



THERESA LIVING CENTER

News

THERESALIVINGCENTER.ORG

SUMMER 2021

Our Mission: We help women and single-parent families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

An Update from the TLC Board

Thanks so much for all your care and support over the past year! And what a year it's been! The challenges that befell so many and the increased need for support was met with enthusiasm and care by Theresa Living Center.

By April of 2020, when it became clear that the pandemic wasn't going away anytime soon, TLC stepped up and covered 100% of the monthly rent for its clients in outside rental housing and suspended the monthly rent for the Residential program. This added commitment of approximately \$10,000

per month guaranteed the housing security of all our clients at a time when the economy was slipping into recession and jobs were disappearing rapidly. TLC's commitment to the community, in the form of rental assistance, increased 32% in 2020 from \$154,000 to \$203,000. It was your donations that made that possible!

The TLC residential program prepared and weathered the pandemic with little to no impact to the residents. Attention to hygiene and ensuring that residents were following protocols put in place

ensured that the residential clients remained safe and healthy. Strong leadership by Lucy and the staff resulted in these excellent outcomes!

Finally, the addition of two staff in early 2021, Assistant to the Director Briana Barnes, and Case Manager Jane Morgan, have both made a tremendous impact to the day to day operations of TLC. Welcome Briana and Jane, your commitment to TLC and benefit to our clients is already being felt!

– Dennis Williams, Board Chair

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Briana Barnes

This year has been nothing short of amazing. During the start of the pandemic, I struggled with being away from home and having to be isolated from friends and family. So I made a life-changing decision to move from Illinois back to Minnesota.

After the move, it was hard for me to sit still. I knew I had a greater purpose so I began looking into how I could make a difference. I had seen how the homeless encampments were steadily increasing around the community and I knew there was a need for food, prayer and support. This is truly where my story begins.

I went out and begin serving the homeless community. Bringing them supplies and smiles was all I needed to be spiritually fed. This changed my life!

As happy as I was I knew there was more that needed to be done. That's when I stumbled across an opportunity at Theresa Living Center.



Briana Barnes, Assistant to the Director

It was a place that not only served the homeless but helped them get the tools and resources that could change their lives forever. This was so important to

me because no matter how much you can help feed and support, nothing means more to them than a place to call home. From that moment I knew TLC is where I needed to be.

Here at TLC I am a woman of many hats. I'm the assistant to the wonderful Ms. Lucy Zanders. I oversee case managers and housing assistants, supporting them as they serve our clients' direct needs. I also get the opportunity to work with the families on life skills, housing resources, relationship building and self-sufficiency.

I love that each day I get to wake up with a purpose that serves the needs of our community. Thank you TLC for this amazing year, I look forward to many more.

– Blessings, Briana Barnes

LETTER FROM LUCY: Sankofa Moments



Dear Friends,

We are halfway through 2021, and I can't help but think of the things that have transpired this past year. We've had some pretty defining moments at Theresa Living Center. The rich history of my culture describes defining moments as "Sankofa Moments" – which I

loosely define as the wisdom gained in learning from the past, which ensures a strong future.

In my faith belief, I think about how a called people were told to move into a land of plenty, but as you move forward remember to always tell your children of the past so that they would remember in tough times that there will be provision for them.

In a very defining moment for me at Theresa Living Center, I think of how all of the sponsored ministries of our founding "Sisters" of the School Sisters of Notre Dame were called together in Elk Grove Wisconsin, and we were told how the School Sisters were introduced to work here in the United States. The most indelible defining moment for me was how Sister M. Caroline Friess came to America to establish schools and was faced with the task to raise \$25,000 by a certain day or else the operation would be shut down.

I recall a board meeting where a decision was to be made on keeping our transitional housing program open after all state and federal funding was gone because "transitional housing" was not the way to go for program success. At the meeting, we had a plan to fundraise and look for sponsorship to the tune of \$25,000. Well just like Sister Caroline Friess was given that task; a mysterious donor came through.

My defining "Sankofa Moment" that I speak loudly to the families we serve is to remember or think on the wisdom gained from your past moments of defeat, to move wisely into a strong future. The past year alone had many families wondering if they would ever flourish. I say it was an experience that will allow you to move forward with the wisdom gained into a strong future.

Lucy Zanders
Executive Director

TLC News & Notes

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for our sixth annual fundraising breakfast! Help us celebrate our 34th anniversary and learn about how we can help women and single-parent families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

STEP UP! Fundraising Breakfast

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Registration | 7:30 - 8:00 AM

Breakfast & Program | 8:00 - 9:00 AM

Midland Hills Country Club

2001 Fulham Street, Roseville, MN 55113

Please RSVP by September 20, 2021, via phone at 651.774.5594 (Ext. 118) or by emailing briana.barnes.tlc@gmail.com. To RSVP online, visit theresalivingcenter.kindful.com/e/tlc-breakfast.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Volunteer Recognition

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers for your gift of time!



Donna Nelson, who previously served on our board on the strategic planning committee, has been the volunteer extraordinaire. We now define things as pre-COVID and if there is such a thing as post-COVID. Donna Nelson has so willingly

served pre, during and post-COVID at our residential program.

Donna has an eye for unnecessary clutter and is always on top of keeping us organized at Theresa Living Center. For three days, she once solicited the help of our SSND Sis **Audrey Lidenfelser**, and AmeriCorps Housing Assistant **Ridwan Abdi** to tidy things up. The three of them made sure that every old printer, outdated file and miscellaneous knickknack was found and put in its rightful place or shredded. Many thanks to the three of them for their organizing skills. It has made a huge difference!



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