

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION

Your gift to the **Client Emergency Needs Fund** will help clients impacted by the crisis with rent and other basic needs.

Make a donation online at [www.tasksunlimited.org/donate](http://www.tasksunlimited.org/donate) or mail your check made out to Tasks Unlimited to 2419 Nicollet Ave. S., Mpls, MN 55404. Thank you!

### DONATE CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS

Shop from our Amazon Wishlist and purchased items will be delivered directly to Tasks:

<https://amzn.to/2PPExeF>

OR send us an Amazon e-gift card at the email below.

Urgently needed items include:

hats, gloves (disposable and knit), socks, bottled water, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes

**CONTACT US BY EMAIL TO COORDINATE DELIVERY OR DISCUSS OTHER WAYS TO HELP DURING THIS TIME: [DEVELOPMENT@TASKSUNLIMITED.ORG](mailto:DEVELOPMENT@TASKSUNLIMITED.ORG)**

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

First and foremost, we hope you and your loved ones are doing well. This is a time when the well-being of everyone in our Tasks Unlimited community, and especially those we serve, is our number one concern. Fifty years ago Tasks Unlimited was founded by a group of dedicated individuals who believed in the Fairweather model. Through all the growth and changes since the first group of clients moved out of Anoka State Hospital into their own home in south Minneapolis, the Fairweather principles of interdependence and community remain at the core of all we do. As we face the challenge of the current pandemic, those principles remind us of what is most important and how we best navigate these extraordinary times.

Just as we have been for the last 50 years, we are here for our clients. Tasks Unlimited provides essential services so we are still working with clients in all programs. We remain vigilant in monitoring and adopting the protocols recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state agencies, and are focused 100% on gathering the most current information and responding quickly, flexibly, and responsibly to maintain services and protect the safety of our clients, staff and broader community.

Based on guidance we have received, we have made changes and adjustments, including practicing social distancing wherever possible. As of now:

- Our janitorial and mailroom service contracts are continuing. Tasks Unlimited Building Services employees are being relied on by the federal and county agencies where they work to provide additional cleaning and sanitizing services. Thank you to these employees for representing us so well and keeping the agencies where they work clean and safe.
- Our Fairweather Lodge and Case Management services are continuing with very few adjustments.
- The Northeast Outreach and Opportunity Center serves some of the most vulnerable people in our community—those who are homeless. With some adjustments, the NOOC remains open. All visitors receive new resource kits with food, supplies, and information.

Notwithstanding our best efforts, we know some clients will be negatively impacted. If you are in a position to help, we are gratefully accepting donations to our Client Emergency Needs Fund. Please see more about how you can help on this page.

These are trying times, but in true Fairweather fashion we are sticking together as a community. All the best to you, and stay well—

With thanks,

Karen Johnston, Executive Director

# HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Tasks Unlimited was formed in 1970 based on Dr. George W. Fairweather's success at creating an alternative to hospitalization for people with mental illness, now known as the Fairweather Lodge Model.



In 1963, a team of researchers in California, led by Dr. Fairweather, established the first experimental lodge. Fairweather Lodges provide shared, independent housing with support for adults with mental illness. Central to the Fairweather approach are mutual peer support and employment as keys to mental health recovery. As our housing and employment services have expanded over the years, this approach remains fundamental to our work.

*This is an abbreviated timeline - many successes had to be omitted in the interest of space.*



**1968** A Fairweather Research Dissemination Team presented the Fairweather Lodge Program at Anoka State Hospital, with the first phase of the in-house Fairweather model beginning a year later at Anoka State Hospital.

**1970** Tasks Unlimited (TU) is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization to train Anoka State Hospital clients in independent living and work skills, acquire lodges and secure and monitor work contracts.



**1970** The first TU lodge - the Janitorial Aces - opens in Minneapolis also marking the founding of the lodge residents' own commercial cleaning business. Lodge members lived and worked together, receiving support from their peers and staff.

**1979** All Lodges become prime contractors rather than working as sub-contractors.

**1980** TU has grown to five lodges.

**1981** TU opens the first community-based Lodge Training Program (LTP), later renamed the TU Training Center (TUTC), in Minneapolis, eliminating the need to enter the state hospital to receive Fairweather training.

**1981** TU establishes the Satellite Program, renamed the JOB\$ Program in 1986, to provide support for those that moved out of lodges but continue to work for TU.

**1981** TU receives its first federal contracts, later joining the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH), now known as SourceAmerica. TU continues to receive federal contracts in the years following.

**1984** TU receives its first accreditation from the National Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), held continuously from this year forward.

**1985** TU creates four subsidiary corporations: TU Janitorial Services (TUJS), renamed TU Building Services (TUBS) in 1996, TU Mental Health Services (TUMHS), TU Lodges (TUL) and LTP, now known as TUTC, to focus on specific program functions.



**1987** TU purchases an office building at 2419 Nicollet Avenue S. followed by 2411 Nicollet 10 years later in 1997.

**1989** TU establishes the JOB\$ Training Program, which offers paid on-the-job training in janitorial work and independent living skills to better prepare trainees to work with TUBS.

**1993** TU diversifies employment opportunities and Rehab2 is created as a remodeling services business, operating for 27 years.

**1995** TU continues to diversify employment opportunities by adding mailroom services.



**2000** TU celebrates 30th anniversary with new logo and website. With growth over the last decade, TU has added eight lodges, bringing total to 14 lodges.

**2001** TU Mental Health Services begins providing case management services, adding Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS) a year later.

**2001** TU begins offering the Wellness Program to TUBS employees, which provides clients incentives to develop healthy life habits.

**2003** TU opens Oakwood Residence, the first Fairweather Lodge designed for women with mental illness and their children. The program focuses on keeping families together and operates for 15 years.

**2006** TU hosts the Coalition for Community Living's national conference, a nationwide non-profit that supports and promotes the Fairweather Lodge model.

**2007** TU opens Interlachen Lodge, a lodge training program designed exclusively for people involved with the criminal justice system as a result of untreated mental illness, which operates for 7 years.

**2009** After serving 30-plus years as Executive Director of TU, John Trepp retires, assisting with the transition to TU's current Executive Director, Karen Johnston.



**2012** TU introduces new logo, with new colors, reflecting new projects ahead.



**2012** TU opens the Senior Lodge, offering TU's aging clients a lodge with additional support and more accessible space with peers helping with daily living tasks.



**2016** TU launches the Job Placement Program to expand employment assistance for individuals seeking competitive employment.



**2017** TU launches the Transition Lodge, a new program model that offers an intermediate level of support and flexible stay for individuals moving from more intensive settings to independent living.



**2017** TU housing options increase with purchase and remodel of Judith House, thanks to a major gift from Aroha Philanthropies. It is a new duplex model of shared independent living for up to four individuals who wish to live in a shared space.

**2018** TU completes an organizational restructuring to increase the points of entry to mental health services by offering Targeted Case Management and ARMHS as stand-alone services.



**2019** TU expands outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness by opening the Northeast Outreach & Opportunity Center, with state funding and in partnership with Elim Church's Hope Avenue. NOOC serves as an emergency day shelter providing a meal, resources and support.

**2019** TU expands outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness by becoming a program partner and also the fiscal agent for Envision Community, a tiny homes project in collaboration with Street Voices of Change and other agencies in the Twin Cities.

**2020** TU offers 22 Fairweather Lodges and 14 janitorial and mailroom contracts with federal and county agencies.

## A CHAMPION FOR TASKS

Steve Erickson has been with Tasks Unlimited since the summer of 1984 and is as engaged now as he was during his first years with Tasks. With a kind voice and an even kinder smile, Steve has always been respected and admired by his peers and co-workers.



In 1983, Steve was hospitalized at Anoka State Hospital. It was there that he first learned of the Fairweather program. Steve liked that you could work and earn money while in the hospital. In the program, he received training in janitorial work and living and social skills. Being able to work while receiving the mental health and recovery services he needed was unheard of before this time. Since then, Steve has worked at a number of our janitorial contract sites, including a number of years at one of our federal sites.

When Steve left the hospital he chose to move to a Fairweather Lodge, where small groups of clients

share a home and support one another. For the last 18 years, he has lived at Sunspots Lodge, contributing to Sunspots' numerous awards from the Coalition for Community Living (CCL), a nationwide non-profit that supports and promotes the Fairweather Lodge model.

Steve's involvement at Tasks does not stop there. In 1990, he was nominated by our founder Dorothy Berger to join Tasks' Board of Directors, and has served in leadership roles ever since, most recently as chair of the Mental Health subsidiary board. Recently, Steve received an award for 30 years of service on the Board of Directors.

Looking forward, Steve plans to continue being engaged, just as he has been since joining Tasks. When he is not working or volunteering, Steve enjoys taking advantage of the educational opportunities in his community, recently signing up for five community education classes.

About Tasks Unlimited, Steve says: **"Oh, Tasks has been really good to me all through the years."** It's clear that Steve has given back much more than he has ever received.

## THE BEGINNING

In 1968, Dorothy Berger, a social worker at Anoka State Hospital, learned about Dr. George Fairweather's research-based model of people with mental illness living successfully in the community through living together in small groups, supporting one another, and working.



At the time, there was a push to downsize hospitals, where many people with mental illness had lived in isolation for years. Dorothy believed strongly in her patients' capacities to work and live independently, but saw that they needed support as well as housing to avoid returning to the hospital.

Dorothy led the charge to start an in-hospital Fairweather program in 1969 that provided job and independent living skills training. Based on that

program's success, she and a band of fellow social workers moved the program out into the community the next year.

Tasks Unlimited was founded and our first Fairweather Lodge became home to a group of patients from Anoka State Hospital who formed their own cleaning business, the Janitorial Aces. That was 50 years ago, and Tasks Unlimited is still going strong.

**"Be open. Not only be open to your opportunities but be open to the capacities of others and to the potential people have, even when it looks like they aren't going to ever reach it."**

*-Dorothy Berger, 2010 UMN-CEHD publication*

Dorothy Berger died on Jan. 15 at the age of 95. In this anniversary year, we remember her commitment and years of service to create opportunities for people with mental illness to live with dignity and independence.