

Our Mission

Stephen Center partners with the community, families and individuals to overcome homelessness, addiction and poverty.

2723 Q Street, Omaha, NE 68107



More Than A Homeless Shelter

Fall 2018

Mitch's Story & Other News

Some names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals as we strive to remain a safe and secure environment for those in recovery.

Stephen Center is a lifesaver. I don't mean that figuratively, I mean that literally. I came in on April 1st, malnourished and weighing 140 pounds. All due to my alcoholism and untreated depression and anxiety. I realized that I could no longer take care of myself. When Stephen Center took me in I couldn't even physically make my own bed. Beth, Diane, Maggie, all of the staff and volunteers helped me every step of the way, they got me into Outpatient Treatment in the HERO program and I am grateful. Six years ago I had lots of money, my own house, a Harley, SUV and I was proud. I thought I could stand on my own two legs. But alcoholism had taken over and would change everything. The rules here are simple, easy to follow and the resources are incredible. I moved into the Permanent Supportive Housing apartments on August 1st and I am safer here than I ever was in my own home. I can be bitter and defeated or I can have courage and be grateful. Now I want to help give back, I want to help someone here. I am at 195 lbs, abstaining from alcohol, eating the delicious meals prepared by Chef Robert. Bottom line is Stephen Center saved my life, and I am grateful.

Thank you,
Mitch



Mitch - April 1, 2018



Mitch - September 10, 2018



It is so great to see the joy in a child's face when they receive their brand new pair of back to school shoes! Thanks to one of our **loyal donors** who makes this happen for children in our shelter and supportive apartments each and every year.

These gals were some serious rockstars while volunteering this month! **Mercy High School** ladies helped clean vents and family rooms, pick up trash from our parking lots, washed walls and all with a great attitude! Who knew serving could be so much fun, right ladies?! Thank you all, we are so grateful for you!



As of August, the **Henry Doorly Zoo** is bringing an animal twice a month to offer an educational and fun experience to the children in our shelter and supportive housing apartments. This is only possible thanks to our amazing community partner **Completely Kids**. On August 27th, we met "Chompers", a Tenrec that is from Madagascar. He looks like a hedgehog but is most closely related to an Elephant!

From the Desk of the Executive Director



I would like to share how the Omaha Homeless community has come together in 2018 and began working towards a more effective approach to addressing homelessness. Our community's past efforts have been largely driven by federal mandates which have proven to be ineffective in reducing homelessness. With the increase

in homelessness, the community came together to find a better solution. MAACH (Metro Area Continuum of Care for the homeless) and Heartland Family Services have led the charge in preparing the community with the implementation of a more effective model based on a program used in Cleveland, Ohio. This approach referred to as "Homeless Mitigation".

Beth Robbins, our Shelter Director has been attending meetings of Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MAACH) for the last 18 months. In June of this year the homeless community launched a new coordinated entry system along with providing homeless diversion services at points of service.

In recent months the MAACH meetings you attend have a new focus, can you tell us more about that?

There has been a complete shift in homeless services in our community. In June 2018, we launched the diversion program which comes with triage and diversion from homelessness. Meaning we want to talk to them about any supports they may have access to before they enter a homeless shelter. It's about having a conversation, questions like "do you have family or friends to stay with?" We want them to search for their own personal resources to ensure being in a shelter is truly their only option.

What is the benefit to diversion both for the individual and community?

We have found that once someone enters the homeless system, it is easier for them to get stuck in a cycle. They get comfortable with going from shelter to shelter, they get used to being supported which is time and resource intensive. This allows us to be as efficient as possible with community and organizational resources.

There has also been a lot of talk about coordinated entry, what does that mean?

Coordinated Entry is how we refer to the homeless system as a whole. It is all of the community agencies working together to build a system collaboratively that serves our homeless population even better than we have in the past. It's coordinated because we are all sitting at the same table on a weekly basis, we are implementing the same processes at the same time, across the Omaha-metro area. When someone walks into any shelter they are having the same experience no matter where they are requesting services. Every shelter will use the same assessment tool, asking the same questions, and utilizing

the software/computer system. This process, often referred to as Trauma Informed Care (TIC), will provide the background (aka, trauma) that led them to seek assistance or shelter. This system will require that they tell their background story only one time, saving them the stress and trauma of repeating their story which will save agencies time and resources.

You just mentioned a 'Coordinated Entry Assessment', what does that do for homeless clients?

Anyone entering shelter will be getting a coordinated entry assessment, that assessment will assign a score to each individual and it will place them on a list in a prioritized fashion. Meaning those that are found to be most chronically homeless will be prioritized for rehousing opportunities through Heartland Family Services or Together Inc. This process ensures the most vulnerable have the quickest opportunities to get rehoused based on chronic homelessness. Chronic homelessness is defined as having at least 12 months of continuous homelessness or 4 episodes of homelessness within 3 years and a disability.

I understand that the diversion process or questions you ask can take around 45 minutes, how do you get them to move through that entire process with you?

It comes down to motivational interviewing, a conversational approach versus question and answer. It's about meeting them where they are, making them feel comfortable and explaining to them that after they do this one time they will not have to answer the same questions again should they end up staying elsewhere.

What should this mean to an everyday citizen, for the future of our community and homelessness?

This process is placing a priority on rehousing veterans and we are already seeing that we will be able to end homelessness for veterans in our community. Everyone should feel good that all of the strong leaders in our community are coming together to do what we can to combat homelessness. While we may not be able to end homelessness once and for all, there is always a better way to do things and collaborating across the Omaha-metro only makes sense.

The question and answers provide a glimpse into the excitement that is happening at Stephen Center and all involved with the homeless community. This process has helped to foster trust and partnerships between nonprofit and community organizations that simply did not exist a year ago. The opportunity to tailor an approach to homelessness that addresses the needs in OUR community rather than a federally prescribed approach will be the key to our success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Wehling". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael Wehling

Volunteer Spotlight:

Alice Borrego



Pictured here from left to right: 'Head Chef Robert Wilson, Volunteer Alice Borrego, Food Services Director Richard Couch

Volunteers like Alice are what keep our mission and our kitchen running smoothly.

Alice Borrego began volunteering with Stephen Center in 2009. She has been a part of our mission and has been feeding Omaha's homeless with her salads, desserts and her smile for many years. Alice is an integral part of the kitchen crew, her many years of dedicated service has given her the experience needed to sort through all of the donations that come through our door and know exactly what should be done with each one. "Alice has been a pleasure to work with, she has a background in food service that shows in the many different salads she prepares for us. Since my beginning at Stephen Center, Alice knows what I can use and I can always count on things being done properly. I've come to depend on her to make my job less stressful on my busiest days," says Chef Robert Wilson. The dedicated service of people like Alice and our many other volunteers is what makes Stephen Center run and we appreciate you all!



Shadow Ridge Country Club
1501 S 188 Plaza
Omaha, NE 68130

Presents Heroes For The Homeless: Stephen Center Golf Benefit

All proceeds benefit Pettigrew Emergency Homeless Shelter



Rain, Rain, Go Away... Guess we'll play a different day!

Our original date of August 20th has been postponed
because of the massive amounts of rain we received.

Shadow Ridge Country Club

Monday, October 15th, 2018

12:00 PM - Shotgun start

We welcome you, your colleagues and friends to
the beautiful course at Shadow Ridge and appreciate
your support of Stephen Center through this event.

The proceeds will provide supportive
services for individuals and families seeking to
overcome homelessness, addiction and poverty.

There are still foursome available for purchase

Email marketing@stephencenter.org or visit
www.stephencenter.org/events to sign up.

TAX EFFICIENT GIVING

Homelessness comes without a warning, without prejudice or care. It doesn't take a vacation or holiday. It doesn't matter if you are a veteran, educated or in transition.

With winter months ahead, it creates an incredible challenge for survival.

Please consider a year end tax efficient gift from your IRA or stock account to help us provide the supportive services that so many in our community need.



To make a one time donation or setup recurring donations, visit [stephencenter.org](https://www.stephencenter.org) and click 'Donate'

Any questions or requests for guidance can be directed to

marketing@stephencenter.org or 402-715-5476

For more information on tax efficient giving:

<https://www.stephencenter.org/stocks-ira/>

STEPHEN CENTER GUILD

Since 1991, the Stephen Center Guild has supported the mission of Stephen Center to help individuals overcome homelessness, addiction, and poverty. Guild members organize and participate in Cruise Away, a vital fundraising event for Stephen Center. The funds this effort raises allows Stephen Center to provide the resources necessary for individuals and families to emerge from homelessness, addiction and poverty.

Guild membership includes:

- Serving meals in the shelter
- Decorating the center for the holidays
- Presenting "Cookies and Cocoa with Santa" for the children
- Staff appreciation events
- Annual fundraising events and much more

Join our guild today:

Gold Level: \$35

Platinum Level: \$50

Diamond Level: \$100



For more information call Nancy Tiedeman: 402-630-1623

WE NEED DONATED ITEMS!



Drop off at 2723 Q Street
or email marketing@stephencenter.org
for donation pick-up

- ✓ Coffee
- ✓ Paper Products (TP, Kleenex, Paper Towels)
- ✓ Blankets (Brand New)
- ✓ Personal Hygiene Products
- ✓ Bottled Water
- ✓ Art Supplies



Drop off at 5128 S. 24th Street
or call 402-614-1017
for donation pick-up

- ✓ Men's/Women's/Childrens Shoes
- ✓ Men's/Women's/Childrens Clothing
- ✓ Furniture
- ✓ Garden Tools/Hand Tools
- ✓ Electronics (No TVs)
- ✓ Large Appliances (Working Condition)
- ✓ Small Appliances (Toasters, lamps, clocks, etc.)
- ✓ Bedding, linens

Proceeds benefit our Pettigrew Emergency Shelter

Memorials & Honorariums

June 1st, 2018
through
September 1st, 2018

You can memorialize a loved one or pay tribute to someone special in your life while helping those in need in our community. When you make a Memorial or Honor Gift, Stephen Center will send an acknowledgement card to the family or honoree. Gifts are also recognized in this newsletter. You may use the enclosed envelope to send your gift.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Virginia Arkfeld

John Arkfeld

Frank Barrett

Eleanore Barrett

David Bedrosky

Nannette Bedrosky

Gene Benash

Shirley Benash

Joseph W. Brennan

Anonymous

Kathleen Burke

Joe & Cindy Burke

Bill Christensen

Steve & Kimi Takechi

Vicki DeMuero

Charles Woram

Joe Friend

Genevieve Friend

Harley Greenwaldt

Gary & Maureen Campin

Michael Hicks

Mary Hicks

Ronald L. Holstein

Richard & Mary Annin

Stephanie Whipple

Sylvia Kaiman

Jerome Kaiman

Don & Michael Kemp

Patricia Kemp

Lisa Kurtz

Mary Stillmunks

Ray & Evelyn Ladenburger

Patricia Ladenburger

Ray Larence

Ruth Howell

John Lucas Jr.

Anonymous

Rita M. Card

Gerald & Connie Cummings

Margaret "Peggy" Mainelli

BCDM Architects

Janet Brown

Cherko

Jean Cimpl Knox

Joyce Current

Bill, Julie, John & Jane Erickson

Rich & Kate Gilloon

George & Kathlyn Grieb

Janie & Harry Hoch

Gerry & Ann Hug

Rich & Kathy Kalal

Donna Masloski

John & Kathleen Nahas

Jim & Barb O'Brien

Pat & Peggy O'Malley

Cathy Rush

Mike Ryan

Libby (Gatewood) Schumacher

Pam Sloan

Rosemary Zukaitis

Phyllis Meese

Joyce Bilharz

Tom Menck

Anonymous

Albert C. Micek

Joe & Sue Micek

Bishop Milone

Margaret McCoy

Frank A. Mixan

Dorothy Mixan

Katherine Petrini

Pietro Petrini

Josie Raised

Daniel & Arlene Zack

Jolene Springer Schmale

Julie Springer

Linda Schmitz

Lynn & Nancy Meyer

Leo Szarad

Mary Mumm

Dorothy Shewan

Kimberly A. (Kutilek) Tinley

Joan Fangman

Paul & Karen Griego

Jack & Mary Kawa

Bruce & Grace Mowat

Joe & Julie Skradski

Jeff & Nancy Tiedeman

Leslie & Carol Warneking

Bohdan Tuziw

Myrosława Tuziw

Leonard & Josephine Wolfsbauer

Linda Schrines

Jeff Zaayer

Dave Rabideaux

IN HONOR OF:

Edward Fiala's 80th Birthday

Caroline Parys

Sister Rose Marie Imig

Virginia Draus

Will & Abby Lanik Marriage

Richard & Mary Annin

Mary Parizek's 70th Birthday

Bobby & Kay Johnson

Cullen Pilker

Geri Matthies

Fr. Daniel Soltys

Rick & Monica Jensen

Bob & Sandy Stier's 50th

Wedding Anniversary

Tom & Janice Leary

US Veterans

Frank & Margaret Zelazny

With Gratitude to Our Generous Donors

**Donors
June 1st, 2018
through
September 1st, 2018**

We are extremely grateful to our generous donors...from the brand new to those who've been dedicated to the Stephen Center mission for many years. We appreciate every contribution and thank you for your generosity. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please let us know.

AK Fireworks-Subby Anzalone

Bonnie Allen

Monica Alm

Amazon Smile

Mary & Michael Ambrose

American National Bank

Niles & Vickie Andersen

Steve Anderson

John & Mary Andreasen

Mary Ann & Richard Annin

YourCause, LLC

Anonymous

John Arkfeld

Jennifer Backman

BarenBrut Of The German American Society

Angela Barry

Mike & Janice Bauer

Steve & Monica Baxter

William & Linda Bayer

Henry & Frances Becerra

Nannette Bedrosky

Andrew S. & Tiffany L. Beer

Charles Begay

Donia Beile

Emily Bezousek

Kathy Biernbaum

BizCo

John & Alice Boeckman

Lori & Terry Boer

BP Energy Compay

Mary Brockelsby

Max Burbach

Joseph & Cynthia Burke

Kurt & Kim Burkhalter

Rebecca Buxter

Rita Byrnes

Kathleen M. Callahan

Gary & Maureen Campin

Michael & Mary Jean Carr

Charles E. Lakin Enterprises

Dr. John Chedester

Charles A. Christenson

James Church

Paul & Kim Coleman

Comprehensive Health Management

Michael Conway

Teri Corcoran

Donald & Ruth Cowles

Kathleen D. Cox

Mike & Kathy Crawford

Lucas Croonquist

Customer Service Profiles, LLC

Amy Daubert

Patrick & Melany Dean

Thomas Dickes

Sheri & Gregory Dietrich

Peter Digilio

Truist Comprehensive Distribution

Virginia Draus

Daniel & Denise Drvol

Lorene Dulkoski

Rosemary Dutton

Eaton Corporation

Dee Ebel & Gerald Rathouz

Jean Edwards

Sandra & David Ellenberger

Veronica Enriquez

Idamae Fake

Michael & Janet Faust

Bailey Feekin

First Lutheran Church

Tom & Beverly Fleckten

Edward & Maureen Fleming

Phil Flott

Thomas & Beth Forrest

Fort Crook Financial Company

Thomas & Karen Freis

Kurtis & Rita Frickel

Genevieve A. Friend

Msgr Thomas Furlong

Richard Giblin

Goldbergs, Inc.

Eugene Goltl

Ed & Dana Gonzales

John Gordon

Stephanie Gould

Joan Gratz

Great Western Bank

With Gratitude to Our Generous Donors

Daniel S. Grieb	Jane Knight	Rev. Eldon J. McKamy
Allison Grondek	Jude Knipper	Andy McNeil
Grove Group/Barnhart Crane & Rigging	Greg Koholm	John McVay
Ann Grummert	Brad & Kelly Konen	Laura Meier
Mike Hall	Ilyssa Kosiba	Kathie J Menck
Jennifer L. Hamann & Katharyn King	Jennifer Kramer	Dorothy Menousek
Benjamin Hardy	Sandra Kruger	J.H. Meschede Jr.
Henrietta Hardy	Donald Krupa	Gerald & Sally Messbarger
Roger & Jackie Harned	Patricia Ladenburger	Lynn & Nancy Meyer
Patricia Hauptman	Melanie Landry	Sandy Meyer
Hawks Foundation	Arthur Laursen	Wayne Meyer
Lawrence & Sharon Heck	Patrick Leahy	Joseph & Suzanne Micek
Shirley Hermanek	Andrew & Christine Lester	Midwest Housing Equity Group
Pam Fisher-Hession & Conal Hession	Randal & Dawna Lewis	Frank Miratsky
John & Delores Hogan	Lorie & Donald Lewis	Shirley Mohanna
John Hoich	Sandra & Steven S Linbo	Doug Murphy
Dort Housley	Daniel J Lorkovic	Mutual of Omaha Bank
Lavern Huliska	Lozier Foundation	Mutual of Omaha CRA Focus Group
Hustad Companies	Stephen & Angela Luna	Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company
John & Gretchen Jackson	Kathy Lunzmann	Charles Narmi
Ruth Beers Janet Tuttle	Lutheran Church of The Master	Nebraska Medical Center
Kathleen & Jerome Janousek	Phil Mair	Craig & Brenda Nelson
Monica & Rick Jensen	Charles & Elaine Mann	Network For Good
Jill Jensen	Roland & Jean Mariucci	Garrett Neuman
Danial & Erica Johnson	Lauren Martinez	Marla Norton
George & Margaret Johnson	Jim & Gail Mays	Sherry O'Dowd
Julie A Johnson	McCarthy Investment Mgmt Inc. DBA Culvers of Millard	Jason Oberg
Linda & Kenneth Johnson	Jerry McCarthy	Offutt AFB CTOF Fund
Patti Kahre	Donald McClenahan	Jason Oliver
Jerome Kaiman	Robert & Patricia McCoy	Santos Louis Olivera
Robert Jr. & Maura Kellar	Kevin & Denise McCoy	Omaha Community Foundation
Pat Kemp	Margaret & Bernie McCoy	Omaha Division Insurance Agency
LaVonne & Ed Keuter	Gordon & Sharon McDonald	On-Line Imaging Inc.
Rhonda Kirke		Christine Orsborn

With Gratitude to Our Generous Donors

Scott Orsborn	Howard & Connie Schanzer	Susan Thonen
Gary Ostrander	Linda Schriener	Jeff & Nancy Tiedeman
Jay & Marilyn Oxton	Jerome Scott Jr	Cynthia Tonniges
Julie Paben	Melody & Thomas Scott	Donald F. Trentman
Catherine Pawol	Sharon Scott	Trinity Lutheran Church
Wayne & Sarita Penka	Dallas & Beth Settles	Judy & Omer Trout
Jami Perry	Donald & Bonnie Shennum	William Trout
Ray & Jean Pesek	Michael & Elena Shnyder	Tom N. & Pearl Tsosie
Lukas Petersen	Martin Simon	Myroslawa Tuziw
Pietro G Petrini	Sirius Computer Solutions	United Way Community Investment Grants
Deric Poldberg	Joe & Julie Skradski	United Way of the Midlands
Nicole Powell	John & Karla Skradski	Don & Mary Pat Vacek
Ray Powers	Daniel & Deborah Slattery	Kathleen & Ernest Vincentini
Rev. Robert Preisinger	Kevin & Debora Smith	Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Vlock
Jill Prinz	Kathleen Smithberg	Deb & Scott Vosika
Provision Bridge	Kelly & Gregory Sosso	Margaret Wagner
Russell G. Quimby	Marie A. Soula	Derek Walker
Wallace Quist	John Springer	Rose Waszgis
Scot & Kathleen Rainbolt	Julie Springer	Jill & Jim Wehling
Ralston Senior Center	St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church	James & Nancy Weiss
Marie Ramos	St. Wenceslaus Church	Mandy Wemhoff
Robert & Linda Rausch	David & Marjean Stamm	Eric & Trina Westman
Jackie Redeker	Nicholas Steier	Timothy Wilkinson
Heather Reese	Stephen Center Guild	Dan & Linda Williams
Gerald & Virginia Relford	Mary Stillmunks	David Witters
Retired Teamsters of American-Local #554	Ellen Stoll	Christi & Gary Wood
Mick & Cathy Richter	Dave Stranglen	Charles B Woram
Sheryl Ridley	John & Ruth Szarad	Somer Wysoske
Brianna Roberts	WJ Talmon	YourCause, LLC
Betty Jo Royal	Travis & Jade Tangeman	Sara Young
Angie Ruff	TelecomPioneers	Daniel & Arlene Zack
S & M Import Auto	Janet & D J Thayer	Michelle Zappia
Christine Salvatore & Shea Heesacker	The Foxhole Chicago LLC	Frank & Margaret Zelazny
	Maurice & Teresa Thiele	

Stephen Center NEWS Fall 2018

Published four times annually
by Stephen Center

Editor: Michael J. Murphy
michael.murphy@stephencenter.org
Executive Director: Michael Wehling
michael.wehling@StephenCenter.org
www.StephenCenter.org

Stephen Center
2723 Q Street
Omaha, NE 68107



2723 Q Street
Omaha, NE 68107

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 776
Omaha, NE

www.StephenCenter.org

Please visit our website to keep up with all the latest news & needs of the Stephen Center Family

Phone: 402.715.5442

Executive Director

Michael Wehling

Chief Financial Officer

Gwen Teeple

Chief Operations Officer

Christine Salvatore

Chief Development Officer

Teri Corcoran

Shelter Director

Beth Robbins

HERO Program Director

Sharon Hughbanks

Marketing Director

Michael J. Murphy

Volunteer Director

Amanda Yarbrough

facebook.com/StephenCenterOmaha

In this Edition...

- 1 *Mitch*
- 2 *Letter from the Executive Director*
- 3 *Volunteer Spotlight*
- 4 *Golf Announcement*
- 5 *Tax Efficient Giving Announcement*
- 6 *Guild Membership Announcement*
- 7 *Donation Needs*
- 8 *Memorials*
- 9 *Donors*



402-614-1017 stephencenter.org 5128 S 24th St.