



No Place to Call Home

Within the Green Bay area there are more than 1300 homeless children—some reside in cars, others on the streets, others double up with friends or family members. Bottom line, there is no one place they call home. These little ones never know where they will sleep at night or with whom or in what situation. And if they don't know where they will be staying, they certainly don't know when their next meal will come, or if they will have clean clothes. Their school performance is impacted, as is their physical and mental health. Simply stated, these children experience trauma on a daily basis.

For most of us, it is simply unimaginable—no place to call home.

Thank goodness our parish joined an organization called Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH), a collaboration of 21 area parishes and The Salvation Army (TSA). EPH and member parishes manage 25 homes, while TSA provides intense case management including budget counseling, parent education, mentorship, and coordination of other support services.

One of the mothers who had lived in the home St. Norbert College Parish oversees stated, *"This program saved my life and I will be forever grateful."*

Because this is a faith-based initiative, the names of all EPH homes are based on biblical references. Our home is called "Isaiah." The second home founded by EPH is called "Matthew", based on the Scripture passage—Matthew 25:40. "...whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

As this holy season unfolds, let us remember one of the pillars of our Lenten journey—almsgiving—and the question Jesus poses to US, "What have WE done for the least of my people?"

Once per year EPH and our parish coordinate a donation appeal. (You will be receiving an appeal letter soon.) We hope and prayer you'll be generous. Please note that EPH receives no government funding, it simply exists because people like you care about the most vulnerable among us.

Grateful thanks to those within our parish who joined this endeavor four years ago, to those who hold these struggling families in prayer, to those who scrub, clean, and repair our EPH home, to those who so generously donated baby items for the newborn girl within our unit, and certainly to those who financially support this worthy cause.

Please remember, because of you, there are little ones within our community who finally have a place to call home and a belief that someone truly cares.

May God bless us all, especially our homeless families.

Judy Turba

Parish representative to the EPH board of directors

