

SHELTER & STABILITY

WILLIS DADY HOMELESS SERVICES

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

OUR 12TH ANNUAL 5K/10K

This past October 5th, we were refreshed with a beautiful morning at Prairie Park Fishery. The fall weather was cool but warming as Dady Dashers prepared for our 12th annual 5K/10K to benefit Willis Dady Homeless Services. Over 100 participants walked or ran along the beautiful course.



Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the events and those who came out to cheer or volunteer. Not only is the Dady Dash important to us for fundraising, but we appreciate the opportunity to connect with community members for family friendly fun.

We can't thank our sponsors enough for supporting Willis Dady's 11th Annual Dady Dash. Not only would this event not have been possible, but the everyday operations of our agency depend on the financial support of community organizations.

Thank you so much to the following sponsors for helping break the cycle of homelessness in our community!

Presented by:



Gold



Silver



Bronze



In-Kind: KCRG Show You Care, Hy-Vee, & Brueggers Bagels

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



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JIM

Jim volunteered at our front desk for about a year! He started volunteering because he had a lot of free time on the weekends and wanted to put his time to good use. His favorite part of volunteering was seeing how the clients could be kind and thoughtful "I would often see them go out of their way to help out other clients and staff even when it wasn't necessary," Jim said.

But Jim's time volunteering with us came to an end so he could go back to school in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Mt. Mercy.

"Volunteering did have an impact on that decision--it felt good to help other people, and volunteering helped me practice gaining perspective, which is a core strength needed as a therapist."

Board of Directors

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LETTER FROM OUR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

Hello! I'm "the new guy," now managing the Employment Services programs at Willis Dady. What an honor to serve our community in this role. I have a long background in for-profit business leadership and couldn't be more excited to help build out the Employment Services programs.

What I have discovered since joining Willis Dady is the tremendous progress the team has already made in developing the Employment Services programs:

- We conduct workplace training and certifications in topics such as computer skills and forklift operation to help those needing specific skills to qualify for employment.
- We have developed employment opportunities with partners in the community. We have a strong partnership with Frontier Co-op placing apprentices for work in the manufacturing and distribution operations, offering training and transportation to help overcome barriers to employment. Many of the apprentices transition to permanent full-time employment with Frontier Co-op.
- We have successfully piloted the start of a mattress recycling operation in our Employment Hub location. We employ 5-10 associates, often facing significant barriers to employment, and have dis-assembled an average of 25 mattresses a month this year.

What's next? Marin Noska, our Employment Services expert, and I intend to expand all three programs: increasing training offerings, adding employment partnerships and getting Mattress Recycling fully operational. We believe there is significant opportunity for us to increase the service we provide for the community.

Please contact me if you have questions, ideas or would like to join the Employment Services mission as a volunteer: Dave Karpick, david@willisdady.com. Thank you!



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 the Loehr Family and their network for continuing to assemble snack bags for our clients. Leanne Loehr has spearheaded this opportunity for her family, friends, and church community to help us meet the need of having food for our clients. She even connected us with another church partner who have started assembling bags of their own. Thank you to Leanne and her family for their support of our clients!



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 June 13th, 2024 - October 13th, 2024

IN HONOR:

Alicia Faust	Irene Rossman
Amy Reasner	Janet Eackloff
Arlene Sobel	Joan Tucker
Bonnie Beardsworth	Renjena
Harold Sweet	Amy Reasner & Bill Stone
Howard Zimmon	

IN MEMORY:

Beverly J. Weyland	Evelyn Wilkinson
Bonnie Beltz	Howard Zimmon
Deborah Levin	Jill Lechtenberg
Dick Gorton	Joan Tucker
Dr. Billie Willits	JP Ranck
Esther Larimer	Robert MacTaggart



FINISHING TOUCHES AT CHANDLER PUMP: A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

Throughout the fall and summer Willis Dady has been placing final exterior touches to the Chandler Pump Apartments. With replanting grass, putting up a fence, and planting trees our team has been busy making the former construction area spring back to life.

One of the final landscaping plans for this area was adding a beautiful dedication in honor of a generous donor in our community. Thanks to the incredible work of Kelley's Stone Engraving, our memorial has been finished! The Kelley's team helped our staff design, decide the stone, and etch the engraving. Thank you to the Kelley's Stone Engraving for supporting our efforts!



Thank you, Kelley's Engraving!

Introducing Kyle

Kyle is our Shelter and Outreach Intern! Kyle is a social work student at Mount Mercy and has interned over 50 hours so far.

We asked Kyle what his favorite part or story of his internship has been, this is what he had to say:

"The vivid story that I will always remember from this internship is the first time driving around downtown with Angela (Street Outreach Case Manager). I felt like when people saw her pink jeep they would get the biggest smile on their faces and wave. That was such a visible sign of how much Willis Dady has made a positive impact on people experiencing homeless and the community." -Kyle





Give the gift of *Warmth*

BRING DONATIONS OF:

- Adult coats
- Hats
- Gloves
- Scarves
- Sleeping bags
- Blankets
- Hand/Foot Warmers

Willis Dady Works:
800 1st Ave NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
Mon- Fri | 9am - 2pm

Emergency Shelter:
1247 4th Ave SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
Every day | 8am - 8pm