

# THE TURNAROUND

## A 180 Degrees' Newsletter

Fall 2023



## NEW PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS HOUSING

180 Degrees and Beacon Interfaith, a non-profit organization, are excited to announce an exciting new partnership. Both organizations are jointly operating **Great River Landing**, a 72-unit residential building located in Minneapolis' downtown North Loop neighborhood. Beacon Interfaith is managing and operating the building while 180 Degrees is delivering services.

“This partnership leverages the strengths of each of our organizations”, said 180 Degrees CEO Dan Pfarr. “Together we are better positioned to address the inequities in housing for men exiting prison back into society.”

Beacon Interfaith, originally known as Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation, is a developer and operator of deeply affordable housing in Minnesota. They employ a unique Congregation Partnership model, maximizing the energy, leadership, and talents of faith-based congregations to create housing that meets community needs.

In 2013, Beacon Interfaith's work in a Housing Task Force, along with Plymouth Congregational Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church, led to a commitment to build housing for a chronically underserved group – men exiting prison. After countless community meetings, site selection and construction, and a multi-year fundraising campaign, Great River Landing opened in 2019. However, the initial launch was soon followed by business disruptions due to Covid and the original on-site service provider went out of business.



*Great River Landing is located at 813 N. 5th Street in Minneapolis' North Loop.*

This year, as Beacon Interfaith continued to look for a new service partner, 180 Degrees was seeking opportunities to expand housing for men at Clifton Place residence, its inaugural program that opened in 1973. The 36-bed facility offers short-term shelter and supportive services to men released from prison. The program has a seventy percent success rate, with clients securing employment and housing at exit. However, the facility is aging and lacks adequate space.

With the new partnership, Beacon takes the lead in managing the facility and collecting rents at Great River Landing. The 180 Degrees team works closely with every resident, helping them stay on track with personal goals including sustaining employment, building positive social connections, and continuing mental and chemical health support.

Facility tours will be offered in early 2024.



LEAD  
WITH EQUITY

*180 Degrees Shelter Managers are visible leaders and mentors in the organization.*

*100% are BIPOC who have advanced into senior leadership roles.*

# IMPROVING STABILITY FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

## ANDY'S STORY

When 15-year old Andy's father passed away unexpectedly, Andy's life changed dramatically. The daily routines involving conversation, affection, and family meals disappeared as his Mom spiraled into a severe depression. She rarely left her room, leaving Andy on his own.

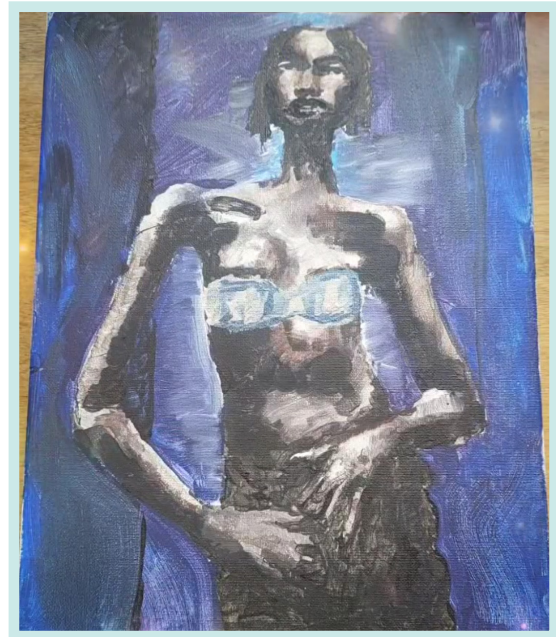
Grieving and frustrated with his Mom's continued emotional distance, Andy's communication with his Mom shifted from friendly and respectful to shouting accusations, insults, and threats. Worried that his outburst would turn physical, he ran from home every time his anger escalated. Sleeping in the park or the woods became a regular thing.

Keeping up with school became harder. Life on the run was exhausting and increasingly more dangerous. Before school let out for the summer, Andy told a school social worker what was going on. She located help for Andy's Mom and brought Andy to the St. Cloud Youth Shelter.

Arriving at the shelter, Andy had only the clothes on his back. He had outgrown most of his clothes and he didn't have access to a working washer or dryer. After introductions, he accepted a sandwich, a shower, and clean clothes.

Over the next few weeks, Andy began each day with breakfast followed by online school. Andy wasn't keen on doing chores but he did improve his laundry skills! Meeting with his Case Manager, Cody, was his favorite part of the day. Cody listened and had a good sense of humor. Cody helped Andy identify what he really wanted. Together, they mapped out some goals for Andy that gave him a sense of purpose and direction.

Unfortunately, Andy's Mom didn't improve so that he could return home. He stayed in the shelter all summer and with Cody's help, now has plans to move in with his Aunt. While that wasn't the outcome Andy hoped



*This recent painting was completed by a youth while in shelter. Youth bring many talents!*

for, there was a silver lining. Andy made two terrific friends in the shelter. They bonded over a shared talent for drawing. And, they enjoyed several summer outings to the local pool followed by dinner at a hamburger place, rituals of childhood that are easy to take for granted. Now, less isolated, Andy is back at school and committed to graduating.

Experience with death early in life is a key contributing factor to youth homelessness. While a short-term shelter stay at St. Cloud Youth Shelter can't erase adverse experiences of childhood, it does provide youth with essential resources like mental health support. Daily programming is designed to recognize and address trauma and help youth build trusting relationships, positive social connections, and improved decision-making. Together, these equip youth for a stable transition into early adulthood.

Your generous support ensures life-changing work takes place in all of 180 Degrees' emergency youth shelters located in St. Paul, Chanhassen, St. Cloud, and Rochester.

# SHELTER SPOTLIGHT

## ST. CLOUD YOUTH SHELTER: RENOVATION UPDATE

In August, after a year of major construction and renovation, five youth moved into a newly renovated wing of the St. Cloud Youth Shelter. It was an emotional experience for youth who had been living at the shelter during the construction. For some, it was the first time they had a private bedroom.

Some of the kids shed tears. It was the first time they had ever had a bedroom to themselves. Each bedroom contains a floor-to-ceiling white board giving youth a chance to personalize their space with artwork, inspirational quotes, daily reminders, and personal goals.

“Living in a shelter with up to a dozen other teens can be challenging, especially while healing from the trauma that comes with running away, living outside or in other places that aren’t safe,” said Sr. Program Manager, Dominic Jones. “The new bedrooms provide an immediate sense of safety, privacy, and comfort, creating a better shelter experience.”

Once complete, the renovated building, designed by architects from BKV Group, will feature the latest in “Trauma-Informed Design”. Design elements will include 12 single bedrooms, an open floor plan with clear views of exits, expansive windows with views of nature, and finishes that evoke a residential setting rather than an institutional setting.

### DID YOU KNOW ?

**An estimated 13,300 Minnesota youth on their own experience homelessness over the course of a year.**



Private rooms offer safety and a place to heal.



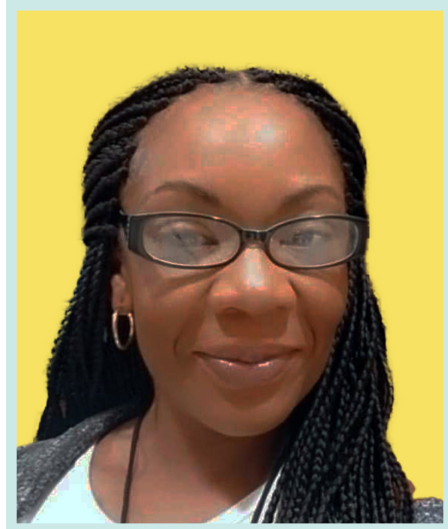
The \$4.3 million construction continues at St. Cloud Youth Shelter.



AMPLIFY  
STRENGTHS

At 180 Degrees we recognize and amplify strengths. Labels like “problematic,” “defiant,” or “troublemaker” limit youth potential. When behavior is challenging, we help youth identify and channel positive traits like “skilled self-advocate,” “creative problem solver,” and “resilient despite adversity”.

# PROGRAM MANAGER SPOTLIGHT



*DeBrea Chambers, Sr. Program Manager at Brittany's Place*

## ADDRESSING COMPLEX TRAUMA

When you work on the front lines in a trauma environment, teamwork, communication, and compassion are essential. Senior Program Manager, DeBrea Chambers and her team bring these skills to the job every day at Brittany's Place.

Brittany's Place is a safe haven for girls, some as young as 10 years old, who have been manipulated, groomed, and sold to adults for sexual encounters in Minnesota. Calls to the shelter come any time of day or night from social workers, sexual assault centers, hospital emergency rooms, and parents seeking space for young female victims.

When space is available, the team collaborates on an intake process that collects vital information but minimizes trauma. Girls can stay up to 90 days, and sometimes girls stay longer.

"We keep the focus on emotional support," says Chambers. A first step is a warm welcome and offering a girl something to eat or drink. "We invite them to choose bedding for their room and give them choices about activities they might want to do – their first choice is often sleep because that's what they most to start healing.

Trusting adults is a challenge for girls at Brittany's Place. Chambers and her team find ways to ease the transition from trafficking to shelter and to open up conversations about difficult subjects. The most meaningful conversations can take place while

### DID YOU KNOW ?

**Among sex trafficking survivors, 41 percent were approached on their first night of homelessness.**

playing a board game, taking a walk, or making a meal. On-site support services that support healing and recovery include mental health, one-to-one case management, peer support groups, and instruction from an experienced St. Paul Public School teacher. Brittany's Place Parent Liaison works with parents and to support the transition home, when that's possible. Services continue for several months after a shelter stay.

With your support, over 800 girls have received safe shelter and trauma responsive services at Brittany's Place since the program opened in 2015.

# RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## INTERNATIONAL INTERIOR DESIGN ASSOCIATION: FAB AWARDS



Members of the International Interior Design Association raised \$12,000 for new furniture at Great River Landing. Richard Coffey (left) delivered the keynote address.

## ST CLOUD YOUTH SHELTER BENEFIT BREAKFAST



This Summer, Stearns Bank sponsored a fundraising breakfast benefitting St. Cloud Youth Shelter.

## BRITTANY'S PLACE FUNDRAISING DINNER AT HEATHER'S



The leadership team at Brittany's Place enjoying a great evening with an incredible group of donors, The Book Club Ladies! Proceeds raised will support weekly self-defense classes and other unique programming opportunities for our young clients at BP! Special thanks to Heather Asbury, proprietor and chef at Heathers, for inviting 180 Degrees to her outstanding neighborhood restaurant in South Mpls!

## BRITTANY'S PLACE 2ND ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING



On September 18, over 100 golfers joined in for the 2nd Annual Brittany's Place Charity Golf at St Croix National Golf in Somerset WI. A perfect day of weather greeted the golfers as they put their best club forward! Pictured are an amazing group of former University of MN Gopher Athletes and friends.

# SHELTER WISHLISTS

## ENGAGE YOUR COMPANY, CHURCH, YOUTH GROUP, OR NEIGHBORHOOD

As temperatures drop, our emergency shelters get busier. Turnover is more frequent and the need for supplies grows. We rely on community support to boost inventory of welcome baskets, clothing essentials, and shelter supplies. In-kind donations like underwear, socks, and linens make a shelter stay more welcoming, and comfortable - and that leads to faster healing.

*“Many kids coming into shelter haven’t had clean or new clothes in a long time. Receiving new clothes gives kids a sense of normalcy and eases their transition into shelter. Oversized sweatshirts, comfy socks, and pajama bottoms provide comfort, especially for those kids who have experienced sexual or physical trauma.”*

*– Esther, Shelter Staff Youth Advocate*



**SCAN THE QR CODE, OR VISIT THE LINK BELOW  
TO SEE SPECIFIC SHELTER NEEDS, DROP-OFF  
DATES, AND DETAILS.**

**[HTTPS://WWW.180DEGREES.ORG/WISH-LIST](https://www.180DEGREES.ORG/WISH-LIST)**

## GIVE TO THE MAX - NOV. 16, 2023



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## SANDY HEY – A DONOR WRAPPED IN LOVE AND WARMTH

Organizations need supporters who provide introductions, donations, and passion. Sandy Hey provides all of these needs and more for Brittany's Place.

When Sandy Hey first learned of Brittany's place, the word that stuck in her mind was "trafficked." She found what these girls and young women had gone through in their early lives to be unimaginable, and she was determined to do whatever she could to help support them, and the staff at Brittany's Place.

From that first day on, Sandy has been "all in" in both her personal support and advocacy for the work of Brittany's Place.

In late 2022 during a book club gathering, Sandy shared her passion for Brittany's Place with her friends of more than 40 years. They soon toured Brittany's Place and were inspired as a group to make a quarterly commitment to support the organization.

Sandy says, "The tour was wildly impressive. Brittany's Place is a welcoming environment where girls and young women in the program can heal and be safe. It was amazing to see the joy the women shared about having their own bedroom, and a program and staff that make every day better."

Now as each season arrives, Sandy is grateful for Brittany's Place staff member, Michele, who



*Feasting on a six-course French dinner, The Book Club Ladies enjoyed a beautiful summer evening as they were winning bidders at the Live Auction during the 50th Anniversary Celebration in April.*

provides her with a detailed list of needs to share with her friends. The "Book Club" members write checks, go shopping and continue to grow their group of dedicated donors.

Sandy says, "We all know that there is no shortage of wonderful organizations that people can choose to donate their time, treasures and talents. Brittany's Place is the one that touched my heart the deepest. I am thrilled to help with this work happening right here in Minneapolis. I love that my friends and I can make a little bit of difference in these women's lives. It is with complete sincerity that I am thankful."

Sandy's next mission is to collect throw blankets for every girl and woman who participates in Brittany's Place. She believes that this item is meaningful to each recipient who not only gets to wrap up in a soft covering, but Sandy fills each donation with that extra, indescribable ingredient... **Love**.



MAKE A REAL  
DIFFERENCE

*When you give to 180 Degrees, you help children and adults overcome challenges of poverty, homelessness, exploitation, and incarceration. Your generosity ensures every person can experience hope for the future and reach their full potential.*



1301 7th Street East  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

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ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT  
MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2024

The Machine Shop  
300 2nd St. SE, Minneapolis

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!