

# Ascension Place, Inc. News

Fall 2011

*Our mission is to support women in crisis and transition by providing a stable environment and the opportunity to explore options for their future.*



*St. Anne's Place residents and Kitchen Manager Sam Brose cooking in the kitchen!*

## St. Anne's Place Gets A New Kitchen!

Located in North Minneapolis, St. Anne's Place provides emergency shelter and support to homeless women and their children. Families are referred to St. Anne's Place through the Hennepin County voucher program, which provides emergency assistance for residents of Hennepin County.

Designed in the 1940s to house and feed 16 nuns, the kitchen at St. Anne's Place has never been updated and now serves 16 families, or up to 50 people, each day. After more than 20 years of making do with our undersized space, St. Anne's Place got a new kitchen thanks to a generous grant from the City of Minneapolis' Department of Community Planning and Economic Development.

"Providing on-site meals that are

nutritious and fresh is an important part of our programming," says Betsy LaMarre Maddox, Program Director of St. Anne's Place. "An expanded kitchen that offers more space for preparation and storage, as well as a repurposed dining room that creates a friendlier and more comfortable community space is a huge addition to our program."

The St. Anne's Place kitchen and dining room remodeling project broke ground in late March 2011 and was completed in July. During this three month construction project, St. Anne's Place benefited from the kindness of the Academy of North Minneapolis, who let us to use their kitchen during the week, and many individuals and local businesses who donated meals on the weekends.

## Thank You Merry Meal Makers!

Milda's Café, located at 1720 Glenwood Avenue North, lent a hand to St. Anne's Place during our kitchen remodel by making a homemade meal and delivering it just in time for the dinner bell.

We are grateful to Milda's and to all of the generous partners who pitched in and made our kitchen remodel a little more bearable and a lot more tasty!

More Generous Partners:

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Cub Foods— West Broadway

Dominoes Pizza

Robins, Kaplan Miller, & Ciresi, LLP

Falafel King

Famous Dave's

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis

NAIOP & Catalyst Community Partners

Sweet Taste of Italy

The Wedge Co-op

And many more individuals and families!

## In Her Own Words: Jillian's Ascension Place Story

Tonight, I'm sitting at home after a long but great day at work... and I owe it to Ascension Place.

It's been eight years since I was a resident of Ascension Place. I landed there at age 21 after some bad choices that left me with the need for a safe place to nurse my wounds. My plan at the time was to finish my day treatment program, find a job and wait for affordable housing. My plan was to survive. But thanks to the staff that pushed me and believed in me and taught me how strong I am, I have done more than survive. I have flourished.

Since leaving I have gotten engaged, I have created a beautiful home, and I am currently at St. Kate's majoring in Communication Studies. I have built a career I

am proud of, and most importantly I am happy, confident and stable.

Within the walls of AP I found guidance and support, both from the staff and my fellow residents. Perhaps most importantly, I had a safe and secure place to live. Security and support are the greatest things you can be given when you have hit rock bottom. They allow you to take risks to make big changes, and they provide optimism for your own life, when you have none of your own. This opportunity for change is what Ascension Place gives to women.

I hope someday to be able to impact others the way the team at Ascension Place impacted me. This is what I have worked towards since the day I packed my boxes and set out to test my own wings.



### Make A Difference: 2011 Holiday Giving Program

The chill of winter will soon be in the air, and this means it is time once again to rally your neighbors, co-workers, family and friends for our annual **Holiday Gift Giving Program**. Last year, your generosity meant that all of the women and children living at Ascension Place and St. Anne's Place were able to celebrate the joy and spirit of the holiday season. If you are interested in sponsoring a wish list or donating general items, please contact Julianna Janssen at [juliannajanssen@stannesplace.org](mailto:juliannajanssen@stannesplace.org) or 612.588-0861.

## The Arts have a home here

Residents gather to showcase their artwork and celebrate creativity

From Children's Music Group with an artist from the West Bank School of Music to monthly arts activities with Free Arts MN to weekly artist-in-residence workshops in partnership with the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC), the arts have a home at Ascension Place Inc. In August, residents from all three programs gathered to share the artwork they had created throughout the year, experience Spoken Word performances and dance and sing along with guest musicians Peter and Jack Pearson. Julie Kelley, Executive Director, says, "At Ascension Place, Inc. we use arts programming to help women and children in crisis cultivate capacities and skills that promote stability. These activities have a deep and lasting impact on the lives of the people we serve. Through meaningful self-expression, they continue to find positive ways of coping with the challenges they face. And the artists and community that interact with our arts program learn about the strengths and experiences of the women and families living in our buildings, making the impact of our programming even greater."

(Our arts activities are funded, in part, by funds provided by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council from an appropriation by the MN Legislature.)



## New Grant Spotlight: Plymouth Congregational Church of Minneapolis & St. Anne's Place Aftercare Program

Thanks in part to a new partnership with Plymouth Congregational Church of Minneapolis, St. Anne's Place is providing aftercare services to families leaving shelter, helping them to get back on their feet and break the cycle of homelessness once and for all.

In July 2011, the Benevolence Committee at Plymouth Congregational Church approved a one-year grant to St. Anne's Place in support of the Aftercare Program. The Aftercare Coordinator works with families over a two-year period as they move forward on a path toward long-term stability and independence. The goal is to help families:

- Achieve long-term housing stability by maintaining affordable, safe and adequate housing;
- Achieve economic stability by maintaining a sufficient monthly income that meets their basic needs, such as shelter, food, clothing and personal care supplies;
- Engage children regularly in healthy, age-appropriate learning environments and promote parent involvement in children's learning and development; and
- Access preventive healthcare, thereby reducing dependency on emergency room care.



*The 2011 Ascension Place Alumni Reunion*

I never realized how lonely I was until I came here. The sisterhood is awesome.

- Serena,

Ascension Place resident

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

### Renee Pouliot, Driver Extraordinaire

My name is Renee Pouliot. I am retired from Qwest after 32 years. The most important people in my life are my 2 children, 3 grandchildren and my fiancé. I love spending tons of time with my grandkids, being outdoors and biking. I usually bike until there is ice on the road.

**How did you hear about Ascension Place (AP)?**

I was browsing volunteermatch.org and saw an ad.

**What you do as a volunteer at AP?**

I pickup donations from various stores & bring them back to the house.

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**

I know it sounds like a cliché, but I do find it so rewarding helping others. I feel that I get more out of it than the people I am helping. It just really makes me feel good. And since I am retired I have the time now.

For information about volunteering at Ascension Place or St. Anne's Place, call Julianna Janssen at 612.588.0861 or email her at [juliannajanssen@stannesplace.org](mailto:juliannajanssen@stannesplace.org).



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# Ascension Place, Inc.

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For more information, visit our website at [www.ascensionplaceinc.org](http://www.ascensionplaceinc.org)

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please email [info@ascensionplace.org](mailto:info@ascensionplace.org)

**October Donation Drive:**  
Socks and Winter Boots  
(children and adult, new and  
gently used accepted)

Please call or email for more  
information at  
(612) 588-0861 or  
[info@ascensionplace.org](mailto:info@ascensionplace.org).



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## Join Us For A Taste of Jazz

Enjoy culinary delights by D'Amico  
Wine sampling by Import Iberia & beer sampling by Fulton  
Cool jazz tunes by Yolande Bruce and local band The Smarts  
A silent auction and raffle full of great items  
All benefitting the programs of Ascension Place, Inc.

Friday, October 28th

6pm to 9pm

Metropolitan Ballroom

Early bird special—\$50 per ticket until October 14th.

After October 14th, \$60 per ticket.

To order tickets, call or e-mail Julianna Janssen at 612.588.0861  
or [juliannajanssen@stannesplace.org](mailto:juliannajanssen@stannesplace.org).