

WILLIS DADY

HOMELESS SERVICES
SUPPORT • STABILITY • OPPORTUNITY

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

29,588

NIGHTS OF SHELTER PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN 2020 AT WILLIS DADY'S EMERGENCY SHELTER AND OVERFLOW SHELTER.

\$86,174

WAS PROVIDED IN DIRECT RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS FACING NEAR HOMELESSNESS.

131

RENTAL DEPOSITS WERE PAID TO SUCCESSFULLY MOVE AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOUSED.

202

INDIVIDUALS WERE PROVIDED BASIC NEEDS AND CONNECTED TO HOUSING RESOURCES TO TRANSITION FROM THE STREETS TO STABILITY.

127

INDIVIDUALS WERE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN STEADY INCOME THROUGH EMPLOYMENT.

36

VETERANS WERE SUPPORTED THROUGH LONG-TERM SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES.

24

INDIVIDUALS WERE PROVIDED SUPPORTIVE HOUSING WITH CASE MANAGEMENT.



When so many closed their doors, we opened ours 24/7/365.

When there was nowhere to eat or refill water bottles, donors brought food and water to Willis Dady.

When houses and apartments were destroyed, we opened more beds and places for shelter.

Thank you to everyone who made our work possible in 2020.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Since 1987, Willis Dady Homeless Services has been providing emergency shelter to single men. In 2019, we expanded to provide additional space for single men, families, and veterans. Moving from 16 beds for single men to 25 beds, plus an additional 10 beds reserved for veterans, and from 4 family apartments to 6. In 2020, everything changed. We recognized the need to keep our clients, a high-risk population, safe from the pandemic, and therefore began operating 24/7. It was a change that brought unexpected benefits, and we are proud to continue transitioning individuals and families from shelter to stable housing units.

STREET OUTREACH

Street Outreach meets clients where they are; mentally, emotionally, and physically. Case managers assist clients in meeting their immediate basic needs and support each person in connecting with a housing program that will help them transition from sleeping outside to having a place to call home. 2020 created numerous unforeseen obstacles for our most vulnerable clients. Gas stations no longer allowed people to fill water bottles, food sites shut down, and the derecho was devastating for those sleeping outside. As soon as the winds slowed, Willis Dady staff were driving over downed limbs, over power lines, and across grassy areas to check on our clients. Our case managers never slowed down to make sure those most in need throughout our community were cared for.

RAPID RE-HOUSING

Our short-term Rapid Re-Housing program provides just enough financial assistance to get individuals and families experiencing homelessness into safe, stable housing. With the support and guidance of a case manager, households are able to connect with landlords, employers, benefits, and other resources to gain and maintain stable housing. A big part of this work is in gaining and growing landlord partnerships. Our case managers not only help with rental assistance but also collaborate with each client to tailor services on an individual basis to ensure success once we step out of the picture.

VETERAN SERVICES

Providing Veterans experiencing homelessness a safe, stable place to sleep with ongoing intensive case management since 2018. We connect Veterans with employment, health care, eligible benefits, and housing to continue their journey towards self-sufficiency. In 2020, we added 5 additional Transition In Place (TIP) beds that will support Veterans in the community on top of the 10 Bridge and Service Intensive beds located at our shelter. While the last year added new challenges and changes to our programs, we did not have to make significant changes to our Veterans services.

OVERFLOW SHELTER

The Linn County Community Overflow Shelter was originally opened in 2015 and normally operates from December-March. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Willis Dady acted quickly to continue providing the needed services and not only remain open 24 hours a day, but also to serve those most in need from December 2019-May 2021. This provided non-stop shelter, case management, access to services and PPE, and a safe location for individuals who would otherwise be sleeping outside for the entirety of 2020.

HOMELESS PREVENTION

One-on-one case management and support for individuals and families who are near homelessness. Willis Dady case managers work with each household to identify their barriers to maintaining stable housing, their goals, as well as their strengths. A case plan is built to assist households in gaining stability. In 2020, case plans looked different for everyone. Case managers began by discussing stimulus checks: how to get one, how to spend it, and what to be prepared for. They also explained how the eviction moratorium worked, so clients understood the need to continue paying rent to the best of their ability. Willis Dady was able to provide financial assistance directly to landlords to stop eviction proceedings and assist households in maintaining their homes.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Supportive housing provides individuals and families who have experienced persistent homelessness a stable housing option. With a dedicated case manager providing ongoing, intensive support, clients are able to be empowered and build a support system to achieve self-reliance. Our supportive housing program includes both individual units and cooperative housing. Cooperative housing is a great benefit for individuals with high barriers by having peer support and accountability. They have weekly house meetings and individualized case management to problem solve and become successful with the support of their roommates.

EMPLOYMENT

Through our supportive staffing partnership with Frontier Co-Op, individuals experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness were able to gain full-time employment. Our Downtown and Gardening Ambassador programs empowered those unable to maintain full-time employment while gaining skills, experience, and income. Our Employment programs empower individuals to overcome barriers to stability with steady work schedules, transportation, case management, and job coaching support in collaboration with on-site management.

