There is an invisible homeless crisis in our community. A very different face of homelessness than what most of us see from the sidewalks and streets. It includes families living in cars or sleeping on a friend or relative’s sofa. Many of the single moms with kids that we help in our program had some sense of stability before domestic violence, illness or a job loss drove them into desperate circumstances.

As we wrap up our fiscal year, we want to take this opportunity to thank our community for supporting us. We received over 1,000 applications from head of household adults (2,500 people) and we were able to help almost 400 adults and kids.

Cowboy Up!

Thursday, August 4th
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Free annual picnic for partner clients, donors, staff, board members & volunteers.

Western dress. Put on your boots & bolos! Games, balloons and goodie bags for the kids!

On the grounds of the beautiful Myron Stratton Home.
455 Gold Pass Heights, Colorado Springs CO, 80906

RSVP to Juli at 325-5845 or jlabesky@partnersinhousing.org
http://partnersinhousing.org/events-2/

Grapes On The Grounds

Help us celebrate 25 Years of helping homeless families.

Saturday, August 27th, 2016
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
On the grounds of the beautiful Myron Stratton Home.
455 Gold Pass Heights, Colorado Springs CO, 80906
Wine and beer tasting with hors d’oeuvres.
$100 per couple ticket price, adults only.

RSVP to Dianne at dreitan@partnersinhousing.org or 719-325-5830
For information visit: www.grapesonthegrounds.org

Lunch & Learn

Learn about PIH while we feed you lunch!

Discover how our program achieves a 92% success rate and how you can help our homeless families become self-sufficient. There will be an interactive 45 minute presentation followed by a tour of our Donation Room.

Upcoming Lunch Dates:
Thursday, Aug 11, 12-1 pm
Thursday, Sept. 8, 12-1 pm

RSVP to Dianne at dreitan@partnersinhousing.org or 719-325-5830
Partners in Housing celebrates silver jubilee

By Theresa Ward/SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

COLORADO SPRINGS. As Partners in Housing prepares to celebrate 25 years of service to the Pikes Peak region, those who work at the agency day-in and day-out say it’s a long way from becoming obsolete.

“There’s a bigger need in our community than ever,” said Mary Stegner, executive director of Partners in Housing (PIH). “Both locally and nationally, families are the fastest-rising population of the homeless.”

“We are providing support to families who are homeless to move them to self-reliance,” said Stegner. "Our largest population are still single moms and their kids." While there have been times in the past when the biggest challenge is finding jobs for clients, these days PIH is grappling with a nationwide housing shortage.

Families who were managing to get by and then lost a job, had a medical issue, experienced domestic violence, or had an eviction can no longer find anyone that will lease to them, Stegner said. Once the family is homeless, they can’t find work or keep the kids in school because they’re homeless, and they start to spiral downward.

“If we can enroll these families in our program, get them on the path again, then they’re going to be all right with that year of support from us,” Stegner said.

Dianne Reitan, PIH development manager, echoed Stegner’s concerns.

“Sometimes they still have a job but if they have bad credit, the landlords don’t have to take that risk anymore,” Reitan said. “Because of the shortage, if you have bad credit, they don’t have to rent to you.”

“We’re constantly looking at ourselves, monitoring the successes and failures so we can improve our program. We meet consistently to see what trends we’re seeing and what we can do about that,” Stegner said. “We’re working differently with our 18-24 year-olds, because they hear things differently. These very young single moms have never had the skills to be self-reliant. So we’re doing more intensive casework with them — they have very little job experience or education. They have the potential to turn their lives around and not be in that cycle anymore, at a very young age. That’s where you can make the biggest difference. They’ve got the whole rest of their lives to take advantage of what they’ve learned.”

“Our ultimate goal for the families that leave our program is that they are never homeless again — that they move past whatever those crises were and those circumstances, and they have a plan,” Stegner said. “They may not be as educated and employed as they want to be, but they’re on the path and they know they can get there.”

Reitan challenged anyone who wants to help end homelessness to donate to Partners in Housing rather than giving handouts to homeless people on the street.

“Often giving $20 to a person holding a sign on the street prolongs the amount of time they spend homeless,” she said. “We need everything — volunteers, money, and stuff.”

"Stuff" includes household goods that a family needs when starting over again from homelessness. Clients shop for household goods in the "Turnaround Room," named for the changes noticed in their clients' demeanors once they realize their long nightmare is ending.

A Turnaround Room renovation was completed last fall and included moving the donation sorting area to a separate room. Clients now enjoy a more streamlined, shopping-like experience for items such as clothing and household goods.

Homeless Families – A Quiet Crisis in the Pikes Peak Region

Homeless families are nearly invisible in our community – living in their cars, sleeping on a relative’s sofa, camping in tents. Most led “stable” lives before domestic violence, illness, or job loss drove them into these desperate circumstances. Last year Partners in Housing received 1,004 applications for our 60 transitional housing units.

Started by Catholic Charities in 1991, in the last 25 years Partners in Housing has helped 4,000 individuals and 1,500 families. Last year, 92% of our clients increased their overall self-reliance!

Three Ways to Help Homeless Families

- Make a Cash or Credit Card Donation at www.partnersinhousing.org
- Donate pots and pans, sheets, towels, unopened personal hygiene products, laundry soap, etc. at our office at 455 Gold Pass Heights (Hwy 115 south of Lake Avenue)
- Call Jane Flowers to schedule a furniture and/or mattress pick up: 719.325.5845

Housing and Beyond.
Moving Homeless Families Forward.
Partners in Housing Awarded Grants

Partners in Housing could not accomplish its mission of helping homeless families with children gain stability and a place to call home without grant funding from local foundations. We truly appreciate their support of the families in our program. From our volunteers, staff and especially our families, a heartfelt Thank you to the following foundations:

The Carl J. Bjorkman Foundation
The Sam S. Bloom Foundation
Nathan B. & Florence Burt Foundation
The Daniels Fund
The Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation
The Hester and Edwin Giddings Foundation
Carl W. & Carrie Mae Joslyn Charitable Trust
Luther T. McCauley Foundation
The Moniker Foundation
The Myron Stratton Home
Nutrition Camp School Foundation
Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities
The Women’s Foundation of Colorado

You Can Help Us Remodel the Colorado House!

After 17 years, it’s time to upgrade the Colorado House which includes 25 of our 60 transitional housing units. The remodel of the Colorado House will occur in phases and will make the space more functional for our Partner Clients. The renovation plans include an upgraded community kitchen, expanded laundry facilities, a new Child Enrichment Center, and an updated space for Life Skills Training. The plan also allows for better 24 hour access for our Partner Clients. Our moms in the program will be able to bake cookies in the kitchen and have a birthday party for their kids in the family room. We have been fortunate to receive in-kind services from RTA Architects. Five Lowe’s stores in Colorado Springs have decided to combine their philanthropic efforts this year to support PIH and help with the Colorado House remodel!

Please call Dianne Reitan at 719-325-5830 to schedule a tour and explore how you can personally help us with labor and/or materials. Thank you for helping our homeless families!

In The News

Watch our video on Momseveryday.com

Celebrate 25 Years.
Give 25 dollars.
Your donation provides one night of housing for a homeless family. Donate Today at www.partnersinhousing.org

You Can Help Us Remodel the Colorado House!

Remodeling begins at the Colorado House with a team from eviCore.

Partners in Housing is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to provide homeless families with children the hope and opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency through supportive services & transitional housing.
Save the Date!

Please plan to donate to PIH on December 6th!

ColoradoGives.org