



Independence Lodge members hold their weekly lodge meeting physically distanced outside their home.

MORE THAN JUST ROOMMATES - FAMILY

On a recent sunny afternoon, Independence Lodge Members Joe, Dawn, Eric and Akeem (with their housemates Cindy and Jenny not present) took time after their weekly Lodge meeting to share their backgrounds, similar struggles with mental illness, and thoughts about living in a Tasks Fairweather Lodge.

Eric and Joe entered Tasks Unlimited a year apart, and have been friends and housemates for more than 14 years. “I think of these people as my family,” Joe shared, when talking about how he now has two families he can lean on, a sentiment shared by others. Just like family, Independence members have leaned on each other to keep their spirits up during the stay-at-home orders—playing board games and cards, cooking or grilling together, while having privacy and space too (the lodge is a converted duplex with eight bedrooms and expansive shared living space and yard).

People with a serious and persistent mental illness typically struggle to find and keep stable, affordable homes. Living alone can also be isolating, making it more difficult to manage a mental illness.

“[Here] I’m not alone in an apartment by myself in my head with my mental illness. I tried that a few times and it just didn’t work...I didn’t remember to take my meds like I was supposed to,” shared Dawn. “It’ll be a long time before I leave. Now I have these guys so I’m not alone.”

The Tasks Unlimited Lodge Program offers affordable housing in shared, interdependent residential homes in the community. Peer support and employment are key components of the model. Lodge residents support one another and make household decisions as a group with mental health staff available for support, not directing. During the weekly Lodge meeting,

which Abby, their Lodge Coordinator, also attends, they check in with each other, review lodge finances (everyone pitches in a fee to cover shared expenses), and upcoming activities.

“I like [it] here. More independence,” shared Dawn, comparing the lodge to other housing programs she has lived in. “I was in a GRH [Group Residential Housing] program before but it wasn’t like this. They were more hands on.”

“[Tasks] lets us do things our way, which has meant a lot more freedom than I’ve ever experienced,” shared Eric.

Employment with Tasks Unlimited Building Services (TUBS), though not required to live in a lodge, is also a plus for all Independence members. “We’ve been able to work and that’s been a blessing to me,” shared Joe. Throughout the pandemic, TUBS employees have continued to work as essential employees providing janitorial and mailroom services at their government worksites. Everyone agreed that working has been important for both their financial and mental health.

The group looks forward to returning to normal activities—solo trips to the gym, group fishing trips and monthly bowling nights. In the meantime, they plan on buying more board games and cards for the lodge. Everyone shares similar sentiments about their home—expressing hope for the future that they will live and work together for years to come.

“Just do it – it’s worth it,” says Dawn as final words of encouragement to anyone interested in Tasks Unlimited. “Stay motivated, it just gets easier,” Joe agrees. “It can be challenging to begin with but it does get easier.”

2019 RECAP - OUTCOMES & HIGHLIGHTS

Served **462** individuals,
increased **24%** from 2018

\$238,743 contributed by
297 generous supporters

\$15,712 donated for the
Client Emergency
Needs Fund

Launched new programming through new state funding:

- Northeast Outreach & Opportunity Center (NOOC) opened to expand services for those experiencing homelessness.
- Whatever It Takes supported those transitioning from hospitalization to the community.
- On-site artist residencies were offered in a variety of visual arts.

Mission: Guided by the Fairweather model, Tasks Unlimited provides supported employment, housing and recovery services to create opportunities for people with mental illness so they can achieve their full potential.

We are based in Minneapolis and serve Hennepin, Dakota, Ramsey, and Anoka Counties in the Twin Cities Metro.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health services (including intensive residential, psychiatric, case management and ARMHS) to increase stability, independence and employability

413 people received mental health services;
47% were new clients

92% of clients successfully managed their illness, avoiding hospitalization

50 individuals received intensive residential treatment and support

HOUSING

Affordable, long-term shared housing through our Fairweather Lodges, the shorter term Transition Lodge, and new duplex Judith House

21 Lodges provided stable housing for **126** individuals

28 individuals gained housing and recovery support at our Transition Lodge

16 new clients secured long-term housing at a Lodge

EMPLOYMENT

Vocational rehabilitation, job training, placement services to gain competitive employment, and supported employment in janitorial and mailroom services

211 individuals maintained supported employment with average tenure of **11** years

49 new training or placement clients secured stable jobs

88% of training graduates were still working 6 months after graduation

STAFF EXECUTIVE TEAM

Karen Johnston, *Executive Director* Ashley Trepp, *Director of Mental Health Services*
Gil Bessard, *Chief Operating Officer* Dana Scarlett, *Director of Property Management*

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Embracing change and growth

2019 was a year of growth—25% more individuals were served, we widened our range of services, we developed a new drop-in center to expand outreach to those experiencing homelessness, and we increased our growing network of new partners. Our success in accomplishing this expansion is due to the willingness of our dedicated board and staff to embrace change and look at new ways to deliver services. It's also a testament to the effectiveness of the Fairweather Model as more people looked to Tasks for support to improve their lives.

We want to thank everyone in the Tasks community who helped us to grow and increase our impact throughout the year—our clients and their families who inspire us each day, our committed staff and board, and especially the supporters and partners who make our work possible. By your support, you are truly changing lives each day, and that's the change that counts the most.

With thanks—



Karen Johnston, Executive Director

FISCAL YEAR 2019 FINANCIALS

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support and Revenue	2019
Contributions	515,425
In-Kind Contributions	189,523
Government Grants and Contracts	1,646,827
Employment Revenue	5,471,904
Program Service Fees	1,635,401
Client Service Fees	1,571,203
Investment Income	46,478
Other Income	86,035
Total Support and Revenue	11,162,796

Expense

Program Services	
Mental Health	1,672,603
Training Center	707,600
Lodge Program	886,876
Vocational Rehabilitation	5,829,188
Total Program Services	9,096,267
Support Services	
Management and General	1,161,817
Fundraising	211,760
Total Support Services	1,373,577
Total Expense	10,469,844

Change In Net Assets **692,952**

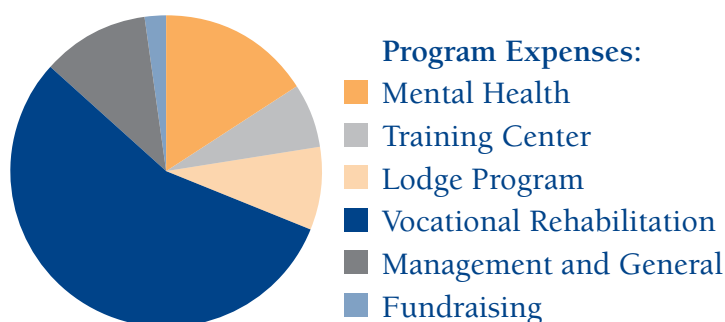
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

Assets	2019
Cash	2,452,054
Accounts receivable	1,037,047
Investments	2,057,305
Prepaid Expenses	167,342
Land Buildings and Equip. (Net)	4,981,826
Total Assets	10,695,574

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	78,507
Accrued Expenses	809,335
Notes Payable	238,000
Long Term Notes Payable	3,168,391
Total Liabilities	4,294,233
Total Net Assets	6,401,341

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **10,695,574**



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