
Hestia's Voice

A Quarterly Newsletter For Friends Of Hestia's Children, Inc.

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Success!

Yes, the picture you see is the house that persistence built! Hestia's Children is, in fact, renting a house from ACCAP (Anoka County Community Action Program). We are at this time interviewing mothers with young children, two of whom will become our first clients in this pilot program.



Let me recap why we have chosen to create this program. Many affordable housing programs and/or mentorship programs provide those services for six months to two years. Hestia's Children is committed to staying with these families for a full five years. We all know that when we have decided to change our lives, to get an education, or pursue personally challenging goals, IT TAKES TIME. But time is not all that is required. Knowing that there is someone who cares that we succeed, someone with whom we can share both fears and accomplishments, and someone who will believe in us can make all the difference.

Finally, if we can escape the fears that the next car repair bill or the next illness will plunge our children into homelessness, we can relax and be free to do our best at work and with our families.

Hestia's Children intends to help make all this possible for its clients. I am personally so grateful to all those who have supported us financially and with kind words. In a sense, you were/are the mentor and support which allowed us to move from vision to manifestation.

Thank you.

Carol

Success! (Continued)

We have rounded the corner and are on another leg of the journey.....as I write this we are in the process of interviewing for clients to put in Hestia's house!!!! By the time this is printed we should have the program up and running! This first stretch of the journey has been four years of perseverance...planning, developing, grant writing. Thank you everyone for believing in us and holding our vision, especially during the times we were waning and having our doubts while overcoming obstacles.... WITH YOUR HELP WE MADE IT.....THANKS FOR BELIEVING AND BEING PART OF THE TEAM!!!

Bless You,

Jean



In 1996 a group of us sat down and simply said “there has to be a better way.” While we had a firm vision, none know the level of commitment that would be ultimately required. Four years later, the vision became reality. We have a beautiful home in Columbia Heights (MN), in a safe, quiet neighborhood. However, now the “adventure” truly begins!

There continues to be “a better way”...

I recently worked on a Habitat For Humanity home in St. Paul (MN), sponsored by my employer. A former lot occupied by a “crack” house is now transformed into hope for a young mother with children. It seemed fitting that the old house and foundation were demolished. The impact on the neighborhood was unbelievable. Cars came by blowing horns, thanking us for removing a blight to their neighborhood. The homeowner-to-be, Melissa, worked right along side of us. There was this wonderful simile on her face! She was cleaning “her” home, even while it was under construction!

As some of you know, I work from San Francisco (CA) about one week a month. While a very beautiful city, San Francisco has a very large and visible homeless population. After a while, I became oblivious to their presence. Perhaps the problem seems so overwhelming that the mind is unable to process what the eyes see. Recently, my daughter (Sara) accompanied me on one of my trips. While we were walking back to the hotel one evening, Sara sat down on the curb with a homeless female. As only two females in their early 20’s can speak, the woman’s story was revealed. Yes, she had a job. Even had a place to live, until recently. Her rent was raised so high, that it was impossible to continue living there. Affordable housing is a myth in Northern California, so she became a “street person.” She lives in a horrible, unsafe, place each evening. Sara gave her money, against the stated “advice” espoused by hotel security and the City.

I am a firm believer that only by working one-on-one can this problem finally be resolved. The “one size fits all” approach of various governmental agencies is a failure. Regardless of one’s political affiliation, addressing affordable housing is not a top priority. Instead millions of dollars are funneled to governmental agencies. These, in turn, build temples and create a bureaucracy. One has to wonder what percentage of the dollars allocated for social service programs actually reach the intended target population.

Organizations and individuals can make an impact! A warm and loving home can be enjoyed by all members of our society.

Peace,

Mike

DOING THE MATH

Fridley, MN

Can he afford to live in Fridley?

A single parent works hard to get a college degree in elementary education. He gets a job in the Fridley school district #14 teaching fourth grade. He wants to move to Fridley to be close to his school and so that his daughter, seven years old, can go to school in the same district in which he teaches. He also needs day care for his three-year-old son.

- His starting salary is **\$29,228**. In order to have enough money for food, clothing, health care, and transportation, he should spend no more than 30% of his income on all aspects of housing.
- 30% of \$29,228 = \$8768 annually of **\$731 per month**.
- The going rate for a 3 bedroom apartment in the Metro area is about **\$985 per month**.
- He could afford a **\$75,000** house with a \$5000 down payment and a monthly mortgage payment of about \$490...taxes, insurance, utilities, and maintenance will cost an additional \$250 per month for a total of **\$740**. However, three bedroom houses in Fridley currently start at **\$120,000**.

Who can afford to live in Fridley?

- A childcare provider earns about \$14,560 a year.
- A medical assistant about \$21,403 a year.
- A school bus driver about \$18,408 a year.
- The minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour amounts to about \$10,300 a year. That would make about \$258 a month available for housing.

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Hestia's Children is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and is registered as a charitable organization with the Minnesota Attorney General.



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