

Thank You Volunteers continued from page 1

This fall we placed 80 students from St. Thomas, each required to provide six hours of service, as well as six students from Normandale with a 20 hour requirement. These young students got busy in our homes cleaning, organizing and helping out with daily activities. There is not a speck of dust or smudged wall in any of our homes! Other on-campus service groups and social justice ministries pick a reoccurring night each month to provide the dinner and share in the experience with residents.

So how do we properly thank all of these fine folks and the rest who provide transportation, administrative support, in-kind services and so much more? The on-site program staff and caregivers are our main avenue of personal thanks. And of course there is the gratitude and friendship of the residents. We often highlight individual volunteers in our newsletters and publications. But it will never be enough! We can only hope that every volunteer reads this Clarion and knows that it is all about them, each and everyone of them. In this season of love, giving and companionship, the entire staff of Clare Housing sends you our heartfelt thanks for everything you give – food, care, support, muscle and money – but most of all your very special gift of your time!

**Thank you to all our generous volunteers! We couldn't do it without you!**

♦ ♦ ♦



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Phone: 612-236-9515  
www.clarehousing.org

Return Service Requested

**Upcoming events**

Bingo A-GoGo

**2009 events**

March 21 / Retro bingo  
October 10 / Theme to be determined

Friends Dining with Friends 2009  
May 2 (Preview party February 12)

*“The volunteers of Clare Housing are an amazing group of unsung heroes. Today we lift our voices to sing their praises.”*

*—Lee Haugee, Volunteer and Event Manager*

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# CLARION

FALL/WINTER 2008

A BULLETIN FOR THE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF CLARE HOUSING

## A NEW VENTURE

Clare Housing is pleased to introduce our fourth program, the Martin Luther King Court in St. Paul, MN. This new program, which is a collaborative effort between Clare Housing and the St. Paul Urban League, will provide support services to the families living in the scattered-site duplex units which make up MLK Court.

To launch this collaboration, Clare Housing Executive Director Lee Lewis and St. Paul Urban League Executive Director Scott Selmer drafted and executed an agreement spelling out each agency's respective responsibilities in the venture. St. Paul Urban League would maintain ownership and property management duties of the 2 and 3 bedroom duplexes, while Clare Housing would assume primary responsibility for service delivery to clients and manage all contract and reporting requirements with H.U.D. On October 1, 2008 our joint efforts began.

The target population served by this program is families infected/affected with HIV, who are coming out of a history of homelessness. Currently, seven out of the eight units are occupied with such families. Clare Housing's Program Director Michele Boyer and Residential Services Coordinator Cynthia Wolterding give supervision and technical support to the St. Paul Urban League's Kay Cooper in the venture. To further help these families stabilize, the MLK Courts are a section 8 program, charging residents only 30% of their income for rent.

It is hoped that the collaboration will continue for one year's time, giving the St. Paul Urban League technical assistance in managing the program. It is yet another way that Clare Housing is fulfilling its mission to provide affordable housing and quality services to people living with HIV/AIDS in the Twin Cities.



## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

The numbers give a rather static view of Clare Housing's volunteer corps; over 350 people volunteer with us. The greater story unfolds in the incredible work they do. Whether it is cooking, mowing lawns, shoveling snow, providing administrative support or volunteering at special events, all of these volunteers are critical.

**Hooray for our cooks!** Cooking the evening meal at one of our six foster care homes is where most of our volunteers land. It is one of the few areas where a volunteer is guaranteed to be able to interact with the residents. Most of the cooks purchase the ingredients, prepare the meal, set the table, serve dinner and join the residents at the table. The meal itself is just a by-product of what really happens; connections are made as conversation and laughter flows through the room. The empathy, compassion and humor of each volunteer are the greatest gift they bring to the table. Over time, these volunteer cooks become a major source of support for our residents.

The generosity of all of our volunteers provides a huge financial benefit to Clare Housing as well. The volunteers who bring in meals help reduce our grocery bills significantly.

**Gardeners unite!** One of greatest challenges has been to maintain all of our gardens. When each house was built the landscaping was always done by volunteers with donations from various nurseries, resulting in some show worthy sanctuaries. Over the years, some of them became overgrown and neglected. However, in the past two or three years we have been very lucky to have a crew of master gardeners step up to the plate and get things in order. They not only brought their incredible knowledge about plants and trees but they also brought their friends and flexed their muscles to do the work! Sometimes the residents join in, adding their own tomato and marigold pots to the mixture. The results have been breathtaking; stop by any of the six homes in the summer for a step into these sanctuaries!

**Thank you event volunteers!** The special events that Clare produces each year require many hands to assure they are a success, especially for Bingo A-GoGo. Park House and Clare Housing produce this widely popular event to raise critical funds for our organizations. Retro Bingo on March 21 will be our 22 bingo event. Roughly 500 people turn out to play Bingo and laugh at the antics of Miss Richfield 1981 – and it takes lots of extra hands to set-up, tear down and provide behind the scenes support. The gift of energy is what they give so generously!

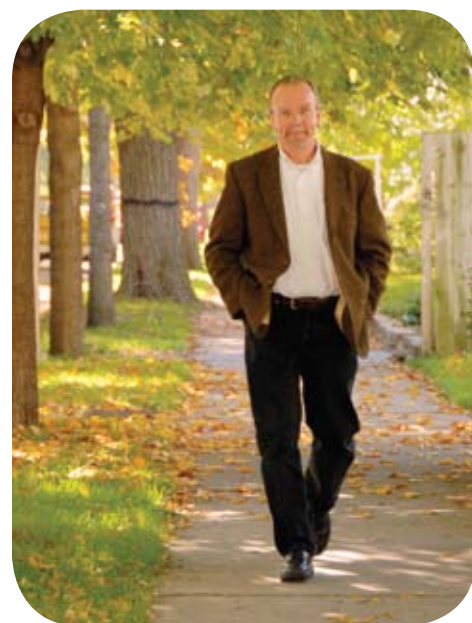
**Community service groups rally the troops!** Every fall, we receive calls from local campuses and faith communities offering their services to Clare Housing.

**Thank You Volunteers continues on back**



Kaye Cooper, Residential Services Coordinator for Martin Luther King Court with Property Manager, Ray Pride. Clare Housing provides oversight of service delivery with the St. Paul Urban League who own and manage the properties.





### A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

Looking back over 2008 at Clare Housing there are some things of which I'd like to make note. We have moved our mission forward on several fronts.

In January we started a new program, Project Cornerstone, which provides rental assistance to ten households in scattered

sites in and around the Twin Cities. This program allows us the opportunity to do two new things: 1] serve families affected by HIV and 2] stretch into the suburbs. The good news is that in October we received additional funding from Minnesota Housing to double the number of households in 2009.

In September we began providing services to families affected by HIV who reside in St. Paul Urban League's Martin Luther King Court. Funding for the services is through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is not a new program, but our involvement assures that the services will continue for the families at MLK Court.

We were also able to make major improvements in several of our homes, including: (1) a brand new, fully accessible bathroom (with walk-in tub) at Damiano House (2) the installation of new front bay windows at Clare House in St. Paul (3) continued kitchen renovation at Grace House I (4) landscape and garden improvements at both Grace House I & II and Clare House.

In June, we purchased a piece of property in the Corcoran neighborhood of Minneapolis for the development of Clare Midtown, 45 units of supportive housing and assisted living for PLWH/A, targeting individuals who have experienced long-term homelessness. In October we received initial commitments for financing from Minnesota Housing and the city of Minneapolis. MHFA committed \$480,000 toward the project and Minneapolis awarded \$1.5 million in tax credits.

#### International Human Rights Declaration on HIV and Housing

The evidence is becoming more and more convincing every day that housing is a critical foundation in the health of PLWH/A and a significant tool in prevention intervention. That is one of the reasons we do the work that we do.

As it makes sense here, in the U.S., it makes sense world-wide to support housing as a critical component in maintaining the health of people living with HIV/AIDS. That is why Clare Housing has endorsed the International Declaration on Poverty, Homelessness, and HIV [see sidebar].

#### Looking forward to 2009

As I look forward to 2009, I am hopeful and optimistic. We will expand Project Cornerstone and hope to secure the financing for Clare Midtown. In addition we will begin a plan to implement our 3-5 year financial strategic plan.

I ask you to consider joining us in our work by making a donation or volunteering. A good place to start is by making a gift this winter. We can only do the work we do with the support of the larger community.

Wishing you a wonderful 2009!



### International Declaration on Poverty, Homelessness, and HIV

*Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of him [or her] self and of his [or her] family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his [or her] control.*

- Article 25, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**Whereas** adequate and secure housing has long been recognized as a basic human right,

**Whereas** growing empirical evidence shows that the socioeconomic circumstances of individuals and groups are equally or even more important to health status than medical care and personal health behaviors,

**Whereas** in the case of HIV/AIDS, the link between poverty and disparities in HIV risk and health outcomes is well established, and new research findings demonstrate the direct relationship between inadequate housing and greater risk of HIV infection, poor health outcomes and early death,

**Whereas** poor living conditions, including overcrowding and in extreme cases, homelessness, undermine safety, privacy and efforts to promote self-respect, human dignity and the attendant responsible sexual behavior,

**Whereas** the lack of stable housing directly impacts the ability of people living in poverty to reduce HIV risk behaviors and homeless and unstably housed persons are two to six times more likely to use hard drugs, share needles or exchange sex than similar persons with stable housing,

**Whereas**, in spite of the evidence indicating that adequate housing has a direct positive effect on HIV prevention, treatment and health outcomes, the lack of adequate housing resources has been largely ignored in conferences and policy discussions at the international level, and

**Whereas** the United Nations, in both its 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, embraced the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programs, treatment, care and support by 2010.

**Therefore, we hereby demand that policy makers address the lack of adequate housing as a barrier to effective HIV prevention, treatment, and care; and we further demand that all governments fund and develop housing as a response to the AIDS pandemic.**

### LOCAL DESIGN COMMUNITY INTEGRAL IN GRACE HOUSE II DESIGN Grace House II

Grace House II was the fifth care home in the twin cities to provide housing and care to people living with HIV/AIDS. It was opened in April, 1998 in response to the expanding need for housing and care services for people living with the disease. The home was built next to the original Grace House, allowing both homes to share resources and to create a beautiful garden and patio area that connects the two homes.

The vision for Grace House II was to create a new approach to HIV/AIDS housing and care. The design was intended to be a healing space, allowing each resident private space as well as common areas where the residents would gather for meals, activities and celebrations. The result was heralded as a wonderful success by both the design community, who was heavily invested in the project, and the HIV service community.

The project was a labor of love and a beauty to behold. Two architects, David Goehring and Joel May, collaborated with board members, staff members, volunteers, residents and their families to determine their approach in designing the home. Their task was no easy feat. They wanted Grace House II to be a comfortable space for people who are very ill, with important



amenities and the caregiver offices close by, while also creating a healing atmosphere for people with more independence. Lastly, the designers wanted Grace House II to be functional for the administrative staff members who would also office out of the homes. The architects worked with Whole Builders, the Interior Design Cooperative (made up of 17 talented interior designers and their sponsors) as well as a group of committed volunteers, board members and staff to build, finish and furnish the home.

Major financial support in the construction of Grace House II was received from the Edward R. Bazinet Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation, the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation, the Family of Tom Holt, the Kopp Foundation, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency (MHFA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Twin Cities to Chicago AIDS Ride.

Today, over a decade later, Grace House II has been home to 33 people, including nine individuals who received compassionate end-of-life care from our dedicated staff members before they passed away. Several other residents have moved out of Grace House II and into their own place.

John Whalen served as Executive Director from 1998 until his retirement in December of 2005. Clare Housing's current Program Director, Michele Boyer, was the first Program and Volunteer Coordinator for the home. Lee Haugee then started in July of 2000 as the volunteer and events coordinator. Nancy Wilke, a dedicated staff member who has been caring for residents of Grace House I and II since 1991, serves as the Unit Manager for the Grace Houses and as the Lead Caregiver at Grace House II.

Thank you for helping us build a better path for people living with HIV/AIDS. PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE AT: [www.clarehousing.org](http://www.clarehousing.org)

### Home Profiles

This is the fifth in a series on the history of our homes for people living with HIV/AIDS. To read more check out the "About Clare Housing" page at [www.clarehousing.org](http://www.clarehousing.org).







**HOME AT LAST**  
*Melanie's Story*

The day Melanie toured the second floor apartment in a complex just outside of Minneapolis she fell in love with it. She saw the river nearby and knew her husband would be spending his spare time fishing on its banks and her son would enjoy the outdoor areas, especially the pool! After all they had been through, she felt truly blessed. Not only could they manage it financially, since they would only be responsible to pay 30 percent of their income in rent, their son would actually have a bedroom of his own.

Melanie had been living in a crowded shelter with her husband and their son for many months prior to becoming a client of Project Cornerstone. The family struggled to maintain some sort of normalcy while at the shelter, but it wasn't easy. Maintaining temporary shelter becomes a full-time job for many homeless individuals and their family members. Their son took the city bus from the shelter to school every day and continued to play on its football team. Her husband continued to look for work even though a back injury prevented him from finding a job in construction where he had always worked. And Melanie, in addition to keeping the family together, was working to stay sober and coming to terms with her diagnosis with HIV.

After years of struggling on and off the streets while they were using, Melanie's positive diagnosis served as a wake-up call for her. "I found out I was HIV positive and I turned my life around." She started going to church and got herself and her husband into treatment. She described her desperation to get a drug assessment that very day so they could start their treatment. "It was winter and I was standing there in shorts and flip-flops pleading with the staff person that we had to do it that day." She continued, "I knew

we might lose our courage if we went back out there." The woman behind the counter looked Melanie over and handed her a number – ensuring she would be seen that day. Today, Melanie and her husband have framed the certificates they earned upon completion of the drug treatment program. They are placed prominently on the wall of their bedroom. She says she looks at them many times a day, helping her to remember how hard they have worked and how much they lost when they were using.

Today Melanie is working almost full-time, her son is in school and her husband is catching more fish than Melanie can cook up. Their lives have a predictable pace and she is proud that she is finally able to take better care of herself and her family. She has been busy furnishing her place with the help of another social service agency and with trips to the dollar store. More than anything she loves being able to cook for the family and spending time together.

Melanie and her family qualified for their apartment through Clare Housing's Project Cornerstone program, which provides rental assistance to individuals and families experiencing long-term homelessness who have at least one member who is HIV positive. Clare Housing receives funding for the program through the state's Ending Long-Term Homelessness Initiative Fund. The grant is administered through the Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency. The program was launched in 2008 to address the incredible need to move people with HIV/AIDS experiencing homeless off the streets and into permanent affordable housing. Clare Housing has received funding to double the capacity of this program in 2009 and will begin placing individuals and families in January.

**BINGO HIGHLIGHTS**

Bingo A-GoGo got all dressed up for our move to the Hyatt Regency in downtown Minneapolis on October 4. The 524 + attendees were greeted by balloons, boas, top hats, fabulous food, libations and lots of elbow room! Miss Richfield 1981 was her usual raucous self and Barbie Q thrilled the crowd with her rendition of Que Sera, Sera. Prizes galore including a cruise from RSVP Vacations and a \$1000 game donated by Harvey Filister!

The most dressed up of all however, is our new logo and website! Carbon Creative set out in August to give the event a swell new look and feel and boy, does it ever feel great. The Broadway Bingo mail cards and posters were mailed and distributed all over town! Cheryl and Michele at Carbon are committed to making Bingo A-GoGo the freshest looking event in town. These Design Divas believe in our mission of providing housing and supportive care to the people we serve living with HIV/AIDS. According to Cheryl, "We are honored to support something we believe in so strongly." If you have any design needs, large or small, please check in with our newest best friends at Carbon Creative.

Stay tuned for our next Bingo A-GoGo in the spring! Go to [www.bingoagogo.com](http://www.bingoagogo.com) for photos of past events and find out how to get tickets for the dressed up version of Bingo A-GoGo.



Photos by John Hustad





## Volunteer Profiles

*“For now, I can’t think of an excuse big enough to keep us from cooking once a month. It’s a privilege to be part of the community.”*

—Jane St. Anthony



## MEMORIES KEEP HER COMING BACK *Feature Volunteer: Jane St. Anthony*

Paul St. Anthony moved into Grace House I on March 17, 1995, his sister Jane’s birthday. She followed the medical transport to Grace House from the hospital, devastated to see him moving to hospice care. Paul, 49, had lived in his own home until a seizure sent him to the hospital and now, Grace House.

According to Jane, Paul was thrilled to call Grace House his home. Family members spent time with Paul almost every day and met other residents and their families as well as the volunteers who cooked evening meals.

“Paul couldn’t say enough about the generosity of the volunteers,” said Jane.

On June 25, 1995, Paul sent a letter to several of his friends to update them on how he was doing. “Where do I live now?” he wrote. “At Grace House, which is the Rolls Royce of hospices. The staff is incredibly helpful, kind and respectful. There are only four residents. Grace House, by the way, is a hospice for terminally ill AIDS patients. I do not consider myself terminally ill, but I love being here. Besides the staff who are here to help day and night, there is a horde of volunteers who do everything from cleaning toilets to making dinner. So much generous work for just the four of us.”

Jane was equally impressed with the volunteer corps, but reluctant to call herself a cook. Eventually, she and her mother made dinner for Paul and the other three residents.

“Paul was so excited to have us there,” she said. “He came downstairs to the kitchen and helped a little. Through us, he contributed to the house.”

“When Paul first moved in, my son and I visited until dinner one day. Paul wanted us to stay, and I wasn’t sure if we should. I asked Joel, one of the caregivers, what we should do. ‘It’s not my house,’ Joel said. ‘It’s your brother’s house.’ I finally understood.”

“Paul was a wonderful, involved, caring uncle to both of my children,” Jane added.

Paul died peacefully three weeks after writing the letter to his friends. Jane and her mother became two of the volunteers that Paul so appreciated.

“We had gotten to know the other residents and didn’t want to abandon Grace House,” said Jane, who eventually chose the first Sunday of each month as her dinner day. Her mother, also Jane, became progressively less able to help. She would visit with the residents who wanted to talk. “The connection to Grace House helped my mother deal with Paul’s death,” said Jane. “She knew about his conversations with the staff and how much those talks helped him.”

It’s been 14 years since Jane became one of Grace House’s many loyal volunteers. After Jane’s mother died in 2002, Jane’s husband, Louis, became more involved with Grace House Sundays. As the face of AIDS changed, Jane and Louis adjusted their involvement as well. After new drug treatments were developed in late 1995—“maybe just a few months too late for Paul”—the needs of the residents changed. For some, the quality of life improved and Grace House became less a hospice and more a place for people who looked ahead to the rest of their lives. “Residents actually left Grace House for places of their own,” Jane said. “Louis sometimes helped with the moves.”

Asked about the biggest change she’s seen in the past 14 years, Jane responded, “More of the residents’ families used be very involved—although many still are—spending hours with their child or, in a few cases, mother or father. The sister of one resident often slept at Grace House, showered in the morning and went off to work.”

Now, years later, Jane doesn’t worry about what she’ll cook but rather prepares what she thinks residents might enjoy or have enjoyed in the past.

When she’s not volunteering at Grace House or elsewhere, Jane continues to work in communications and has published two middle grade books as well. Louis, a visual artist, also works at University of Minnesota Bookstores.

Occasionally, Paul and Jane’s brother, Neal—a supporter of Claire Housing, joins residents for dinner. “We love to see the caregivers at the table, too, she said. “Neal, Louis and I still know some of the special people who cared for Paul. And we love it when former residents show up for dinner.”

A year after Paul died, a friend of his and Jane’s from Belgium came to visit Grace House. “Paula, our friend, asked to see it,” Jane said. “We walked through the garden. When we left, Paula said that she had felt Paul’s spirit. I guess that’s why we keep coming back. I know that it pleases Paul. For now, I can’t think of an excuse big enough to keep us from cooking once a month. It’s a privilege to be part of the community.”



## SAVE THE DATE!

*Friends Dining with Friends*  
May 2, 2009

Preview Party  
February 12, 2009

Information: 612-236-9527

## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER EXTENDED

The following discussion is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as legal or tax advice. For specific information about provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 affecting charitable contributions, consult your tax adviser or attorney.

For older donors and nonprofits that rely on their support, a glimmer of good news emerged from last month’s economic turmoil: Congress extended the IRA charitable rollover as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

### The Fine Print

A charitable gift made directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) will not be taxed as income as long as:

- the gift is made in 2008 or 2009;
- the IRA holder is age 70½ or older;
- the gift totals \$100,000 or less each year;
- the charity is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions;
- the charity is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization (for more information on supporting organizations, see “A Brief Overview of Supporting Organizations”); and
- the withdrawal goes directly from the IRA to the charity.

The donor does not need to itemize his or her taxes to take advantage of the rollover. If the donor does itemize, however, he or she cannot also take the contribution as a deduction.

## END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN

Clare Housing’s end of year campaign is critical to the success of our programs that reach out to people living with HIV/AIDS. These programs provide stable housing to people experiencing long-term homelessness, compassionate care to the very ill and supportive services to help those who are living independently but need assistance to manage it all.

Half of the support we receive from individuals typically comes in at the end of the calendar year and we hope this year is no different. I hope you will support this important work with a tax deductible donation. Go to the Support Our Work page of the website or use the enclosed envelope.

Want to really sustain our work? Join Clare Housing’s Sustainers Club with a monthly recurring donation. It saves money, reduces waste and helps us anticipate support. Join the sustainers today!



## Glitter Ball 2.0

The folks at Rock the Cause produced another rocking good time with local and national musicians performing their favorite glam rock tributes. The event was held on November 14 at the Varsity Theater. The Dinkytown location drew a diverse crowd - everyone from U of M students to hip grandmas - who rocked the night away while supporting Clare Housing and MN AIDS Project.

Many thanks to everyone at Rock the Cause, the musicians who donated their time, the volunteers, and the hundreds glittery party-goers!