higher level of care. That’s where Supportive Services Manager Stacie O’Connor comes in.

Stacie is working with ten new individuals who have secured stable housing with Anawim — helping them overcome the challenges of moving from homelessness into an apartment they can call their own. From locating furniture and understanding their health insurance coverage to navigating their new neighborhood and the expectations that come with renting an apartment, Stacie is there to listen, gather resources, and problem-solve. “If you’ve been camping outdoors, living inside is a new world. There are new rules and limitations,” says Stacie.

ECHO gives individuals and families who have achieved housing stability choice about their future. It increases Anawim’s capacity so we can serve more individuals—ultimately working to reduce and end homelessness in Des Moines.

“I know what it is like to be homeless, and it reminds me of what I went through,” says Genesta, reflecting on what it means for her to leave Anawim Housing, “there are so many others who could use the support.”



You have the answer ~
you just have to get quiet to hear it
Home is Everything

Healing Through Art with Full Circle

The goal of Anawim Housing’s weekly Full Circle peer support group is to combat loneliness and build community. With our current health crisis, physically gathering is not possible. We know that social isolation can wreak havoc on people’s lives. Studies have shown that loneliness is just as lethal as smoking 15 cigarettes per day and that lonely people are 50% more likely to die prematurely than those with healthy social relationships.

A few weeks before Full Circle paused its in-person meetings, the group took time to create art together. We have found that artistic expression can foster healing, boost self-esteem, and help our tenants explore their

feelings and emotions. Together, the group reflected on the importance of home. They shared the following thoughts:

- ★ Home is a sense of place
- ★ It is an anchor
- ★ It is safety and comfort
- ★ The smell of grandma’s cooking
- ★ A place to gather
- ★ It is peace and joy
- ★ It is where my cat is
- ★ Home is a locked door
- ★ A sense of belonging
- ★ It feels good

After this reflection, each participant put their thoughts on paper. Through art, they used words and images to express the importance of home and how safety, community, and belonging is essential to the success of all in our community. ■

WAYS TO GIVE



In response to COVID-19, Anawim Housing is asking for your support to help us continue to provide critical housing needs and services to our community

OUR COMMITMENT

Having a safe place to call home is not a new idea at Anawim Housing. We have been committed to serving people experiencing homelessness through permanent supportive housing for over 20 years. In the coming days and weeks as our community is increasingly affected by the COVID-19 virus, we believe everyone will place a higher value on the importance of having a safe place to shelter, nest and create new routines.

ANAWIM'S MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS - THEY NEED US NOW MORE THAN EVER

COVID-19 does not discriminate. We know anyone can be infected, but increasing evidence of disparate impact on the vulnerable populations served at Anawim Housing is coming to light. Many of our permanent supportive housing residents have significant underlying health conditions. For those with a mental health diagnosis, the isolation and loneliness due to restricted contact and in-person programs not being available is taking a toll. Many of our tenants have lost their jobs or have had hours cut, and all are sacrificing in order to keep their families fed and housed. For some of our tenants, paying next month's rent will be a hardship.

We will not sit by idly - Anawim has made a commitment to be there for our families - but we need your help.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Will you join us in helping support our community in a powerful way during this time of crisis - with a financial donation?

Anawim Housing is poised to strategically distribute your gift in a manner that will **directly** impact the health and wellbeing of those served by Anawim Housing. Your monetary gift will support the programs and supportive services we provide our 230 individual and family Permanent Supportive Housing residents and our 2,000+ families and individuals we provide affordable housing to across our community.

Services supported by your financial donation include:

- Our Rental Relief fund to help our families in crisis
- Family Wellness funds
- Provide on-going support and programming for our Permanent Supportive Housing program tenants coming from homelessness

MAKE YOUR FINANCIAL DONATION TO ANAWIM HOUSING TODAY:

Mail in your donation using the envelope provided in this newsletter **OR** donate online at:
www.anawimhousing.org/give-here/donate-page

Thank you for your support and care for the thousands of individuals served by Anawim Housing. We are proud to be part of the Des Moines community. We're all in this together ❤️ #DSMstrong

Greater Des Moines LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Anawim Housing has been working with a group of nine individuals from the **Greater Des Moines Institute's Community Leadership Program** to sustain and grow our Full Circle Peer Support Group. Since September, this group has been interviewing tenants and staff, creating a prototype, and testing their project that will build on Full Circle's momentum.



Survey created by our GDMLI team for Full Circle participants

The group is helping our program team with strategic planning and building practical tools to help us maintain a safe place that fosters healing and growth for individuals coming to Anawim from homelessness. ■



Our Project Team:

Catherine Hillestad, *The Iowa Clinic*; Veronica Murray, *Corteva Agrisciences*; Heidi Pollmann, *Ryan Companies*; Marie Procyk, *Wells Fargo*; Douglas Rooney, *Between - Landscape Architecture*; Phonsavanh Sullins, *Businessolver*; Joy Talmon, *United Way of Central Iowa*; Dennis Tibben, *Iowa Medical Society*; & Brett Turner, *Storey Kenworthy*

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

NAVIGATING THROUGH TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

The affordable housing development industry is facing interesting times. With the massive changes day-to-day with the Coronavirus pandemic, we are heading into a very unknown world. State housing agencies continue to shrink the low income housing tax credits they make available for housing projects in an attempt to spread those funds to more projects. This requires developers to find

ways to decrease costs in an economy where construction costs continue to rise above the rate of inflation. In addition, there is the cycle of the market being close to an all-time long run and the uncertainty of a recession that puts us in a more defensive position.

With all that said, every challenge presents an opportunity to be creative and make sure we can continue to expand the housing availability to our target market. We will keep our supporters updated as we continue to seek ways to build more safe, affordable housing throughout Iowa.

ANAWIM HOUSING & ALLTERRA STAFF

- | | |
|--|--|
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| Kristyn Arnold,
<i>Community and Culture Manager</i> | Kristen Marberry,
<i>Sr. Asset Manager / Affordable Housing</i> |
| Andrea Baldwin,
<i>Sr. Director of Asset Management / Market Rate</i> | Gabe Maxey,
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| Dylan Becker,
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| Cynthia Latham,
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<i>Property Services Assistant</i> |
| Kenneth Laughlin,
<i>Groundskeeper</i> | Anthony Webster,
<i>Property Services Technician</i> |
| | Jamie Winchell,
<i>Campus Town Leasing Consultant</i> |

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It's been one year since we launched our informative *Home is Everything* podcast series and we are excited to introduce the latest chapter titled "Intersections".

In new and future episodes, we will explore ways that housing stability and homelessness intersect with other subjects, sectors and community issues. Recent guests have included Primary Healthcare and The Institute for Community Alliances. Subscribe and stay up to date when new episodes are released!

Listen at anawimhousing.org!
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