

NORTHEAST OUTREACH & OPPORTUNITY CENTER (NOOC)

A cozy corner in NE Minneapolis providing drop-in center services to adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Visitors receive a hot meal, mental health supports, employment resources, housing stabilization services, and basic needs like hygiene kits.

HOURS & LOCATION:
OPEN 8 AM - 3 PM

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS,
AND FRIDAYS

685 13TH AVE. NE
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413

MOST NEEDED ITEMS THIS WINTER:

WARM ADULT CLOTHING:
new warm socks, hats,
gloves, scarves, coats, and
sweaters | *neutral uni-sex
colors, medium-3XL sizes*

HYGIENE ITEMS: shampoo,
deodorant, soap, lotion,
menstrual pads, tampons |
*no strong fragrances, all-sized
items accepted*

*Purchase items online
directly from our Amazon
Wish List. Check the detailed
wish list at:*
<https://amzn.to/2PPEXeF>

Or contact us for drop-
off. Email [development@
tasksunlimited.org](mailto:development@tasksunlimited.org) or call 612-
767-2083 for questions.

FINALLY HOUSED, SETTLING DOWN, AND LOOKING AHEAD

For Anne, the Northeast Outreach & Opportunity Center (NOOC) has been a source of survival items when she was without housing or a job, but it's also become much more—a safe space with support and resources where she can write the next chapter of her journey.

When Anne first became homeless in 2018, she turned to alcohol to help numb herself from the difficulties and trauma of living on the streets. At one point, she gained a new place to live and a job, but lost both. After that experience of finally being housed, having an ideal apartment of her own, and then losing it all, she entered voluntary inpatient treatment and after graduating was able to move to a new sober living apartment.

Anne started coming to the NOOC when she was still homeless and relied on the hygiene items, clothing, bus tokens, and meals she could get there. When she was on the street, NOOC staff gave her a tent and helped to find another shelter. During this stressful time, the NOOC was also a haven.

“When I would come here from my homeless environment, one of the things I really liked about the NOOC is – it’s peaceful. It’s quiet. It’s comfortable. [When you are homeless] you get tired of noise, traffic and construction – it’s nice to have a break.”

“The NOOC might not be able to provide everything you need at the exact moment you come in,” says Dom McDew, NOOC Program Manager, “But a person can come in and relax and be away from the hustle and bustle of being out there – and have



conversation with people who can support them.”

For Anne, having a place like this is important: **“When I’m not here, I know that there’s a support here. So it’s a comfort that I can carry around.”**

Anne’s focus now has turned to continuing to work on her recovery journey and to finding employment. She plans to continue her visits to the NOOC as she settles into her new home. NOOC staff are helping with her job search and in finding a counselor to assist her as she transitions to life off of the streets.

You can find Anne at the NOOC often, writing in her notebooks, reading, and taking things one step at a time. Beyond finding employment, she hopes to establish a new routine, build new friendships, volunteer and give back, but mostly, try to find herself again. Her words of advice-

“Keep the hope. And get a notebook.”

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Breaking down barriers and opening doors...

It's what Tasks is based on. We are striving to reach more people with mental health challenges, increase diversity of our client base, and expand housing and employment options, especially for those with the highest barriers.

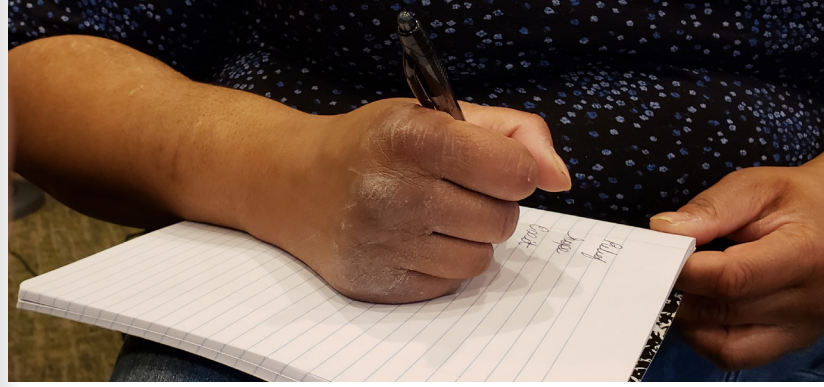
One way we are doing this is through our Northeast Outreach and Opportunity Center. The NOOC, now in its second full year, serves as a low barrier entry point to our services for people experiencing homelessness. Staff meet new visitors on their own terms, providing food and other critical needs while building trust. Most face difficult challenges, including mental illness, substance abuse, criminal record, or prior eviction history. About 2/3 are people of color. We plan to increase the resources we offer at the center to more directly link NOOC clients to housing and job training.

This fall Envision Community also took a major step forward through becoming a non-profit subsidiary of Tasks Unlimited. Designed and led by people with lived experience of homelessness, Envision offers a new affordable housing option—communities of tiny homes clustered around a central common house. The board of Envision has identified a property for the first Envision community and is working on acquiring it. We hope to be building tiny homes soon.

These projects expand our reach and broaden our impact. I hope you will consider supporting these efforts on Give to the Max Day. We depend on your support to move these initiatives forward. Thank you—we'll keep you posted on developments!



Karen Johnston
Executive Director



POETRY WORKSHOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMPAS AN EXCERPT FROM:

TO BE HONEST...every day is a gift. *A collection of poems and stories*

WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN TO ME? by Tasha

Carving our names in an old Oak tree
Kindness, compassion, patience, and loyalty
Love lives on eternally
When is it okay to love?
Before the ceremony releasing the doves
After twenty years of tears and hugs
And cherishing every second of those beloved
Where is it okay to love?
Anywhere there is a lack thereof
Anywhere it is accepted like a drug
And especially where you receive more of
Why should we believe in love?
Because it's a gift from the one above
Because we'll see each person tenderly
And we'll see the world as it is, wonderfully

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS by JW

The legacy of flowers
If your hands are empty.
And you have no flowers
May your heart and hugs be filled with super
powers ~

POETRY WORKSHOP CONTINUES THIS FALL AT THE NOOC. We are pleased to share in this and future newsletters selections of poems written by Tasks clients participating in poetry workshops taught by COMPAS Teaching Artist Danny Solis. The poems collected in To Be Honest were written during the workshop in summer 2021.

These workshops are provided in partnership with the arts organization COMPAS and made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

64% of homeless adults report having a serious mental illness

Source: Wilder Research 2018 MN Homeless Study



give TO THE MAX

Nov. 18, 2021

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - GIVE TO THE MAX DAY IS THURS., NOVEMBER 18!

Show your support for Tasks Unlimited this Give to the Max Day (GTMD)! Early giving starts November 1, so if you're reading this before November 18, you can make your gift right now at givemn.org. GTMD is a 24-hour online giving event across Minnesota created by GiveMN. GiveMN's mission is to ignite generosity and grow giving – connecting people to causes in need.

From November 1 – 18, each gift of \$5 or more not only supports our mission but also qualifies us for prize drawings and additional chances to win big! This year, we are most urgently in need of donations for the Client Emergency Needs Fund and the Northeast Outreach & Opportunity Center. Be sure to visit our profile at WWW.GIVEMN.ORG/TASKSUNLIMITED to learn more.

SUSTAIN AND GROW OUR NORTHEAST OUTREACH & OPPORTUNITY CENTER

The Northeast Outreach & Opportunity Center (NOOC) provides support and drop-in center services to adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Visitors receive mental health supports, employment resources, housing stabilization services, a hot meal, and other basic needs. We need your help to continue these services. *By supporting this fund, you are helping people experiencing homelessness find housing, comfort, and support.*

HELP US EXPAND OUR CLIENT EMERGENCY NEEDS FUND

The Client Emergency Needs Fund helps clients experiencing temporary hardships by providing direct financial assistance to meet critical needs. It is available for clients experiencing temporary setbacks with rent and basic needs. As injuries, health issues, and numerous other factors continue to affect our clients' ability to work, this fund needs your continued support. *By supporting this fund, you are helping to ensure help is there when needed.*

CHALLENGE MATCH - \$8,000 LEFT TO RAISE

Thanks to a generous, anonymous donor, every gift between now and GTMD will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000. We've raised just over \$17,000 so far - all thanks to supporters like you!

Thanks to this match opportunity, your gift this GTMD will have DOUBLE THE IMPACT to support people living with serious and persistent mental illness to work and thrive.

WILL YOU HELP US RAISE \$8,000 THIS GTMD?

Any gift made to Tasks Unlimited on GiveMN helps us get one step closer to reaching \$25,000 and enters us for additional chances to win big this GTMD.



 DONATE TODAY

Contact development@tasksunlimited.org or call 612-767-2083 for questions.

INDEPENDENCE LODGE RECEIVES THE 2021 DOROTHY BERGER LODGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Tasks Unlimited lodge and staff members showed up big in awards categories this year at the national Coalition for Community Living* (CCL) Conference.

Tasks' **Independence Lodge won the 2021 Dorothy Berger Lodge of the Year** award. The Independence Lodge was nominated by their coordinator, Abby, who cites the lodge's consistent "positive atmosphere"—one of "caring, support, fun, and togetherness." Their comradery and mutual support is evident in many ways—including sharing meals, running errands, or spending free time together, and never hesitating to lend a helping hand to one of their fellow lodge-mates in need.

You may be familiar with the Independence Lodge – they have been featured in our past publications.



Pictured is CCL's Director (and former Tasks Executive Director) John Trepp presenting the award to Independence residents Dawn, Eric, Joe, Christian, Alan, Cindy, Akeem (not pictured), and Tasks' Fairweather Program Manager, Ben S.

Tasks' staff members, NanElise and Abby, were each nominated this year for the 2021 Coordinator of the Year award.

NanElise has been an incredibly stable resource for all of her clients. Her nomination cites her success at helping her clients adapt during such uncertain times and encouraging them to stay safe and get vaccinated. Valued by fellow staff and clients alike, NanElise adapts her methods to meet her clients' needs and provides face-to-face support to her clients and lodges to ensure they feel heard and supported.

Abby has been a great advocate for the Fairweather Model and for her clients' needs. She encourages them to work toward being independent and to entrust their peers for support along the way. "Abby is doing a wonderful job," says her supervisor. And her clients agree:

"She goes above and beyond. On multiple occasions she talked me through things. She makes me do things because she knows I can do them myself."

"She is my favorite coordinator. She holds us accountable. More than a coordinator, she is a life coach."

*The CCL was formed in 1978 to support and promote nationwide the Fairweather Lodge Model, a residential-vocational community model providing opportunities for those with serious mental illness to reach their full potential.

**If you know of someone in need of our services, please send them our way.
We are here to help.**

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.

