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Joan Jewett, Leana Pereira

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2020 Annual Report

A homeless shelter for Itasca County residents and others needing a temporary home and assistance.

Our Mission:

“To provide safe, temporary shelter for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness and connect them to community resources.”

Give Hospitality

Rest & Renewal

Access to Resources

Compassion

Empowerment for the future

• **COVID-19 Health Pandemic**

The pandemic affected our homeless services as it changed so much for all of us across the country.

The year started out very similar to past years and we provided safe, temporary shelter to 45 people experiencing homelessness in the first quarter.

On March 20th we made a tough decision and moved our guests to local motels. Our congregate shelter, communal dining and no personal restroom space did not allow for healthy space for our guests.

The move to motels provided safe, social distanced rooms for guests and provided safe, healthy space for our staff.

Our volunteers, the backbone of our organization, were also concerned and we received many calls from volunteers not feeling comfortable in giving of their time and talents during the pandemic.

We continued to assist our guests with connections to resources they needed and provided meal delivery for lunch and dinner daily. Our staff continued to work to serve others experiencing homelessness and assisted many others to prevent them from becoming homeless.

We expected to return to our facility by fall, but with cases increasing dramatically in our county and our state, we continued in motels through the end of the year.

Thanks to our motel partners!

IM Hotel by TimberLake,
Itasca Motel, AmericInn,
Hotel Rapids, White Oak Inn & Suites

Grace House began as a grassroots effort to provide assistance and support to individuals and families in Itasca County who were experiencing homelessness.

We have held steadfast to this effort and our mission for the past fifteen years.

In 2020 we served:

- 171 overall guests
- 140 Adults
- 31 Children
- 15 Families
- 84 Females
- 87 Males
- 5 Veterans
- 79% Caucasian
- 12% American Indian
- 1% Black/African American
- 8% Multiple Races
- 73% Itasca County residents
- 20% from adjoining counties
- 7% others
- 2842 bed nights, 78% full
- 1516 motel rooms
- 2674 meals served
- 27 turned away
- 17 days avg. stay
- 75% found housing
- 16% employment @ intake
- 23% employment @ exit

- **Our Church Partners**

Churches were dramatically impacted by the 2020 pandemic but continued to provide funding for our Homeless Prevention Fund (HPF). This fund assisted our guests and an additional 62 people needing help with gas cards, identification cards, rental application fees, transportation, and motel & camping vouchers.

Total 2020 HPF assistance was \$5,000.

Church volunteers are the strength of our overall Volunteer Program. Churches provide many food items and keep our closets full of personal care items, quilts, bedding and pillows.

- **Our Service Provider Partners**

A part of our mission is to connect our guests to resources and services they need and want. The following partners are extremely important in that effort: Kootasca Community Action, The Salvation Army, Northland Counseling, AEOA, Itasca County Health & Human Services, First Call for Help/CRT/211, North Homes, Advocates for Family Peace, Circles of Support, Veterans Service Office, Itasca County HRA, MACV-Duluth and others.

- **“Home Is Where the Heart Is”**

2021 “Home Is Where the Heart Is” Dinner
Thursday, Dec 2nd @ TimberLake Lodge

- **Our Volunteers**

Volunteers are extremely important to the overall success of Grace House. In 2020 with a pandemic, we only had 47 volunteers providing 1325 hours of service. Some volunteers assisted with preparing a few of the meals to our guests.

Normally, volunteers help in preparing and serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals to our guests. They serve as the overnight on-site hosts for our guests and do many chores inside and outside the building.

A testimonial, *“I would tell anyone who considers volunteering, it is a good choice. When you give of your time or money close to home, you know what it goes for. GRACE House helps people get back on their feet and become responsible, hardworking members of the community. What is required of the volunteers is so little but helps so much. “As a volunteer, I can give back!”*

If you are interested in learning more about our volunteer opportunities, please call our office today at 326-2790. We hope to be able to start serving our guests in our facility no later than June 2021 and will need volunteers to give of their time and talents to make it happen!

Grace House is an independent 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. As a nonprofit, Grace House depends on foundation and government grants; donations from individuals, service clubs, local businesses; gifts from faith-based organizations; and special fundraising events.

2020 Funding Partners

MN Department of Human Services
Blandin Foundation
Itasca County Health & Human Services
United Way of 1000 Lakes
Northland Foundation
Emergency Food & Shelter Program
Lake Country Power-Operation Roundup
Enbridge Energy,
GR Area Community Foundation
Diocese of Duluth-Rice Bowl Project
North Itasca Electric-Operation Roundup
Second Harvest Food Bank
Open Your Heart to the Hungry & Homeless

2020 motel funding provided from state & federal resources and county, state & federal CARES funds and Open Your Heart.

Over 500 Local Individuals = \$74,000
25 Local Churches = \$10,000
Over 175 In-Kind donations valued at \$16,300

Local businesses, Civic & Service Clubs

2care4u, LLC
Acheson Tire
American Legion Post 60, GR
American Legion Post 122, Deer River
American Legion Riders, Deer River
American Legion Post 340, Hill City
Bar Bell Bee Ranch
BIG Networking Group
City of LaPrairie
City of Calumet
Coldwell Banker Northwoods Realty
Deer River Coop Credit Union
Deerwood Bank
Edward Jones/Robert Zaun

Edwards LaPlant Construction
First National Agency
First State Bank
Floor to Ceiling
Fraternal Order of Eagles, GR
Grand Dental Center
Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital
Grand Rapids BPW
Grand Rapids Dental Clinic
Grand Rapids GM
Grand Rapids Veterinary Clinic
Greenway Lions Club
Hawkinson Construction
Hill City Lions Club
Jess Dental Office
Kiwanis Day Breaker Club
L & M Supply
Lake Country Furniture
Mr. Furnace
Members Cooperative Credit Union
Minnesota Power
Mississippi Diamond
Nelson Wood Shims
North Star Women’s Club
PAL Medical
Paul Bunyan Communication
Pristine Land Management
Ray’s Sport & Cycle
Star of the North Lions Club
VFW Post 1720, GR
VFW Foster-Bjorge Post 1764, Bigfork
VFW Post 2720, Deer River
Williams Septic & Electric
Woodland Bank

The GRACE House Board of Directors, staff and most importantly our guests appreciate the generous support of our donors. The past fifteen years of providing services to people experiencing homelessness, would not have been possible without your support.

Thank You!