

2009  
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## PRAIRIE APARTMENTS SEES ITS FIRST TENANTS MOVE IN!

February was a landmark month thanks to the completed construction of Prairie Apartments. This new development is one small part of the complex solution for some of Milwaukee's most vulnerable adults facing a continued lack of affordable housing. The 24 unit, low income, affordable housing project is an exceptional facility allowing tenants to live independently with supportive services available to them (see page 3 for more details). The first tenants have already expressed their excitement with comments such as "This is a beautiful opportunity for me," "Thank you for making this possible for me," and "It's the best place I've ever lived."

Prairie Apartments is a partnership between The Guest House and the Chicago developer Heartland Housing. In May 2008, we held the ground breaking ceremony and moved quickly to open our doors. All 24 units are expected to be filled by May 2009.

This 4.6 million dollar project became a reality with collaboration from the following funding partners: Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Supportive Housing Program Fund, Low Income Housing Tax Credits issued by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), City of Milwaukee HOME Funds, City of Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund, a grant from the WHEDA Foundation and capital



from Milwaukee County. Additional support was provided by the Milwaukee Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) in the form of both a predevelopment and acquisition loan.

Prairie Apartments is a viable, long-overdue approach to our community's deep need for affordable housing. The Guest House is truly proud to be the first organization in Milwaukee to offer this innovative type of housing.

Visit our Web site at [www.guesthouseofmilwaukee.org](http://www.guesthouseofmilwaukee.org) for more photos covering the construction of Prairie Apartments and watch for details on our upcoming Open House scheduled for Spring 2009.

Consider making a long term impact on the social issue of homelessness through a planned gift to the Guest House when planning your estate or will.

# One Step At a Time



## From the Executive Director: *Opportunity!*

A time of challenge is also a time of opportunity. This is a phrase you may have heard as you have read or listened to articles in recent news reports about the current state of our economy. Is it truly possible to seize opportunity when so many things around us seem so bleak?

Each day a few new men walk through the front doors of the Guest House, leaving twenty, thirty or even more out in the cold. Most of these men are walking through the front door for the very first time, some maybe the second, third and for a few maybe even the fourth time. Why does that man take this first step on his journey out of homelessness and back into a place of dignity? He has come to the realization that a time of challenge is a time of opportunity, despite the state of the economy.

Each man is taking his first steps to change. He will work extremely hard at his own pace

with the support and guidance of a case manager, a counselor and the many other staff at the Guest House who have only the success of each "guest" in mind.

We can only continue to be successful with the outpouring of community support we experience each and every day. So in this time of challenge, help us help the many who come to our door and many more who live in our 170 supportive apartments. Our dream and we hope your dream is that the Guest House continues to be a place of opportunity where once homeless individuals can live independently in the community in a place they call home.

With sincere gratitude,

Cindy Krahenbuhl,  
Executive Director

## Special Thanks

The Guest House staff, guests', volunteers and supporters would like to send a heartfelt thank you to our retiring board members. We would not be where we are today without the tremendous support we received from these very dedicated individuals. At this time, we would like to thank the following people who have served the Guest House for many years on the Board of Directors:

Bob Duthie  
Paul Eberle  
Paulette Harder  
Dr. Dan Miota  
Brad Murray



Warm Thank you to Deborah and the Northwestern Mutual employees who participated in the clothing drive for the Guest House!

**Guests'  
Bulletin  
Board:**



Karl, Mark and Philip thank VJS for the opportunity to work security on the Prairie Apartments site during construction.

**WALK-A-MILE**  
May 2, 2009  
Register on our  
Web site!

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**Guest House Open  
Golf Outing  
August 25, 2009**

**Programs  
and  
Services:  
Prairie  
Apartments  
Services**

With the generous support from a contract with Milwaukee County, the Guest House will provide supportive services including case management and Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) counseling. Tenants will have a choice to take advantage of these supportive services when they first move in or become involved at a later date.

Several features of the building include a community room, business center and an exercise room. By connecting to resources in the community staff will be able to provide activities such as cooking and computer classes, support

groups and a wellness plan. They will also have access to additional resources based on individual's specific needs.

By locating these supportive services within the apartment building, we greatly enhance the tenants' abilities to remain living independently in the community. With the involvement of several partners, this integrated housing project offers a home to those who would otherwise be unable to live in market rate apartments.

# Calendar of Events

## March 2009

25 LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration

## April 2009

22 LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration

## May 2009

2 Walk-A-Mile in My Shoes

27 LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration

## June 2009

24 LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration

## July 2009

22 LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration

*For more information or to volunteer, please  
call Mari at (414) 345-3240 x 168.*

## August 2009

25 7th Annual Guest House Golf Outing

26 LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration

## September 2009

23 LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration

## October 2009

TBA Volunteer Appreciation

28 LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration

## November 2009

18 LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration

## December 2009

TBA LEADS Recognition  
& Birthday Celebration



[www.guesthouseofmilwaukee.org](http://www.guesthouseofmilwaukee.org)

(414) 345-3240

1216 N. 13th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53205

