



Building on our Strengths

Dear Friends:

The last eighteen months mark an extraordinary period of growth and momentum at Simpson.

Focusing on what we do best – building relationships – we have fostered strong partnerships with our participants, culturally specific organizations, corporate teams, faith communities, civic leaders, and compassionate and generous people like you to support our mission: to house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness.

At the center of our work are the individuals and families we serve. With dignity and respect for the uniqueness of each person, our advocates engage with our participants, recognize personal strengths and barriers, and secure stable housing and resources. Promoting self-advocacy, we support our participants as they reach their goals.

Together, we have achieved many exciting milestones that bring us closer to ending homelessness in our community. Today, I would like to share with you our recent accomplishments:

The Gift of Simpson United Methodist Church April 2019

In the fall of 2017, we gratefully announced the generous gift of the Simpson United Methodist Church property, and this spring, we became the official owner of the building. We are honored to carry forward this important legacy of social justice.

Thirty-seven years ago, we began as an emergency overnight shelter in the basement of Simpson United Methodist Church and have been providing critical services to 44 men and 22 women, 365 days per year.

Moving forward, our aim is to design and execute a national best practice shelter model that can be replicated in the Twin Cities and across the nation. We are planning to create an adaptable space, intentionally designed to meet the short-term housing needs of our shelter guests.

Centered on Simpson's value of celebrating and embracing the uniqueness and dignity of every person, the new shelter model will create an uplifting environment – with windows



Fiscal Year
2018/2019

2,046
people served

1,446
placed into housing

568
men and women
received a shelter bed



"After I became homeless, I stayed places that just didn't feel safe. When I came to Simpson, I knew things were different. The staff is helpful and I feel like I have a community now that cares about me."

– Shelter Guest

and natural light – for participants to work with staff, overcome barriers, and achieve improved housing placement outcomes. Operating as a low-barrier 24/7 shelter, the space will include increased access to physical, mental, and chemical health services. The new shelter is expected to be developed within the next two to three years, with no gaps in services for the shelter guests.

We are in the beginning stages of our conceptual design process. We will certainly keep you updated as plans unfold.

Family Housing Expansion Grant November 2018

In November 2018, Simpson was awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to both increase our capacity to end homelessness for families and deepen our impact with each family by expanding the reach of our educational support programming.

This opportunity positions us to serve 20% more families through housing and resources and almost doubles our capacity to serve children, youth, and families through educational support. In addition, we have launched a new wellness program for high school-aged youth, rounding out a full breadth of educational support available to children and youth ages birth to eighteen.

The Navigation Center December 2018 – June 2019

Last fall, we were selected as the shelter operator for the Navigation Center. The Navigation Center was an innovative community partnership model built to provide safe and dignified temporary shelter for the primarily Native community members who were living outdoors at the Franklin-Hiawatha encampment in Minneapolis.

Embracing a Housing First philosophy, each guest was provided safe shelter regardless of current or past life circumstances. Having a safe place to stay, guests could address barriers to housing such as health care needs, mental health concerns, or other limitations. Harm Reduction strategies were implemented and expanded based on guest needs. Staff talked openly with guests about chemical use and offered resources to reduce risks and enhance well-being.

A total of 176 individuals stayed at the Navigation Center, and 74 guests achieved positive destinations like housing, nursing

homes, or treatment programs. At the time of closing, an additional 35 guests had housing move-in dates or were actively working toward housing placement options.

The learnings and outcomes realized through the development and operation of the Navigation Center will inform the process of creating future 24/7 low-barrier, culturally and service-rich shelter models.

There is more to do.

At Simpson, we're doing the critical work of helping our guests and participants get stabilized back into our communities through safe and sustainable housing. However, homelessness is up 10% since 2015.*

In light of this housing crisis, the best tool we have to help people experiencing homelessness is the model of low-barrier shelter with intensive, culturally specific resources, providing a place where we can connect our guests with available housing placements.

And that's why we are asking you to support us.

Will you play an important role in ending homelessness by making a gift today?

It is an exciting time at Simpson. More than ever, we need the engagement of supporters like you to ensure that each person experiencing homelessness gains access to safe and sustainable housing.

Your gift will make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals and families we serve.

Thank you for partnering with us to end homelessness, one person, family, and child at a time.

Sincerely,

**Steve Horsfield
Executive Director**

P.S. If you would like to connect with us about our work and how you can help, please email me at steve@simpsonhousing.org.

*Wilder Research's Homelessness in MN 2018 Study

MINNEAPOLIS NAVIGATION CENTER

The Navigation Center opened its doors on December 11, 2018, providing safe shelter and on-site resources 24 hours per day. The Navigation Center ended operations on June 3, 2019.

176 Individuals

 stayed at the Navigation Center.

74 individuals achieved positive destinations like housing, nursing homes, or treatment programs.

64 of these were an affordable housing placement.

67 individuals did not achieve positive housing outcomes but received safe shelter and supportive services at the Navigation Center. These individuals were restricted due to behavior, or individuals were not active in engagement and services on the site.

13 individuals had a housing move-in date at the closing of the Navigation Center. These individuals were offered beds at a shelter or stayed with family temporarily while they waited for their housing move-in dates.

At the time of closing, **22 individuals** were still actively working towards a housing placement option and were offered a bed at a shelter.

"I liked being there. I was warm, and I had food. I could get help. There's no help on the street."

— Navigation Center guest

Staff helped this guest connect with a chemical health treatment program, and she is working diligently toward housing and sobriety.

"The staff was wonderful. There was mutual respect. They went out of their way to help people."

— Navigation Center guest

The Navigation Center was a groundbreaking approach to help people experiencing homelessness in our community. The learnings and outcomes realized through the development and operation of the Navigation Center will inform the process of creating future 24/7 low-barrier, service-enriched shelter models in the Twin Cities and across the nation.





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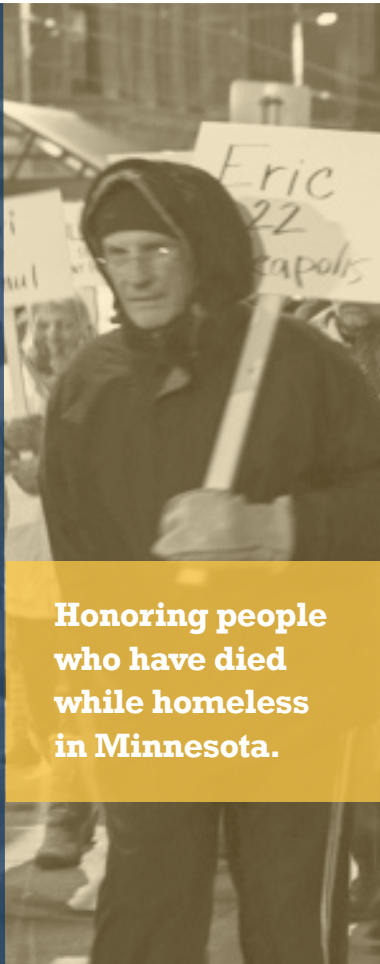
35th
Annual

MINNESOTA
Homeless Memorial
MARCH & SERVICE

THURSDAY | DEC 19, 2019

Visit www.simpsonhousing.org for details
#HomelessMemorialMN

Honoring people
who have died
while homeless
in Minnesota.



Tour Simpson Housing's Shelter

Join us for a one-hour interactive and informative tour of Simpson Housing Service's emergency shelter and programs.

Learn more about the population we serve, our approach, and the contributing factors to homelessness.

Each tour will cover any special topics of interest and the opportunity to ask questions.

To RSVP for a scheduled tour, visit www.simpsonhousing.org or contact Matthew at mayres@simpsonhousing.org