

Homefull!

H I G H L I G H T S

News & Information to Keep You Hopeful



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Homefull Successes: Beverly's Story

When you meet Beverly Cowan the first detail that you notice is not the fact that she has had multiple instances of homelessness. You also cannot tell that she is a sixteen-year survivor of breast cancer or that she suffers from several other medical conditions as well. No, the first aspects of Beverly that are immediately apparent are her warm personality and the way in which she always thinks positively about the future.

While originally from the Lima area, Beverly moved to North Carolina for several years before returning to Ohio in 2008. When she and her family were evicted from their home not long after, it was then that Beverly came to Dayton looking for a way to regain her own housing and thus came into contact with Homefull.

41%

of all
homeless
people are

FAMILIES

During that trying period, Beverly decided to be active in her search for housing. So when her Homefull Case Manager suggested a new housing option in Ohio Commons on the V.A. Campus she jumped at the offer soon after entering the Gateway Shelter in the summer of 2008.

Beverly is an avid writer, poet, and artist and has recently completed a certification course that allows her to work in medical offices. She has also spent time volunteering at the V.A. and is currently looking for employment.



Beverly at home with a sample of her art

The fact that she still has housing and has remained active both mentally and physically goes to show the quality of care that Homefull provides. All of this testifies to the fact that Homefull helps release the inner potential of its clients and that housing is the key element. Moreover, it goes to show that stories like Beverly's are quite normal because Homefull settles for nothing less than success.

Homefull Among Dayton's Best Employers

Homefull was selected as one of the top places to work in 2011 by the Dayton Business Journal. Out of 139 applicants, Homefull was ranked in the top 15 based on employee responses to a comprehensive survey. Employees were asked to rate their employers based on many criteria including pay and benefits, recognition, internal communication, and more. Homefull was the only non-profit agency to receive the award.

Homefull Executive Director Tina Patterson welcomed the announcement: "Receiving recognition for the work we do is wonderful," she said. "It's even better when that recognition comes from your own employees."



The full list of winners will be published in the March edition of the DBJ.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Computer lab monitors at both Gateway Shelters. Basic proficiency in use of the internet and word processing is desirable in order to answer potential questions.
- Administrative volunteers to answer phones, greet and direct clients to the correct people, photocopy documents and case files, etc.
- Periodic mailings. These include stuffing, sealing, and labeling envelopes. It's a great group activity!
- Outdoor projects. With spring not that far off, there are several potential outdoor projects that could take place. Details will be forthcoming as the weather grows warmer.

Contact Patrick Malarkey for details:
patrickm@homefull.org

Adopt-a-Family Program An Overwhelming Success

The holidays spent in a new home are special. The holidays spent in a new home after being homeless are truly magical. Five families from Fisher Square, a Permanent Supportive Housing program, were the first to experience this magic on December 21st. Clad in holiday garb with Santa in tow, about 30 employees from nine local Lowe's stores carried gifts into the waiting arms of their recipients.

Fisher Square is a joint Permanent Supportive Housing project among Homefull, CountyCorp, and DMHA (Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority). Each apartment is a two-bedroom home with wood flooring, energy-efficient appliances and a patio with a privacy fence. Each unit is subsidized by DMHA to assist the families with rental payments. A Homefull Case Manager visits the families weekly and works with them on maintaining housing stability, increasing income, life skills, parenting, addressing mental health or addiction issues and increasing overall self-sufficiency.

The Lowe's truck pulled out of Fisher Square leaving behind gifts, household items, televisions, microwaves, bikes, and even beds. But the deliveries were not fin-



ished yet. Over 50 families and 170 individuals who had previously experienced homelessness were "adopted."

Since these families normally only buy essential items, receiving Christmas gifts was an unexpected joy. As one mother said, "We are actually going to have a real Christmas this year." That was the true magic.

Be Homefull Campaign to End Homelessness Reaches 2010 Goal!

In August 2010, Homefull Executive Director, Tina Patterson, announced the "Be Homefull Campaign to End Homelessness" and set a goal for Homefull staff to house 250 households by Christmas 2010. Well, the numbers are in, and through the hard work of Homefull staff, help from the community and federal funds from the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), Homefull was not only able to meet this goal but has surpassed it!

Homefull case managers are able to help their clients to find suitable, affordable housing and to help them to maintain housing by providing short-term rental assistance and case management. Once housed, clients meet with their HPRP case worker to aid them in achieving their goals: increasing incomes, maintaining housing, and most importantly, not going back to shelter! HPRP Program Manager, Lea Hurst states, "[HPRP] is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and gives clients a chance to work towards independence."

While we may have reached our goal to house 250 people by Christmas, our "Be Homefull Campaign to End Homelessness" is still going. The reality is that there are just too many people experiencing homelessness in Dayton and only through support from our community can we work to dramatically decrease the number of homeless.

Homefull Receives Grant for SSI/SSDI Ohio Project

Homefull will participate in the new SSI/SSDI Ohio Project administered by COHHIO (Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio). This partnership will allow Homefull to increase access to benefits for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who are also suffering from mental illness, co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, or other serious health conditions. It will reduce wait time for these essential benefits from two years to less than 90 days.

For people who are homeless with mental health problems that impair cognition, or who are returning to the community from institutions (i.e., jails, prisons, or hospitals), access to these programs can be extraordinarily challenging. The application process

for SSI/SSDI is complicated and difficult to navigate. Nationally, only about 37 percent of individuals who apply for these benefits are initially approved. Moreover, appeals take an average of 2 years to complete. Yet, accessing these benefits is often a critical first step to recovery.

Meet the Board

Tina M. Patterson
Executive Director - Homefull

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Bonnie Pittl
City of Kettering

Maureen Pero
CareSource
Management Group

Ronald Whitehead
M42Orion, Inc.

Tom Jonak
Retired



Homefull staff show how to "Be Homefull" by preparing for the 2010 Community Collection Campaign

Wishlist

All of Homefull's programs need items for their clients. To donate, please contact Patrick Malarkey at patrickm@homefull.org.

- StartUp Kits
- FoodPaks
- Gift Cards to retail stores
- Bus Tokens
- Paper Products
- Cleaning Supplies
- Hygiene Products
- Baby Products
- Beds

Donation Extravaganza!

This past holiday season was a record year in terms of the sheer number of donations of household and personal hygiene items that Homefull received.

Often, the hallways in the administrative offices were so full that clients and case managers alike had to pick their way carefully through the wealth of choices.

In order to receive such generous gifts, it was necessary to maintain several beneficial



Household and hygiene items in the Homefull office hallway

partnerships as well as to create new ones with local businesses, including PNC Mortgage, CareSource, Lowe's Home Improvement, and Buffalo Wild Wings/Milano's. Thanks to these

organizations, Homefull was able to provide many necessary items to its clients at a time when need is so great for an increasing number of people. Homefull truly appreciates the assistance

that these and all of our partners committed during the holidays and looks forward to a future of close relationships with many local organizations.

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