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THE TURNAROUND

A 180 Degrees' Newsletter



For 50 years, 180 Degrees has helped Minnesota youth and adults break the cycle of trauma created by poverty, racism, mass incarceration, homelessness and exploitation—offering the tools and support to help build stronger, brighter, more resilient communities.

180 DEGREES NEWS



The St. Cloud Youth Shelter, has served over 2000 at-risk youth in Central MN.

180 Degrees has been awarded a **\$1.5 million grant to renovate, equip, and furnish the St. Cloud Youth Emergency Shelter!** This funding, through the Minnesota Department of Human Services, is designed to mitigate transmission of infectious diseases in the facility while improving the safety and emotional well-being of youth, staff, and their families.

“After years of continuous use, the St. Cloud Youth Shelter needs some critical updates,” says 180 Degrees CEO/President Dan Pfarr. “Additionally, as we have applied the principles of Trauma Responsive Care to our work, we have learned to place an increased emphasis on the physical environment and how it can foster the healing process for our clients.”

This grant is a huge step towards raising the full amount needed for comprehensive renovations at the St. Cloud Youth Shelter. The full project, requiring \$2.8 million, will include:

- Upgraded electrical and HVAC systems
- Plumbing improvements with new sinks, toilets, and showers
- Updated fire alarm with sprinkler system
- New windows to increase airflow and reduce the risk and spread of infectious diseases

And most importantly, all bedrooms will be reconfigured into single rooms, designed with trauma responsive care principles, allowing for greater privacy, respect, and healing. Design is underway with construction slated to begin June, 2022. Shelter services will continue during renovation.

The 12-bed Emergency Youth Shelter is the only 24-hour youth shelter serving all genders/sexual orientations, and all religious affiliations, in a large geography of 13-counties spanning Central MN. For more information about the St. Cloud Youth Shelter, visit www.180degrees.org/st-cloud-youth-shelter.

180 DEGREES ACTION



Oakley Lemke testifies online before Senator Jim Abeler and the Minnesota Senate Health and Human Services Reform Committee.

As part of the effort to support the [Minnesota Homeless Youth Act](#), 180 Degrees and several other youth organizations testified before the Senate Health and Human Services Reform Committee.

Oakley Lemke, a former youth who stayed at the St. Cloud Youth Shelter, agreed to share her story of beating the odds:

"I grew up surrounded by a great deal of conflict and trauma. When I was 13 years old, I made some poor choices and got in trouble with law enforcement, and even lived for several months in juvenile centers. During this time, I was dealing with a great deal of depression and at times felt that I just couldn't go on and I was even suicidal.

After a string of placements and foster care, I was placed at the 180 Degrees Youth Shelter in St. Cloud and my life really began to change..."

To read Oakley's full testimony, visit: www.180degrees.org/our-stories

SARA MARQUARDT: Mobile Case Manager

Sara Marquardt grew up less than a mile away from the VonWald Youth Emergency Shelter in Rochester, MN and would drive by on her way to school each day. She was always curious about the program and the youth in crisis. Years later, as a senior at Minnesota State University (Mankato), Sara became an intern at VonWald to gain experience working one-on-one with the youth residents.



Sara is now employed as a Mobile Case Manager at VonWald, focusing on outreach to youth in Rochester and in the surrounding counties.

What do you like about VW?

I enjoy both the staff and youth. Each day there is a lot of variety – there's something different happening every day. I like that there are opportunities for growth at VonWald and I feel respected as a professional.

What have you learned from the youth at VW?

I've learned "not to judge a book by its cover" and that there is always a reason – trauma – behind the youths' behavior. It's easy to make judgements about a youth based on their negative behavior, but it's important to take time to get to know the youth to understand where they are coming from and how their experiences have influenced where they are at.

Each year, the **VonWald Youth Emergency Shelter** serves over 120 youth from a 20-county service area in southeastern Minnesota. For more info on VonWald, visit www.180degrees.org/vonwald-youth-shelter

180 DEGREES EVENTS



Join us for a tour of **Brittany's Place**:
Tuesday, June 14, at 11 a.m.
Thursday, June 16, at 11 a.m.
Tuesday, June 21, at 11 a.m.

Brittany's Place has extended its services by opening a Transitional Living Program for survivors of trafficking. Eight private rooms are now available for those who are ready to leave the shelter but still need support. Case management services, life skills training, and congregate living provide the next step toward successful independent living.

Please [RSVP](#) and learn more about the impact of the powerful work Brittany's Place!

"Obviously, the most important thing that homeless youth need is shelter; but just providing a roof and basic needs isn't enough. I know from my experience that **feeling truly safe, respected**, and being in an environment **where people are trustworthy and support you for who you truly are**, is life changing."

Oakley Lemke, former youth at St. Cloud Youth Shelter

180 Degrees makes a tangible impact on the lives of over 2000 Minnesotans each year. Your gift makes this possible.

Thank **YOU** for being part of 180 Degrees!

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