

SHELTER & STABILITY

WILLIS DADY HOMELESS SERVICES

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HOME AGAIN

After two years of living out of her car, at the Community Overflow Shelter, or at Willis Dady's Emergency Shelter, Shiro is finally back home. In December of 2022, she was forced to leave her home because of a marital dispute with her now ex-wife. With no local family or support system, there was nowhere to go. With her ex still living in the house but not contributing to bills, Shiro explained, "I paid my mortgage the entire time." She had no money remaining to pay for her own living expenses. Until there was an opening at our Emergency Shelter, Shiro stayed in her car or utilized the Community Overflow Shelter to rest between her 12-hour shifts. Soon after, Shiro was moved into our Emergency Shelter and maintained full-time employment. This is when Shiro began meeting with her Case Manager, Katie. Shiro said, "If I didn't have the shelter, I wouldn't have made it back."



Katie, Willis Dady Homeless Services Case Manager, with Shiro, client of WDHS.

During Shiro's time working with our agency, she served a 5-month sentence. Katie supported her by mediating with her parole officer and other authority figures during this process. Shiro had lost most of her belongings, including her car, but Katie stored some of her personal belongings and clothes which had been at our Emergency Shelter. There was great comfort in being able to reclaim these small things.

Katie was able to support Shiro in getting access to a bus to help with commuting to work and was always willing to help her search and look at apartments. Shiro continued making progress on her goals including the divorce proceedings. Her divorce was final in February of 2024, and Shiro was able to move back into her house in May! She is working on cleaning and renovating her house, including painting to make it feel like home again. Her goals are to continue working and living a productive life. Shiro's experience with homelessness showed her that she can overcome adversity. She is looking toward the future with hope and determination.

Thank you!

Generous gifts from our donors make it possible for these successes to continue.

LETTER FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR: AARON AMUNDSON

I hope this message finds you well. As we approach the mid-year mark, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've been on together. Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind our success, and I am deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission. This year, we've already achieved significant milestones. From expanding our Permanent Supportive Housing properties with the opening of the Chandler Pump Apartments to launching our encampment resolution policy, minimizing the trauma caused by our clients being asked to relocate. Your gift's to Willis Dady are truly making a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. None of this would have been possible without your generosity and dedication. Our current fundraiser, "The Saddle Up Solutions Campaign" was conceived by the idea that there is room in this community for all of us. Cedar Rapids is a city that time and time again has proven, helping our neighbors through the catastrophes of life only makes us stronger. This summer we ask you to consider your neighbors that are experiencing the disaster that is homelessness. We're seeking support for the individuals that are fighting against life's hardest battles. With your help, we are hoping to raise \$75,000 to ensure that Willis Dady is able to continue offering the necessary services, to empower our neighbors to break the cycle of homelessness. Can you help?

Whether it's a small monthly contribution or a substantial one-time gift, every dollar matters. Thank you for being part of our Willis Dady Community. Together, we can build a brighter future for all.

With Gratitude, Aaron Amundson



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JAYDEN

Jayden interned with Willis Dady for 3.5 weeks as an Events Intern. In this time, she served over 100 hours! Months leading up to her internship, Jayden joined the Events and Engagement Committee to learn about the Hops for Housing planning process. Jayden tackled tasks like drafting emails to sponsors, brewers, and participants and helped create social media graphics. To conclude her internship, Jayden helped us wrap up our thank yous and blog post. She also played an invaluable part in launching our Saddle Up Solutions spring fundraising campaign. Today Jayden is still a volunteer with Willis Dady but has switched her focus to assisting at our front desk. **Thank you, Jayden!**

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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.

DONATION SPOTLIGHT

Thank you to Washington High School! Students made hygiene kits for those experiencing homelessness as their interactive service project. These kits will be given to clients that utilize our free showers at Hector's Place Day Center.



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 March 13th, 2024 - June 13th, 2024

IN HONOR:

Arlene Sobel
Alicia Faust

Ruth Ehrhardt
Joe McGrane

IN MEMORY:

Howard Zimmon
JP Ranck
Esther Larimer
Terry Huff

Beverly J. Weyland
James Caviness
Shirley Amos

**READ OUR NEWEST
BLOG POST**

*Stable Homes & Mental
Health: Breaking the Cycle*

willisdady.org/blog



GRANTS PASS V. JOHNSON

The Supreme Court's decision to strike down Johnson v. Grants Pass means that across the country those experiencing homelessness can be arrested for sleeping outside, even when there are no shelter options provided locally. This decision propels the criminalization of homelessness in our country and opens the door for cities to build local legislation similar to Grants Pass. The decision of the Supreme Court goes against best-practice solutions for homelessness and is in direct disagreement with our values as an agency.

Willis Dady Homeless Services believes in the power of Housing First, the importance of trauma-informed care, and the act of meeting people where they are at. We believe that the solution to homelessness is through reducing barriers and increasing access to affordable housing. We are committed to providing individualized case management that empowers all experiencing homelessness in our community to gain safe and stable housing. This decision will not stop our agency's work.

In truth, it fuels us to work harder and speak up louder for those experiencing homelessness in our community. We hope that you will join us. We need your help, your advocacy, and your support to fulfill our mission to empower all experiencing homelessness in our community.



Check out the following resources to learn more:

- The National Alliance to End Homelessness
- The National Homelessness Law Center
- SCOTUS Blog
- Fines & Justice Fees Center

THANK YOU, GRANTORS!

Recently these grantors have supported our mission and vision through financial grants. Thank you so much for joining our mission to empower all experiencing homelessness to build futures of self-sufficiency through advocacy, housing, and employment!



THE
STARBUCKS
FOUNDATION

Awarded general funds to support our agency's services!



HARD WORK • INTEGRITY • EXCELLENCE

Awarded funds to support our Street Outreach program through their Employee Advised Fund!



Awarded general funds to support our agency's services!

AEGON TRANSAMERICA
FOUNDATION

Awarded funds to support our Homeless Prevention program!



In conjunction with Willis Dady Emergency Shelter

1247 4th Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

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OCTOBER 5, 2024
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\$30

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\$75,000

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