MEET MUHUBO

Muhibo has no memory of Somalia. She was just one year old when her grandmother died and her mother immigrated to the United States soon after. The transition was a difficult one. She says, “I cried every night. I was very scared. I spoke no English and didn’t understand the food, drink, bathrooms, nothing.” Ten years later, Muhibo has transitioned into her new home, in part due to her hard work at the English Learning Center. This was the first of Muhibo’s events attended in her home, and she’s been able to find her footing. She’s advanced from English level 2 all the way to level 5/6; our most advanced class. She hopes that becoming a citizen will speed the process along. Beyond that, Muhibo wants to finish all the levels at the English Learning Center and then go to college. She’s keeping her career options open, joking, “Time flies! Maybe I’ll be a truck driver!” Truck driver or not, she’s bound to go far.

MEET LARRY

Larry is a former regular at the shelter within a week. He’s attended regular events for a year and a half, and has moved in to his own apartment through Our Saviour’s Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Larry still never forgets that day he rode, “I felt on top of the world instead of the bottom.” Larry will never forget that day. He says, “I felt on top of the world instead of the bottom.” Larry made a promise. Stuck in a toxic cycle of alcohol, gambling, theft, and jail, he promised to be a better brother and father. So after his brother’s funeral, Larry hopped on a bus to Minneapolis. That bus ride, as Larry put it, was the first of his life. Another passenger told him to go to Our Saviour’s Housing, “because they’re the best!” He got a bed at the shelter within a week.

OUR SAVIOUR’S HOUSING

There’s a kind of prayer – I call it the earnest prayer – where you’re just so low it feels like all you can do is throw your head and hands up to the sky. The last time I said a prayer like that, I was given a bed at Our Saviour’s the next night.

SHELTER RESIDENT

Larry has remained successfully housed for two years now. He still lives coming back for a cozy place. The first thing he does when he walks in the door is kick off his shoes and feel the firmness of the floor and the soft bed. Although he still occasionally battles his old demons, Larry knows that housing, stable housing, has been critical to his growth and recovery. He appreciates the tools they’ve received, saying, “Without DHP I would be dead by now. It’s a real sign of their care, you’re not just in and out of places.”

IMPACT

• 87% reported better understanding English
• 87% reported learning more about United States culture
• 78% believe they can better ask for directions in English
• 52% got a job
• At least 7 students became United States citizens

WHO WE SERVE

• Ages 18-85, averaging in the mid-40s
• Health Concerns— 49-52% reported issues relating to mental health, 19-65% physical disability, and 19-50% to chemical dependency
• 23-37% of survivors of domestic violence*
• In emergency shelter
• 8% are 18-19 years old
• 8% are veterans
• 2-3% have some college education or higher
• 21% are refugees

EMERGENCY SHELTER

• 372 beds, a full kitchen, a living room, and storage

TRANITIONAL HOUSING

• 27 beds
• 1-2 year program focusing on health, education, and stabilizing a livable income

STUDENT HOURS

• 46,373

14% INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR

IMPACT

• 1 science circle
• 4 health
• 4 computer
• 11 citizenship
• 21 math

WHO WE SERVE

• Ages 18-26
• 70% refugees
• 20% have children under 18 at home
• 33% have never been to school before

SHELTER AND HOUSING FOR

• 112 PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
• Surviving housing wastefulness, have experienced those hardships, and solve this with a rental, preferably chemical disability
• 372 EMERGENCY SHELTER
• 40 beds, a kitchen, a living room, and storage

IMPACT

• 25 COUNTRIES
• 7% Somali
• 7% Spanish
• 5% Arabic
• 1% from each of the remaining 18 languages

SERVE

• 1 science circle

Our impetus is to bring our clients to English, health, and computer classes to improve their English and to improve their skills. They’re personal and value you."

MEET MUHUBO

"When I came to America, no English—new English! Right now, I’m rich. Life is fun! This school has good, good people. I feel so happy when I came.”

MEET LARRY

"My mama would be so proud. It was her dream to own a grandfather clock. She passed before I could make that happen. Now I have one. I love it, but it’s really hers.”

ABDULLAHI, STUDENT

It felt like the light was coming! I knew I was moving and improving. When I moved here, I signed my name with an ‘X’. Now I can actually spell and write my name!”

IMPACT

• 3% Amharic
• 3% Oromo
• 7% Spanish
• 83% Somali
• 1 science circle

WHO WE SERVE

• Ages 19-50% are survivors of domestic violence*
• Ages 18-75, averaging in the mid-40s
• Health Concerns— 49-52% reported issues relating to mental health, 19-65% physical disability, and 19-50% to chemical dependency

112 PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

• Surviving housing wastefulness, have experienced those hardships, and solve this with a rental, preferably chemical disability

112 CLASSES

• All English
• 20 reading circles
• 21 math
• 11 citizenship
• 5 distance learning
• 4 computer
• 4 health
• 1 yoga
• 1 women’s leadership
• 1 science circle

STUDENT HOURS

46,373
Dear Friends,

Another year has come and gone and much has changed, especially in our political climate. However, despite these changes—indeed, perhaps because of them—the work of OSCS remains the same. We remain dedicated to providing dignified shelter and housing to those who struggle with homelessness and English language education to our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

I know, of course, that we accomplish nothing alone. That’s why this annual report is for YOU. From making meals to prepping lesson plans to sending generous financial gifts, you’ve showed kindness at a time when the world seems less friendly. For all of your many efforts and contributions, I am grateful. Know that you’ve made a difference. You made a difference for Muhubo, whose English skills are about to surpass the levels of our school and who dreams of one day attending college. And for Larry, who felt, “on top of the world,” when he moved into his own apartment after six years of being homeless.

I hope you take joy and pride in the positive changes you see reflected here. They’re not always as prominent as the ones that make the headlines, but they’re no less important. And they wouldn’t have been possible without you. I look forward to making more change together in the coming year.

Gratefully,

Sandra J. Aslaksen
Executive Director

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