
Upcoming Events

Private Tours of Central Iowa Shelter and Services. Executive Director, Tony Timm, or another volunteer, would be pleased to guide you and your family, staff, or friends on a tour of the facility. They will share with you about the various services the shelter offers, and they are a direct source of information if you're looking for volunteer opportunities. To arrange your private tour, call Tony Timm at 515-284-5718.

A Walk in their Shoes

The national headlines about the worsening economy hit home last month for 42-year-old John Saragosa when the Storm Lake restaurant where he worked as a chef went out of business. Already owed \$5,000 in back pay, Saragosa could no longer afford rent and suddenly became homeless.

With no friends or family in the area, Saragosa knew where to go for help—Central Iowa Shelter & Services. He had stayed at the emergency shelter for two months last year when his car broke down in Des Moines on a drive to Michigan for work.

"That's why I came back here," he says. "I knew what they offered."

For the last month at CISS, Saragosa has spent his days looking for a new job in the industry he has worked since he was 14 years old. Restaurant positions are available even in a down economy and Saragosa is positive he will soon find a full-time job.

In the meantime, he sleeps at the shelter and utilizes many other CISS services, including meals, legal aid, and on-site medical help.

"It's really been great," Saragosa says of his experience at CISS. "The staff has always been really helpful and very positive."

Why it Matters

Food Service

Offering homeless adults a warm place to sleep is only one of the many services offered at Central Iowa Shelter & Service. Another important emergency program is providing shelter guests with three nutritious meals a day.

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Local churches and businesses prepare and serve breakfast and dinner and CISS provides food for lunch.

The food-service program is a great opportunity for the community to get involved at CISS. The shelter welcomes donations of leftovers from area restaurants and events or parties to help offset food costs.

“We even have a guy who hunts buffalo and brings us the meat,” says Ken Dohmen, Operations Manager at CISS.

Volunteer meal providers and servers are also needed for the evening meals. Church, employee, community-service, and other groups prepare the meal off-site, then deliver it and serve guests at 6:30 pm. If you’re interested in joining the list of substitute or ongoing meal providers, call Judy at 515-278-0939.

Contribution Corner

As you're spring cleaning, consider donating extra supplies to Central Iowa Shelter and Services. While monetary donations are always appreciated, the following items are also in demand:

General Donations

- Monetary donations: <http://centraliowashelter.org/donors.html>
- bus tokens, coffee

Accommodations

- bedding/sheets, household items (TV, radio, etc.), dishes, flatware, pillows, washclothes

Toiletries

- shampoo/conditioner, feminine products (no plastic), toilet paper, deodorant, toothbrushes, razors, combs

Household Supplies

- detergent, bleach, dish soap, hand sanitizer, mops/buckets

Medical

- aspirin, antacid, bandaids

Clothing

- socks, underwear for men and women, hats, gloves

These items can be dropped off at the shelter, M-F, 7:00am-6:00pm. Simply call (515) 284-5719 to be greeted at the door.

Volunteer Opportunities

CISS is always searching for volunteers, from help around the shelter to being on a committee. This month's opportunities can be found here:

<http://centraliowashelter.org/volunteer.html>

New and Renewing Donors

Organizations at least \$25,000

Nationwide Foundation

Organizations \$10,000 - \$24,999

Prairie Meadows

Organizations \$5,000 - \$9,999

Morgan Stanley Foundation

Polk County Community Betterment Fund

Organizations \$1,000 - \$4,999

Plymouth Congregational Church

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Organizations \$500 - \$999

Allegra Print & Imaging

Cathedral Church of St. Paul

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Des Moines Area Hunger Hike, Inc.

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago - Iowa Office

First Christian Church

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago - Iowa Office
First Christian Church

Organizations \$250 - \$499

Aldersgate United Methodist Women
First Friday Breakfast Club
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Saddlery Restaurants Inc.
St. Anthony Church

Organizations \$100 - \$249

Grace United Methodist Church
St. John's Lutheran Church
Stover Church Women's Sew-ciety

Individuals \$1,000 - \$4,999

Easter Family Fund
David and Carol Jensen
Kristi K. Johnson *
Matt and Heather McDermott *
Lisa E. Sargent
Bradley D. Snyder *

Individuals \$500 - \$999

Juana Campbell

Owen and Doris Jean Newlin
Elizabeth L. Presutti *
Jess and Kathleen Vilsak
Individuals \$250 - \$499
Joseph J. Antonelli *
Sandy A. Boers *
JoEllen Duke *
Dennis Long *
Mike and Angie Lundberg *
Justin Schoen
Anthony & Channon Timm *

Individuals \$100 - \$249

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ahrens
Paul D. Chamberlain *
Charles Day
Banks and Phyllis Doggett
Mark Eckard *
Employees of Brown Winick Law Firm
Dustin Feeney *
James and Jillene Ferguson
Jeff L. Ferguson *
Roberta Gilbert
Richard Grangaard
Donna Hallstrom *
Ralph and Diane Haskins
David Walters and Laura S. Higgins **
Tracy Hinshaw *
Kent and Connie Justice
Roger and Shirley Kjellberg
Kevin C. McGinnis *
Michael S. McKee *
Karen S. Miller *
Douglas Moore
Amanda Morrow
Earl and Marilyn Newman
David Pietan **
Sarah Pitts *
Michelle Rosel *
DeAnn Sanchez *
Bart F. Schmidt *
Madelyn Schoen
Hazel and Lou Schroedel
Tamra J. Sherman *
Theresa and Steven Simmons
Lacey A. Skalicky *
Carol Schmidt Swegle, M.D.
Councilman Thomas Vlasssis
Eric J. Ware *
Erika Williams *
Wayne Woodworth

* Denotes individuals giving through work place campaigns such as United Way, Combined Federal Campaign, State of Iowa One Gift.

If you'd like to donate a monetary gift to Central Iowa Shelter and Services,
please visit <http://centraliowashelter.org/donors.html>

Central Iowa Shelter & Services

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