



## **The Day Shelter of Siouxland Project**

### **Trial Period April 2017 Final Report**

#### **PROJECT**

Leadership Siouxland is a class that is offered annually to employers wishing to grow leaders within their organizations and get them more involved in the Siouxland community. Classes are held monthly for nine months, September – May each year, and each class focuses on one component of the community: education, safety, non-profit organizations, culture and the arts, etc. Participants are required to do a community service project in groups year that will be sustainable and have a positive impact on the community. One Leadership Siouxland group within the Class of 2017 decided to do a project focusing on Siouxland's homeless population. The group members were Matt Ohman (Siouxland Human Investment Partnership), Cindy Nelson (Social Security Administration – Sioux City office), Shandell Inlay (Goodin Insurance), Kendra Newbold (Mercy Medical Center) and Captain Adam McIntyre (185<sup>th</sup> Refueling Wing). The group met with Joe Twidwell, a member of the Boards of the Warming Shelter and the Soup Kitchen. Mr. Twidwell served as the group's mentor and supported the project of opening a day time shelter in Sioux City during the cold winter months, to compliment the services offered in the evenings by the Warming Shelter. The Warming Shelter and Soup Kitchen Boards of Directors supported the project and offered the front part of the Soup Kitchen as a temporary location for a day time shelter. The Leadership Siouxland's project was two-pronged: to fundraise for a permanent shelter that would operate six months out of the year every year, and to do a one-month trial period of a temporary shelter during the month of April in 2017.

#### **STATISTICS, OUTCOMES AND SUCCESSES**

Day Shelter was open **31 days (April 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>)**; the original plan of ending the trial period on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> was altered to accommodate severe weather on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – the trial period was extended three additional days.

Day Shelter operating hours were **8:30 – 4:30 (opening of Soup Kitchen) Monday - Sunday**

An average of **27 individuals** utilized the Day Shelter each day during the trial run.

The highest attendance was **39 individuals** on one particularly rainy day

Majority of individuals utilizing Day Shelter were **30-50 years old**

Majority of individuals all appreciated the Day Shelter and "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that Day Shelter was a needed service, met their needs, complimented the Warming Shelter service, and liked having community service organizations present to do outreach

The only negative aspect reported by those utilizing the Day Shelter was location – they felt it could be more centrally located than Soup Kitchen

**3 individuals were able to find homes** through services provided at the Day Shelter

**1 individual was able to find a job** through services provided at the Day Shelter

**1 individual was able to get a government-issued phone** through services provided at the Day Shelter

**3 individuals were able to get clothes** through services provided at the Day Shelter

**3 calls to the Day Shelter to the Sioux City Police:** 4/27/2017 SUICIDE THREAT; 4/19/2017 RESTRAINING ORDER VIOLATION; 4/17/2017 INFORMATION THEFT; the Soup Kitchen location averages around 2 calls per month – it is not clear if all 3 of these were related to Day Shelter, or if 1-2 of them were Soup Kitchen-related (the suicide threat was indeed Day Shelter – security was able to get help for the woman)

**Shelter participant comments:** By the end of the second day, a woman said to the Security Guards at The Day Shelter: “This place and The Warming Shelter are going to save my life.” Another shared that she wished to get off of drugs, and that she was looking for that service at the shelter.

#### **FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR TRIAL PERIOD**

**Downtown Partners:** promotion of Day Shelter services to businesses in downtown Sioux City

**First Class Security:** discount on security services

**Jen Gomez (Sioux City Schools):** donation of several boxes of books for the Shelter

**HyVee:** donation of gift cards for supplies

**Leadership Siouxland group members:** donation of televisions and books for the Shelter

**Mercy Medical Center:** funded the cost of having two First Class Security security guards on site during operating hours each day, as well as some supplies. Total donation: \$6,564.24

**Sam’s Club:** donation of gift cards for supplies

**Sioux City Public Library:** donation of several boxes of books for the Shelter; promotion of Day Shelter to homeless population

**Soup Kitchen Board of Directors:** donation of free space to have the temporary shelter (Soup Kitchen)

**Joe Twidwell:** mentor for Leadership Siouxland team; was on-call as “coordinator” of the Shelter during the trial period, helped with costs related to cleaning inside and outside

**Wal-Mart:** donation of gift cards for supplies

**Warming Shelter Board of Directors:** full support of the project

## **OUTREACH SERVICES**

8 different non-profit organizations agreed to come to the Shelter during operating hours to provide outreach and services to the individuals that were utilizing the Shelter. Without the participation of these organizations, the outcomes of individuals finding homes and work would not have happened. These are the agencies and the services they provided:

**Crittenton Center Resource Center:** offered info about permanent housing program at Crittenton Center; took individuals to a clothes closet and gave them one outfit each; connection to community resources

**Foundations Mental Health:** mental health counseling

**Four Directions Community Center:** services, care coordination, substance abuse counseling to Native American population

**Heartland Counseling:** mental health and substance abuse counseling services and info about Heartland programs in S. Sioux City

**Siouxland Community Health Center:** HIV testing, medical counseling

**Siouxland Mental Health:** mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, info about Project Restore; social worker simply listened to the people's stories and built relationships

**Social Security Administration:** Social Security services

**Veterans Assistance:** services to Veterans, this provider is responsible for many of the outcomes listed above

## **DAILY ATTENDANCE BREAKDOWN**

April 3 – 6

April 4 – 6

April 5 – 15

April 6 – 12

April 7 – 12

April 8 – 10

April 9 – 13

April 10 – 26

April 11 – 6

April 12 – 27

April 13 – 27

April 14 – 30

April 15 – 28

April 16 – 22

April 17 – 21

April 18 – 23

April 19 – 29

April 20 – 30  
April 21 – 28  
April 22 – 22  
April 23 – 32  
April 24 – 32  
April 25 – 30  
April 26 – 36  
April 27 – 32  
April 28 – 39  
April 29 – 31  
April 30 – 34  
May 1 – 35  
May 2 – 35  
May 3 – 15

### **FUNDRAISING**

The Leadership Siouxland group has raised **\$3,655** of the **\$50,000** goal to date through a GoFundMe page, personal solicitations and donation letters sent out via email, the SHIP Siouxland Street Project website, and distributed at meetings. The group plans to do fundraising with a few smaller vents and cold calling over the summer and early fall – Downtown Partners has agreed to help with this.