

REFLECTIONS...A Newsletter for our Friends of the CWH



THANK YOU to our sponsors: The Catholic Worker House uses every donor dollar and grant dollar for operational costs to shelter our clients. We are thankful for our sponsors who have supported us for our Second year. If you would like to get involved, please email Anne Donohue-Zenisek, CWH Public Relations at anne.donohue1@gmail.com

Please patronize our sponsors who generously contributed to our 2nd Annual Benefit this past August!



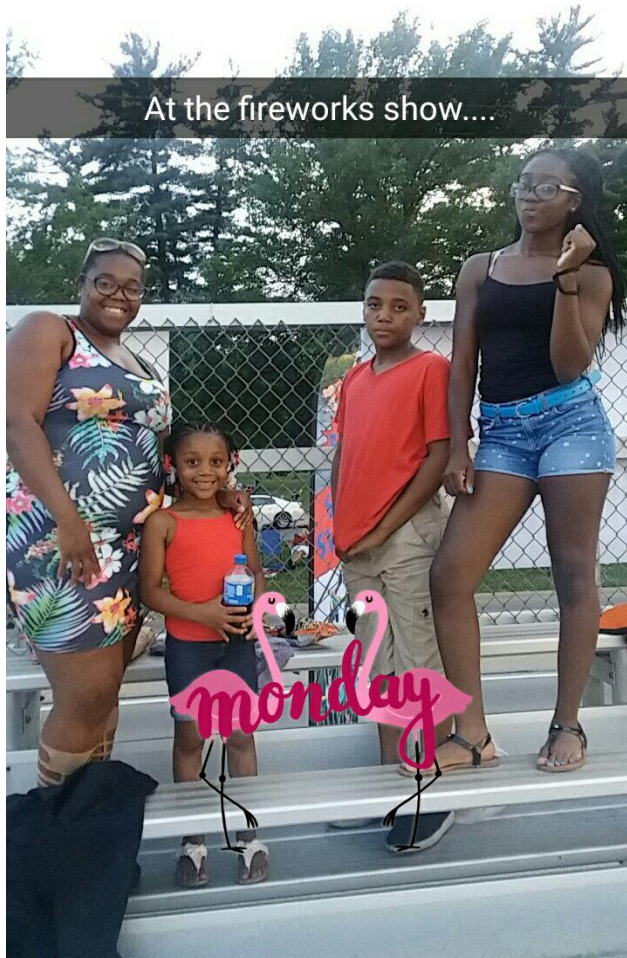
Visit us at: www.catholicworkerhouse.org
or go to  Catholic Worker Cedar Rapids

Meet the Brown's and Benson's

Can you imagine yourself as a single mother of three children? Now imagine taking your children on a greyhound bus departing from Chicago and heading west to a place you had never been before. Meet Tamika Brown, because this is exactly what she did. With each passing mile as the mounting anxiety started to settle in. Where would they go? Where would they sleep? Where would they eat? Since her mother passed away and with no other family to help, Tamika Brown decided to take the chance at a life she knew she wanted for her children.

When Tamika arrived in Cedar Rapids in December 2014, she received many blessings. First, we had an opening at Catholic Worker House for her and her family, which is rare for this time of year. (continued turn to page 3)

by Larissa Ruffin



Tamika and her three children;
Na'jae 13, Jamari 11, and Kaylan 5.

Meet the Brown's and Benson's (con't)

We were able to get all three children enrolled in school and provided the supplies they needed to get started. Tamika wanted this change for her family and she was willing to put in long hours and hard work to achieve her goals.

Within two weeks, Tamika secured a job as a preschool teacher. She took her children to school each day. Then, she would take the city bus to her teaching job. Tamika and our staff met weekly to discuss her progress and set short term and long term goals. One of Tamika's long term goals was homeownership. We referred Tamika to different options to pursue including the City's Roots program.

Lo and behold, Tamika moved into her own place by the end of January 2015! When we have residents who qualify by having some kind of income, they can become eligible for 1st months' rent and apartment deposit through Rapids Rehousing at Waypoint.

In less than 3 years, Tamika started her own business and moved into her BRAND NEW home! Tamika gives credit to God and our staff. We also know without Tamika's footwork and continued perseverance she would not be where she is today!

This is one of our success stories we are happy to tell and we strive to do for all of our resident guests. It takes a client's determination, God's will to make it happen, and an opportunity to close the gap and cycle of homelessness. We wish Tamika and her family continued success in a loving home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The Catholic Worker House Extension Program is opening soon!



THE HALL-PERRINE FOUNDATION

is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people of Linn County, Iowa, by responding to changing social, economic and cultural needs.



Thank you to the Hall - Perrine Foundation

As many of you know, the Catholic Worker House is in the process of remodeling (and rehabilitating) the property located next door at 1031 5th Ave SE to be used for our extended living program. In the last issue, we reported that the Theisen Charitable Trust offered a generous matching grant of \$25,000.00 for every dollar raised for the project. We are thrilled to report, with your help, we raised well over \$25,000.00 and received the grant. In addition, the **Hall- Perrine Foundation** has also given us a grant of \$50,000.00 so the project can be completed by the end of 2017. The Hall Perrine Foundation is well-known in the Cedar Rapids area for helping non-profits and other charitable organizations with building projects that are well beyond the financial means of organizations such as ours. We are blessed with so many generous donations, which help us serve homeless families while providing the skills and encouragement needed to avoid homelessness in the future.

Please make your tax deductible check payable to the Catholic Worker House CWHX and mail to: P.O. Box 2321 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406. If you need more information, please contact Larissa at stjohncwh@msn.com.

2017 Linn County Vet's Stand Down

The event was held on Friday September 8th, 2017. Any clients who are homeless, near homeless and/or Veterans are eligible to participate in this event. Each year we are elated to be part of *Stand Down* and this event has grown so much!



Traditionally, *Stand Down* is held to provide our community's homeless, near homeless and Veterans a day of rest and relaxation. The event started with registration, breakfast and an opening event, which was followed by lunch and the resource fair. Almost 90 different agencies participated this year. It is a great day for our clients to get a free haircut, flu shots and many other free and useful items.

One of our client's said, "I am glad I was here to go to this event. I had not had a haircut for over 6 years! I feel like a woman again!"



By Larissa Ruffin

Christmas is a very blessed time at CWH. It is a time when I am rejuvenated by the kindness of complete strangers. We strive for each of our families to be “adopted” by a family or organization. We also work closely with Unity Point Cardiology who provide gifts for some of our clients in shelter.

If you or your organization can donate a gift or gift card, hold a toy drive, make a meal, wrap a present, adopt a family or bake cookies we could certainly use your help this holiday season! Please call Larissa @ 319-362-9041 for more details!

Volunteer Fairs

On August 30th, we were invited to two different volunteer fairs. First, we went to Regis Middle School and shared our volunteer opportunities available for friends, family or youth groups. This includes tutoring our younger clients or coming in to play games and/or make snacks! We encourage volunteers to make a meal for our clients. In the afternoon, we met with college students at Mt. Mercy University. We are specifically looking for a volunteer to help us maintain our website. This is a part time opportunity that requires less than 5 hours a month. If it wasn't for all of our outstanding volunteers we would not be able to run the shelter and all of its components. Our open opportunities are posted on the United Way website.



MOPTOBER!

It is a challenge to keep floor cleaner, mops, new mop heads and other multipurpose cleaners in stock! Please join us during the month of October to collect these supplies. Bring them to 1027 5th Ave SE between 7am -10pm. THANK YOU!



List of needs

- paper towels
- new mops with refills to change
- Floor cleaner
- Scrubbing bubbles
- Multipurpose cleaner
- Lysol spray

The End of an Era

It is with great sadness we announce an end to our Shut-in food basket delivery program. This volunteer opportunity was how I got started with Catholic Worker House in 2006, and I still deliver to some of the same people today.

With our new house opening soon, our complete attention and focus will be to shelter and house those in need. We will continue food baskets through the end of the year and will share other community resources with our food basket recipients. We are very happy to have been able to provide thousands of meals for those in need over the years and sad to see this part of CWH end, yet we are excited for what it to come!

Check out our web site: www.catholicworkerhouse.org. You can volunteer to provide dinners to our guest residents or donate with your credit card or your debit card and it is processed securely through



Your contribution is 100% tax deductible



1027 Fifth Avenue SE
P.O. Box 2321
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
319-362-9041