

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

From
**DENNIS
MCQUADE**



COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORKER

Homelessness Prevention Fund Seeking Contributions

Karen is the mother of three small children and is a single parent (composite of more than one family; names and characteristics changed to protect confidentiality). She earns \$7.00 an hour as a housekeeper for a local motel. Although she would like more hours, the motel has had her work only about twenty hours per week for the last few weeks. Because of this, she has fallen behind on the \$575 per month rent for her two-bedroom apartment. The landlord is willing to work with her, but she would need outside financial assistance.

The Northeast Joining Forces for Families staff assist families like Karen's, but there has recently been an increasing need over the last few months. There have been more families who have fallen hundreds of dollars behind in their rent and are in danger of becoming homeless. Others have fallen behind in their payments to their utility company during the winter heating months and have had their electricity and gas shut off—some since April of this year.

Most of the families have some income, but it is not enough to keep up with paying their bills, rent and utilities. Most are families headed by a single parent and that parent's income is often less

than \$1000 a month. Many are working jobs that pay under \$7.00 per hour. Others receive disability payments that are between \$600 and \$900 a month, and a few receive less than \$700 a month from the W-2 (Wisconsin Works).

A large number are looking for full-time jobs, but have only have been able to find jobs that are about 20 hours a week at under \$7.00 per hour.

The Job Center is able to help some of the families, who have received five-day notices from their landlords, but they can only help a family with Economic Assistance Grants every three years.

Non-profit agencies such as the Community Action Commission, Tenant Resource Center, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Digs Program are able to help a number of the families, but with the increasing need, they cannot help everyone.

The Northside Communities of Faith's Homelessness Prevention Fund, which is available through the Northeast JFF office also assists residents of the north-east side. Besides providing financial assistance, the JFF staff contact the family's landlord and ask them to be patient with the tenant. Also, the staff assists families in contacting other agencies that provide financial assistance. The Homelessness Prevention Fund is able to help a few families each month, but there have been many more families than there have been funds.

The fund has a great need for contributions at this time. To make a contribution, make a check payable to Homelessness Prevention Fund and send it to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2126 N. Sherman Ave., Madison WI 53704. Or contact the JFF office at 241-4849.

Clothes for Kids

Distribution begins September 1

Free new school clothes will be distributed at the Free Clothing Center, CAC, 1717 N Stoughton Rd (next to Rollerdrome) from September 1 until they are gone. Free used school clothes are available now. Bring ID. Clothes for Kids is a project of East Towne Mall and West Towne Mall. Call 246-4730 X225 for info.

Koats for Kids

Collection and registration begins

Drop off winter coats, snow pants, hats and mittens at any Klink's Cleaners between Sept. 6 and Oct 6. They will be cleaned for free and turned over to CAC. Coat Distribution will occur between Oct 10-21. Call 246-4730x225 in September for info and location of coats.

To register for free clothing or coats, bring ID for each person receiving a coat or clothing. The following forms of identification are appropriate: Social security card, Medical card, Health Insurance card, Drivers license, School ID, or Referral from another agency. Adult coats are also available.

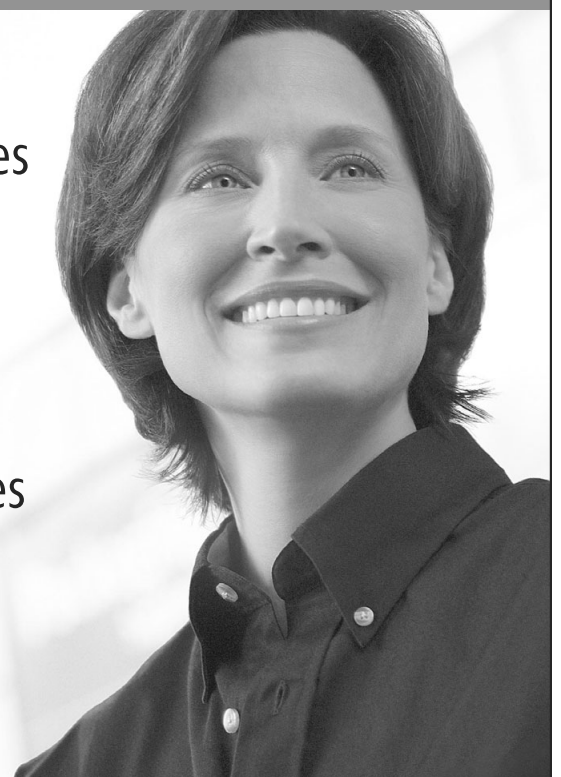
The Free Clothing Center is open year round Tues-Fri from 10am-3pm. It is open 10am-5:30pm on the second Wed of the month. Summer clothes and school clothes for kids, teens, and adults are currently available. Donations of seasonal clothes can be left in the collection bins 24 hours a day.



Where "to do" lists get done.

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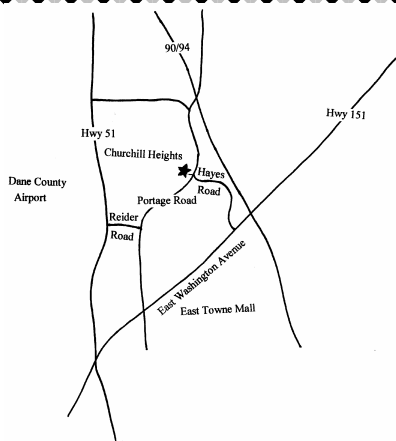
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