

SHELTER & STABILITY

WILLIS DADY HOMELESS SERVICES

Printing of this newsletter is an in-kind donation from: 

FINDING FRIENDSHIP & HOUSING

Roommates Bill and Todd were total strangers before coming to Willis Dady's Emergency Shelter.

Bill and Todd's stories are very similar, as they each faced medical issues and lost their jobs because of it. With bills piling up and no income, they soon lost their housing. They had no other option than to sleep outside. Todd remembers sleeping at bus stops with one eye open and says: "I wouldn't wish that on my worst enemy." During their stay in Shelter, Bill and Todd met and became fast friends. Their Case Manager, Valerie, worked with them in the Rapid Re-Housing program while the two stayed at our Emergency Shelter. Valerie was actually the one who suggested that they become roommates. They were good friends and found that they could rely on one another. Valerie's suggestion made getting a house that much easier for Bill and Todd. Their housing came together quickly after that.

Both Bill and Todd are glad to have a safe place to call their own. Having a door that locks, a safe place to sleep, and a lasting friendship are incredible successes for Bill and Todd. Today they remain stably housed in the Cedar Rapids community.



Thank you!

The overwhelming support of our events from our community make fulfilling our mission possible!

Stay up-to-date about what's going on at Willis Dady Homeless Services by following us on social media!



WWW.WILLISDADY.ORG

LETTER FROM OUR 2025 BOARD PRESIDENT

Amy



Hello! I will be serving as the 2025 President of Willis Dady Homeless Services Board of Directors. I am a small business owner downtown Cedar Rapids. I joined the Board in 2020 after reading a book (Upstream by Dan Heath). This book's focus is preventing problems before they occur and that perfectly matches part of our organization's mission to prevent homelessness. Willis Dady combines (a) offering a variety of shelter and housing solutions with (b) case management (that is, connecting our clients to services to address their complex needs) with (c) employment opportunities.

Part of our upstream solutions focus on avoiding homelessness in the first place. This means our case managers collaborate with individuals and families facing housing instability, by addressing the underlying causes of their circumstances. We also continue to partner with various social service agencies and use our funding (including your donations!) to support these "housing first" programs.

Additionally, in 2025 Willis Dady will focus on (1) growing and developing our mattress recycling program. This is a "social enterprise" - a business that prioritizes achieving a positive social and environmental impact. This program provides work for our clients, diverts waste from the landfills, and generates funds from the recycled materials and (2) growing and developing more partnerships with employers which hire our clients as temporary workers with an eye toward permanent employment. Our employment team provides specialized and targeted support to our clients who often face barriers when re-entering the workforce. Those supports could include soft-skill training or even certifications through Kirkwood Community College.

A big THANK YOU to all who have donated your time and money to these efforts which positively impact the lives of individuals, family members and the community at large! You can continue to support our organization by going online to donate: www.willisdady.org/donate or attend one of our fundraisers in the coming months. I hope to see you at either the 10th Annual Hops for Housing event in April or the 13th annual 5k/10k race (The Dady Dash) in October.

OUR MISSION

To empower all experiencing homelessness to build futures of self-sufficiency through advocacy, housing, and employment.

OUR VISION

To have a community where everyone has housing, stability, and opportunity.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Thank you to Mark (left) and Dusty (right) for their help with transporting donations to the Community Overflow Shelter this holiday season. They brought over items from our holiday giving opportunities in addition to blankets and other cold weather items.

Mark is a member of our Board of Directors and has been a volunteer for 4 years. Dusty has volunteered with us for 6 years. We can always count on them to tackle any projects with a jolly spirit!

Both Mark and Dusty have helped with renovation projects throughout the years at our Shelter, Supportive Housing Units, and Willis Dady Works.

Thank you, Mark and Dusty!

Board of Directors 2024 Board Officers

*President, Amy Reasner
Vice President, Lucas Hicks
Treasurer, Ted Kraft
Secretary, Andrew Novotny*

John Beardsworth	Mark Poole
Renjena Burnett	Jacob Pipkin
Chandler DeWees	Wes Shirley
Vince Geis	Cindy Stier
Kendall Jackson	Barb Tupper

DONATION SPOTLIGHT

Thank you to Spare Time Entertainment for hosting a food drive for Willis Dady! Leading up to the drive their Event Manager said, "We hope that we collect so many items that Willis Dady honestly doesn't know what to do with it. I want them to not have to worry about where the next bundle of food is going to come from for a while and the people that utilize those services, I want them to feel good and not have to worry." Thank you!



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer

Volunteers with Willis Dady provide essential duties and much-needed program support every day. Interested in learning more? Go to www.WillisDady.org/volunteer or email our Community Engagement Manager at Sierra@WillisDady.org

Donate Items

We welcome goods donations! Whether they are purchased or gently used, these donations are needed daily. For a complete list of items visit www.WillisDady.org/donate, search our Amazon Wishlist, or follow us on Facebook to learn more.

Leave a Legacy

When you join our Welborn Society, you provide housing stability for years to come. Please contact Aaron at AaronA@WillisDady.org or by calling 319-362-7555 to learn more about how you can leave a lasting legacy.

Financial Gifts

We couldn't keep our doors open without your support. Thank you! More than a quarter of our annual operating budget is funded by YOU, our incredible Willis Dady family. Give Securely at www.WillisDady.org/Donate or mail a check to Willis Dady at 1247 4th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

We are proud to display the names of those memorialized and honored by our donors from October 13th, 2024 - January 13th, 2025

IN HONOR:

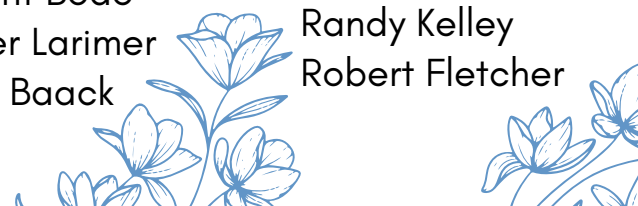
Alicia Faust
Alice Broderick
Arlene Sobel
Bev Peterson
Brent Taylor
Cari & Wyatt
Darrell E. Nerby
Denine Rushing
Emma Rose
Howard Zimmon

Irene Rossman
Malachi James
Marge Bode
Margaret Elsea
McConnell
Mitchell Levin
Paul Fenton
Randy Lyle, PhD
The Cedar Rapids
Public Library Staff

IN MEMORY:

Beverly J. Weyland
Bonnie & Okie
Bob Rhame
Bill Tate
Dan Rogahn
Deborah Levin
Dwight Bode
Esther Larimer
Gary Baack

George Holmes
Howard Zimmon
Jerome McElmeel
JP Ranck
Marc Williams
Paul & Claudia
Horick
Randy Kelley
Robert Fletcher



WILLIS DADY EXPANDS SUPPORT FOR VETERANS



In October 2023 Willis Dady was awarded a third federal grant through the Veterans Administration (VA) to serve Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness across Eastern Iowa. Since the award, Willis Dady has served 48 Veterans, with all 22 Veterans who have exited the program leaving with stable housing across our 7-county service area (Benton, Blackhawk, Buchanan, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, Jones, and Linn counties).

The Case Management program is able to help Veterans through a variety of ways. Veterans like Joe*. Joe served in the Marine Corp during Vietnam and became a truck driver for over 40 years in civilian life. For a period of time, Joe had to stop taking his medications, which caused him to get really sick, lose his job, and become homeless. At the age of 72, Joe had been stably housed but his rent was about to double. Joe needed help finding a new affordable place to live, which is where his Veteran Housing Case Manager, Kelly, came in.

They immediately began the housing search and were denied by a few places due to Joe's credit history. With the next application Kelly was able to advocate for Joe's tenancy record to the property managers. In August Joe moved into a new affordable apartment where the rent will never be more than what he can afford! Joe is now working with his case manager to stabilize his physical health and grow self-sufficiency skills.

Willis Dady is looking to expand our referral networks to ensure Veterans who are at risk of or may be experiencing homelessness across our 7-county area are supported. If you are working with, or know a Veteran who could benefit from case management support, please contact Shannon at 319-362-7555 or email her at shannon@willisdady.org.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF

HOPS FOR HOUSING

Olympic South Side Theater

April 12th, 2025

2:30 - 5:30 PM

www.givebutter.com/HOPS25

