

MICAH MESSENGER

Mission Newsletter
October 2019



White Bear Lake
**UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Nourishing the Hungers of Life

*He has told you,
O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD
require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with your God?*

- Micah 6:8 -



In September a gift of \$400 was sent from White Bear Lake UMC to Solid Ground so that school supplies could be purchased for all of the kids/adults in need of school items. Thank you to all at WBLUMC who make financial donations to the organization possible!

“UP and OUT of POVERTY” SOLID GROUND

In the beginning . . .

Solid Ground was started by a group of compassionate and generous women who lived in suburban Ramsey and Washington Counties and wanted to help low income mothers in their communities struggling with housing, childcare, education, food security and the like. They first incorporated as East Metro Women's Council in 1989. In 1993, they opened East Metro Place, their first facility providing affordable housing and supportive programs to twenty families experiencing homelessness, where they could stay for up to two years while they worked towards self-sufficiency.

The location, right next to Century College, was chosen so that parents could have easy access to education, which is a key component in escaping poverty. Though initially envisioned to serve only women and their children, the organization has housed all family structures, including single fathers and two-parent families.

Since first opening its doors, the organization has expanded to house over 70 families at a time in suburban Ramsey and Washington Counties, providing not only affordable housing but also the support that families need **to find themselves on solid ground**. In 2013, East Metro Women's Council legally changed its name to Solid Ground, to capture the organization's work in helping families build a strong foundation for their future.

Today . . .

Solid Ground is led by Executive Director, Trisha Cummins Kauffman, MPA and a staff of 19 dedicated women (per Solid Ground website staff listing).

Their current program structure continues to include East Metro Place which provides 20 units of transitional housing in White Bear Lake, MN near Century College where families can stay for up to two years and receive income-based rental assistance. In addition to housing, families living at East Metro Place participate in a range of supportive programs to help them build the strong foundations they need for a better future.

In addition, Solid Ground opened East Metro Place II on the White Bear Lake campus in 2005, providing 14 units of permanent supportive housing. Like in the transitional program, families participate in intensive supportive services and receive income-based rental assistance. Seven units are designated for homeless families with disabilities, and seven units serve families with histories of long-term homelessness. Families living at East Metro Place II can stay as long as they need to.

“HomeFront” was launched in August 2016 to serve long-term homeless veterans and their families. This permanent supportive housing program, in partnership with Sherman Associates, serves 10 households at a mixed-income development in Maplewood.

How WBLUMC plans to help . . .

Learn: Our first step is to help our congregation become better acquainted with the work of Solid Ground through participation in their “**Home at Last**” tour program where we can learn about how they help families build the strong foundations they need to emerge from homelessness into a brighter future! Tours are from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at East Metro Place.

Our tour dates:
November 12 and December 10.
Sign up to participate in a tour in the lobby at church or contact lori.mcbride@wblumc.org

Volunteer: On December 13 & 14, 2019, the Solid Ground Community Room will be transformed into the “Santa Shop” - a holiday store stocked with donated gifts and toys where parents can experience the pride of picking out the perfect present for their child.

A number of volunteer opportunities will be available for anyone interested in working to make the Santa Shop a success. Sign up sheets will be posted in the near future but **save the dates on your calendar now!**



Donate: A “Holiday Wish List” will be posted soon and all are welcome to donate gift cards or new gifts for children or adults. Financial contributions for Santa’s Shop are welcome, as are donations at any other time throughout the year.



MISSION PROJECT UPDATE BRIDGING

On Rally Sunday, 70+ Cleaning Kits were packed for Bridging as a part of our Rally Day festivities. The supplies for the kits were purchased from the WBLUMC Missions Budget—your generous donations at work for others.



Photo above: Robyn and Aiyana Renner packing kits.



Until next newsletter, peace to all.

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