



Ecumenical Partnership for Housing

A record 111 were in attendance at our annual Celebration Dinner!

It was held Monday, May 7th at the Bemis International Center at St. Norbert College.

We were honored to have two speakers with us that evening—Jakki, who lives in one of our transitional homes with her four children, and January, who lives in one of our LTSH homes with her four children. Both women spoke about their journey toward self-sufficiency and their future goals. Jakki and January expressed their sincere appreciation; appreciation for a home – and appreciation for the support and encouragement provided through our partnership with The Salvation Army and Golden House respectively. Both women showed their determination and are an inspiration to all!

EPH's new Prevention strategy was introduced. Our goal is to *prevent* homelessness through partnerships with landlords and other social support agencies. Prevention will reduce the stress and trauma associated with being evicted and becoming homeless. A prevention case manager will meet with the landlord and family, and together will develop a pathway back to self-sufficiency. Support, in addition to case management, may include budget counseling, financial assistance, and referrals to other social service partners. This year is a "Learn-Do-Study-Act" endeavor, targeting 2019 for full implementation.

The Duane Howell Service Award was given to Marlene Sharman, a volunteer from First United Methodist Church. Marlene was recognized for over 10 years of service. In addition to living the EPH core values, Marlene went above-and-beyond as a unit coordinator, mentor, and supply center coordinator.

At the end of the program, Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to individuals who have demonstrated years of dedication and service to EPH.

- Ron Schiltz was recognized for his many years as a board member and maintenance volunteer.
- Jonathan Darling was recognized in his role as Chair of the Pathway to Self-sufficiency Capital Campaign, raising \$1.5 million for long-term supportive housing.
- Lori VerBoort was recognized for six years of service, five as board secretary.
- Outgoing board President, Deacon Mike Vander Bloomen, was recognized for his leadership as President and a five-year member of the Executive Committee.

EPH's incoming officers are Jo Ullman (President), Darlene Fink (Vice President), Judy Turba (Secretary), and Wayne Micksch (Treasurer).

The evening wrapped up with dessert, coffee and continued conversation, much of which centered on being blessed by the two moms – Jakki and January – for their courage and perseverance.