

# Help Us Save Safe Haven

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Porchlight is excited to share the changes made to our Safe Haven program in 2018. After receiving the devastating news that our federal funding was ending after 22 years in operation, we needed to make adjustments in order to continue this vital community program.

First, we changed our 14 shelter beds to permanent housing. These units will continue to be dedicated to Safe Haven guests who have difficulty finding and maintaining housing. We continue to provide a day program seven days a week, but have worked to bring in additional revenue and expand services to our shelter guests. In particular, we have been targeting services to the most vulnerable individuals who are in crisis due to symptoms caused by their mental illness or substance abuse issues, and billing this intensive case management to Medicaid.

Our fundraising goal for this newsletter is \$25,000. Because the program is six miles from downtown, Safe Haven distributes two bus tickets per day for each of its guests to access services. The funds raised by this campaign will ensure ongoing transportation needs are met. Thank you for continuing to support Porchlight and the staff and guests of the Safe Haven program.

## Save the Dates

### **Annual Recognition Dinner**

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

*5:30-8:30 PM at Monona Terrace*

### **Isthmus Brass Concert**

*Wednesday, December 12, 2018*

*7:30-8:30 PM at First United Methodist*

### **Porchlight's Original Chef Tasting**

*Tuesday, February 19, 2019*

*5:30-8:30 PM at Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery*



Kristina, Tommy, & LeeAnne preparing lunch for Safe Haven residents and shelter guests

**Save Safe Haven** by donating by mail to  
 Porchlight, Inc. 306 N Brooks St Madison, WI 53715

**Program redesigned to increase sustainability**

For over 23 years, Porchlight has quietly served a very vulnerable segment of the homeless population at a facility on the east side of Madison. Safe Haven is a day resource center and residential housing program exclusively for men and women who have mental health issues and are experiencing homelessness. In the fall of 2017, we received the devastating news that the federal funding for this program would not be renewed. Through an outpouring of concern and support from the community, we were able to raise \$340,000 to keep the program open through 2018.

We are making several changes to the program in 2018 in an effort to decrease expenses and increase revenue:

- Switching temporary beds to permanent housing and charging rent for those 14 rooms
- Billing Medicaid for case management services
- Decreasing staff hours
- Eliminating overnight coverage
- Seeking long-term funding from Dane County and the City of Madison



**“Join us in our efforts to save Safe Haven”**

**Karla Thennes**  
Executive Director

I extend to you a special invitation to help us keep this vital community resource open. With this newsletter campaign, we need to raise \$25,000 to cover our client transportation costs.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** A1 Furniture | CUNA Mutual Foundation | Dane County Human Services | J.H. Findorff & Son | Madison Community Foundation | Mt. Zion Baptist Church | Steve Brown Apartments | D&S Dental Laboratory | Loughrin Accounting

Reducing Stigma

*“It is a place where not only basic needs are met, but “mental illness” are words that do not hold shame or define an individual.”*

*-Karen Andro,  
First United Methodist Church*

Community Asset

*“Safe Haven is a unique and important resource of which Madison should be very proud, because many other places do not have such resources.”*

*- Kristi F. Jones MPH,  
CHES, UW School of Medicine and Public Health*

Cost-of-Care

*“It is imperative, that the county, city, and community understand how the success of programs like Safe Haven is directly related to keeping people out of costly settings such as inpatient care and jail.”*

*–NAMI Dane Co.*

**NAMI declares critical need for Safe Haven**

The individuals being served at Safe Haven are the hardest to reach and are not easily engaged in mental health services or ready for immediate placement in residential settings, like group homes or permanent supportive housing.

Safe Haven provides the type of environment needed to re-establish trust and to re-engage persons with severe mental illness in treatment and services so they *can* maintain stable housing.

Our most vulnerable citizens will have nowhere to go if Safe Haven closes, which almost certainly will result in hospitalization or spending time in jail.

**A community can pay for an entire year of intensive treatment, disability benefits and other services for the cost of one incarceration or hospital stay for a person with mental illness.**

*NAMI Press Release: published September 18, 2017*

**Dane County prioritizes mental health in 2018**

When people have chest pain, they have the awareness to call an ambulance or a doctor to have their heart checked.

**Mental illness doesn't lend toward the same awareness. Government has a role, a bridge to resources for those unable to receive care through their current health coverage. To do better for our community, coordination and communication is critical.**

\$100,000 is included in Dane County's 2018 budget to help fund Porchlight's Safe Haven, a program that provides transitional housing and case management for those who suffer from mental illness to stabilize their living situation and reduce homelessness.

**We need to continue our efforts such as Safe Haven that are proven effective and make a difference.**

*County Executive Parisi, 2018 Budget: published October 2, 2017*

**Safe Haven helps guest transform life after trauma**



Albert, former Safe Haven resident

When Albert was a child, he participated in gymnastics and won many medals, but he also experienced unimaginable physical and sexual abuse. When Albert was 19, his mother was murdered. Albert turned to alcohol to cope with the trauma. He continued to abuse alcohol for over three decades and became homeless. He heard about Safe Haven and began using day services. Albert stayed at Safe Haven for fourteen months, where he met with a substance abuse counselor weekly and began seeing a psychiatrist.

Albert started attending AA meetings, going to church, and working toward his ultimate goal – sobriety. Albert moved into a permanent apartment with Porchlight and has maintained his independence ever since. Albert still meets with his substance abuse counselor, and has served as the Resident Manager for Porchlight's Nakoosa Trail campus for over a year. He considers this his way of giving back.

**“Safe Haven helped me realize how important life is. The staff helped me realize that drugs and alcohol aren't worth all the suffering. Everything I have learned here, I can pass on to other people. I can tell people how Safe Haven changed my life around. It made me a better person. I wouldn't have anything if it wasn't for my sobriety.”**

To **donate** or for more information, visit [www.porchlightinc.org](http://www.porchlightinc.org).

We would like to thank the Madison office of the national law firm Husch Blackwell LLP and two of its partners, Jeffrey McIntyre and Dan McGarry, for their generous contribution. On behalf of Husch Blackwell, Dan and Jeff donated \$18,000 to our Save Safe Haven campaign to help ensure this vital community program will stay open in 2019.

Jeff was very pleased to steer this donation to Porchlight: “Dan had a bankruptcy case in which unclaimed distributions were to be donated to a local non-profit. Dan knew that I was on Porchlight’s Board of Directors and asked me about Porchlight’s important work in the community.”

“After doing some of his own due diligence, Dan told me that Porchlight would be a very worthy recipient of this donation, particularly given the Safe Haven program’s critical funding needs.”

Husch Blackwell has been a wonderful community partner for years – sponsoring events, assisting with pro bono legal matters, and encouraging employees to volunteer. Jeff has served on the Porchlight Board of Directors since 2014.



HUSCH BLACKWELL

**Join the campaign** by donating online at [www.porchlightinc.org/donatenow](http://www.porchlightinc.org/donatenow)  
or by mail to Porchlight, Inc. 306 N Brooks St Madison, WI 53715

## PORCHLIGHT, INC.

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MADISON, WI 53715

[RECIPIENT]

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