



BOULWARE MISSION

Newsletter

Winter 2013

Boulware Clients Transition into Stable Housing of their Own

The 30 Days of Thankfulness is a trend that many people have taken part in over the past couple of years; it is a way to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday by listing one thing each day during the month of November that you are thankful for (most of the time these are listed on Facebook).

Homelessness does not discriminate...it can happen to anyone under the right circumstances.

I have had friends that have participated in the past, but I never have. This year, I decided to join in—for nothing else than to remind myself of everything I have to be thankful for. I began with my family and friends and the job that I love (Director of Development at Boulware Mission); then, last night I wrote about how thankful I am for my home. That immediately made me think of the 60 men and women living at the mission right now who don't have a home to call their own.

Even working at the mission, and seeing these people every day, I sometimes forget that at the end of the day, when I go home, they do not. Our clients remain at the shelter even after the "day staff"

go home. They eat whatever is prepared for them, watch whatever everyone can agree on in the TV room, and share a bunk bed with another person and a room with other people. They do not have a space to call their own. I can't imagine the feeling of not having a home to go home to...even though that feeling is all too familiar to people I see and interact with on a daily basis.

Thinking about this last night reminded me of why Boulware Mission is so important to this community. Each year, more than 300 people who do not have a place to call home are given a safe place to lay their heads at night. They are provided food and shelter and material items (such as shampoo and laundry detergent). And they are also provided with hope and the chance at a new beginning. Through case management, substance abuse treatment, and education, our clients are given the tools for a much needed second chance.

During the past couple of

weeks, I have been blessed to have the opportunity to work with 6 clients as they transitioned from life in the shelter to living in their very own homes.

Boulware Mission was awarded a Federal Grant to help homeless individuals move out of the shelter and start over. Rapid Re-Housing is a HUD program that was developed with the purpose of providing financial aid (covering the cost of deposits, etc.) to very low income people moving out of shelters and into their own housing while continuing to offer case management services as they

learn to live on their own.

Ralph was the first person we were able to help. He had suffered a lifetime of addiction.

Ralph was homeless and sleeping on his mother's couch, when he came to Boulware. He graduated Boulware's licensed Alcohol & Drug Treatment program and was in desperate need of a new start in a new place—away from the crowd with whom he had surrounded himself. Ralph was able to rent an apartment



Ralph showing off his new apartment.

Boulware Mission Inc.

609 Wing Avenue

Owensboro KY 42303

Phone: (270) 683-8267

Email: mail@boulwaremission.org

Website: www.boulwaremission.org

www.facebook.com/boulwaremission



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Financial Literacy Course Offered to Clients

Just because you are living in a homeless shelter does not mean that your debt magically disappears. This is something that Boulware’s clients know all too well. For many of them, financial problems were contributing factors to their homeless situation.

As part of Boulware’s *Self Sufficiency* program, all Boulware clients attend a Financial Literacy course, which is offered on-site by Old National Bank employees Jennifer Allen and Sam Taylor. The four week course covers the following topics: why banks are important, wants versus needs, budgeting, and credit.

Throughout the course, residents are taught critical steps to getting their finances in order. They learn why keeping their money in the bank is safer than keeping it on their person. They learn how to distinguish between things they want to spend their money on and things they need to spend their money on. They learn how to develop a budget that they can put to use. And, they learn about the different types of credit that are offered and how to repair their credit.



Clients are also offered one-on-one sessions, where an in-depth look can be made at their individual situation and an action plan can be made about how to best address their financial needs.

Budgeting their money, having a savings plan, and paying down debt are goals that each client works on while at the mission—not only are they a necessity to get out of the situation they are in, but they are tools that will help them be successful when they leave.

Why Should YOU Support Boulware Mission?

The holidays are approaching and every charity is looking for support—Boulware Mission is no different. The next couple of months are critical to the mission’s operating budget as much of our income is received during this time of year. So, why support Boulware Mission? Well, we think we have a couple of good reasons—

It’s personal—this is your opportunity to help real people who are in need. People just like you, who because of a set of circumstances, have found themselves homeless. Boulware Mission serves over 300 homeless individuals each year. Each person’s individual situation is equally important and each person needs your help as he/she works to better his/her life.

Your money stays local—Boulware Mission serves Owensboro and the GRADD area (Green River Area Development District). When you give to Boulware Mission, your money stays right here. We do not pay fees to a parent organization or send money off somewhere. Every penny do-

noted to Boulware Mission goes to pay the operational costs of providing food, shelter, case management, treatment, and programming to our clients.



We’re small and mighty—Boulware Mission is a local organization, established in 1921 by 4 school teachers. Our organization is not run by highly paid executives, instead it is run by a small, dedicated staff of people and an equally dedicated Board of Directors who want to serve this community by helping it’s most needy citizens.

Every little bit helps—it doesn’t take much to make an impact. Boulware’s annual operating budget is just over \$500,000—that covers utility bills, food, materials, and staff. Broken down, it costs the mission about \$25 per person, per day to

operate. That is not much, when you consider the impact the mission makes. What a small price to pay to change peoples’ lives!

Options—we will work with you however you plan to donate to the mission. We are always in need of money, but in-kind gifts are needed as well. And, we are greatly appreciative of any and everything we receive.

It’s easy—to make a monetary donation, simply enclose your check or credit card information in the enclosed donation envelope and mail to the mission. Prefer to make a donation online? We offer online giving through our website: www.boulwaremission.org. Donations are also accepted on-site; just bring them to 609 Wing Avenue, in Owensboro.

However you decide to give back this season, we hope you’ll consider Boulware Mission as we work towards fulfilling our mission of ending homelessness, one person at a time!



Boulware Clients Transition...Cont'd.

near the shelter; he is disabled and cannot work, so he returns on a daily basis to make sure that he is staying busy and associating with the right people.

Next, we were able to help Terry and Tim. Terry was evicted from his home for inability to pay rent. He had recently suffered a stroke which left him disabled and unable to work. He was estranged from his family, had no where to go, and had no one to turn to—this led him to Boulware.

Tim had been laid off when his company made cuts; he was receiving unemployment benefits and looking for a new job until he was no longer able to afford his rent. He was forced to move out and ended up at the mission.

While at the mission, Terry and Tim became good friends. Also while staying there, Terry's health continued to deteriorate. He was hospitalized and diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He would now require a full time care-giver.

The Rapid Re-Housing program was great for Terry and Tim, because it allowed them to move into appropriate housing together—Tim is now Terry's full time care-giver.

Nathan, a homeless veteran, was the next person we were able to help. Nathan had also been staying on his mom's couch before he came to Boulware Mission for help. Due to an injury, it was impossible for him to do his job, which forced him to file for SSI disability. Nathan was on a waiting list for subsidized housing, but had been told that it would be a long time before they would be able to get him into a place. Our case managers were successful in working with Nathan to find other subsidized housing to fit his needs.

Then there was Tammie. She came to the mission after serving time in prison. She completed Boulware's Alcohol and Drug

Treatment program, and began looking for housing; but, due to felony drug charges and her low income, it was very difficult for her to find a place that would rent to her. Again, we were able to work with Tammie to find an agency to rent to her.

Finally, we were able to assist Terri. She became homeless after the apartment building she had lived in was foreclosed on. She had no idea of her impending fate until she received notice that she had to move out. Because she was disabled and did not have the money saved to



Nathan sitting in his new apartment.

start over on her own (money for deposits, first month's rent, etc.) she bounced from one temporary living situation to another until she finally found herself living on the street. Boulware Mission was able to offer her a place to live and the Rapid Re-Housing program was able to offer her the resources she was in desperate need of to start over.

Each of these 6 individuals came from different places and ended up homeless for different reasons; but, they all shared a need to start over and Boulware Mission filled that need.

Because I serve on the Rapid Re-Housing committee, I've had the privilege of working with each participant every step of the way as he/she found a place to live and moved in. The excitement and gratitude that each person displayed as they prepared to move into their very own home was so abundant it was contagious to

everyone around them!

Only 2 of the 6 participants had any sort of belongings to start out with. We were able to post on Boulware's Facebook page that we were moving people out and this community came together to help support them! Individuals donated beds, couches, dishes, and other necessities. They helped us to not only move those 6 clients into apartments, but to make those apartments into homes! As we continue with the Rapid Re-Housing program, and these 6 clients continue to come to the mission for case management services, I cannot wait to see how they progress—how much they thrive as they are living independently!

Because I am not a case manager, I do not always get the hands-on experience I have had through this program and it has been a wonderful experience for me! I wish we could do this for everyone, but I know it is not feasible. What we can do is continue to offer the programs through Boulware Mission that empower our clients to change their lives—case management services, treatment, and education.

As great as it felt to help 6 clients move out; the reality is that as soon as their beds were empty, we had 6 new people moving into them. There will always be a need for what Boulware Mission offers—that is because homelessness does not discriminate...it can happen to anyone under the right circumstances.

As I go home this evening, I won't forget the people I am leaving at Boulware. I'll remember them as I prepare dinner for my family (a dinner that I chose to make), relax in front of the television (that I don't have to share with anyone but my husband), and retire to my bedroom for the night. I hope that as you head home, you'll remember them too, be thankful for what you have, and consider how you might be able to help those less fortunate than you.

**Boulware
Mission** 
A Home for New Beginnings
609 Wing Avenue
Owensboro KY 42303

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OWENSBORO, KY
PERMIT NO. 120
42301



You are Cordially Invited to Attend

*Boulware Mission's Annual
Christmas Open House*

Thursday, December 12, 2013

2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

609 Wing Ave., Owensboro

