

## Mike's Road to Recovery & Stability

*This article is adapted from Mike's full story told from Shannon's perspective.*

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"I first met Mike at Overflow in January 2020. After I learned that he was a veteran I referred him to our veterans program," shared Shannon who at the time was an Overflow Resident Assitant. After the referral, Mike joined Willis Dady's Grant Per Diem (GPD) program in February 2020. The GPD Program has 10 beds reserved, through a contract with the Veterans Affairs (VA), at our emergency shelter for veterans experiencing homelessness. During this time, Mike was not receptive to case management and struggled with substance abuse. Due to non-compliance with program guidelines, Mike was asked to leave shelter. After being exited from shelter he returned to overflow, which was open year-round in 2020 due to the derecho and COVID. "While back at Overflow I saw that Mike continued to struggle with sobriety and getting into trouble."

A year later, Mike reached out to our veterans program. By that time, Shannon had transitioned into the Veterans Housing Case Management role. Upon reentry into the GPD Program, Mike worked with Shannon to identify his goals and barriers to housing. Mike was still struggling with his sobriety so Shannon offered him the option of getting clean in order to remain at shelter. He pursued treatment at ASAC and completed their 30-day sobriety program.



*Mike invited Shannon to his graduation ceremony.  
Picture featured above.*

"Shannon had helped me start my recovery with ASAC, I am grateful for the encouragement given"

-Mike

Even though Mike was supported in his sobriety, he unfortunately relapsed and was unable to continue in the GPD program. During the exiting process, Shannon told Mike "I can't want this more than you" and encouraged Mike to find options that would support his sobriety and long-term housing stability. Mike applied for Hope CDA's year-long rehabilitation program. Throughout the program Mike kept in touch with Shannon, sharing updates on his sobriety and employment. He has been clean since November of 2021 and graduated in 2022. Upon graduation he got several construction job offers and is still housed. This is the longest he's ever been clean.

**Generous gifts from our donors make it possible for these successes to continue. Thank you!**

## Directors Note from:

### Denine Rushing



Hello, and happy August! As we enter the final weeks of summer I'd like to share a recap of what we've been up to at our Emergency Shelter and what we have planned for the month of August! In the month of June, we had a group of 20-plus youth from the D.C. area who for the 3rd summer in a row partnered with Central Furniture Rescue here in Cedar Rapids. After touring our facilities, they then set up tables in the parking lot of WD to pass out hot dogs, snacks, and water to clients along with individuals experiencing literal homelessness. The youth group was able to provide 100 meals to the clients we serve between sheltered and unsheltered individuals. We look forward to them returning next summer!

During the month of July, we experienced an increase in single women and families entering shelter. Willis Dady primarily serves single men, but we also have a family wing where we shelter a mix of families and women within 4 apartment size units in shelter. Each family and all single women work closely with our newly hired family case manager Kathleen (Katie). Katie provides one on one case management while focusing on housing with families and single women. After several clients had been denied approval to different housing complexes, Katie submitted appeals where 3 denials have been reversed. 32% of the women in our shelter during the month of July will be entering permanent housing.

Hear more from Denine about updates from our Emergency Shelter on [our blog](#) by scanning the QR code! →



## Volunteer Spotlight: Jessica!



Jessica Duffy has been volunteering with Willis Dady since December of 2022. In that time she has served over forty shifts in either our donation room or as an administrative volunteer. Jess also recently joined our Volunteer and Community Engagement Committee to help collaborate on new initiatives and projects. At our recent Hops for Housing event, Jess even recruited some friends to join her as a volunteer. Thank you, Jess, for not only giving your time and talent but also connecting your network! A friend of yours is a friend of Willis Dady.

Stay up-to-date about  
what's going on at Willis  
Dady Homeless Services!



*Follow us on social media*

## Our Mission:

To empower all experiencing  
homelessness to build futures of self-  
sufficiency through advocacy, housing,  
and employment.

## Our Vision:

To have a community where everyone has  
housing, stability, and opportunity.



# How YOU can Help!

## Volunteer

Volunteers with Willis Dady provide essential duties and much-needed program support every day. Interested in learning more? Go to [www.WillisDady.org/volunteer](http://www.WillisDady.org/volunteer) or email our Volunteer & Operations Coordinator at [Volunteer@WillisDady.org](mailto:Volunteer@WillisDady.org)

## Donate Items

We welcome goods donations! Whether they are purchased or gently used, these donations are needed daily. For a complete list of items visit [www.WillisDady.org/donate](http://www.WillisDady.org/donate), search our Amazon Wishlist, or follow us on Facebook to learn more.

## Leave a Legacy

When you join our Welborn Society, you provide housing stability for years to come. Please contact Aaron at [AaronA@WillisDady.org](mailto:AaronA@WillisDady.org) or by calling 319-362-7555 to learn more about how you can leave a lasting legacy.

## Financial Gifts

We couldn't keep our doors open without your support. Thank you! More than a quarter of our annual operating budget is funded by YOU, our incredible Willis Dady family. Give Securely at [www.WillisDady.org/Donate](http://www.WillisDady.org/Donate) or mail a check to Willis Dady at 1247 4th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

## Housing is the Solution

We have a goal to fundraise \$50,000 by the end of October! Learn more about our Housing is the Solution campaign online at [willisdady.org/donate](http://willisdady.org/donate)



## Donation Spotlight

### Trinity Presbyterian Church

Once a month, Trinity Presbyterian Church gathers after a Sunday morning service to assemble Outreach Food Bag kits! For only 30 minutes, 10-20 members of their congregation ranging from 2-70 years old form a packing line to build the kits. In just that short amount of time, their community is able to assemble 100 bags to donate each month! "We heard about this opportunity and felt it was a **perfect fit** for our congregation."



"Our pro tip is also to use quart-sized zipper-top storage bags! They seem to work well for providing 4-5 food items per bag and also being easy to secure once the bag is packed."

If you would like to have a kit-making activity with your group, reach out to our Volunteer & Operations Coordinator, Sierra at [Sierra@willisdady.org](mailto:Sierra@willisdady.org) or by phone at 319-362-7555

We are proud to display the names of those memorialized and honored by our donors from January 4, 2023 - August 1, 2023

### In Honor:

Abe Banwarth  
Willow Etter  
Alicia Faust  
Venice Richardson  
Irene Rossman  
Dr. Bob & Laurie Silber  
PJ Smith  
Arlene Sobel  
Howard Zimmon



### In Memory:

Bonnie Beltz  
Rita Marie Chadwick  
Margaret C. Daspit  
Garie Rae Hill  
Paul Horick  
Randall Lyle  
J.P. Ranck  
Gail Shellingburg  
Kathleen Taylor  
Beverly J. Weyland  
Howard Zimmon

# Thank you, Grantors!

Willis Dady is fortunate to have the support of our community to fulfill our mission and vision. This summer we would like to highlight a few grantors in our community who have supported our agency, and share the projects we're working on with them:

## New Leader Manufacturing

NLM has generously supported our Employment Program, specifically in our Social Enterprise Mattress Recycling program. We are able to provide direct employment to our clients and make an ecological impact by diverting mattresses from the landfill. Thank you for helping us employ more individuals experiencing homelessness, and empowering them to rejoin the workforce!



## BAE Systems

BAE's grant funds will support our agency's general operating funds, keeping the lights on our at Emergency Shelter, keeping the water flowing at Hector's Place Day Center, and providing individualized case management services to individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. Thank you for ensuring our critical programs are funded!

## Mental Health/Disability Services of East Central Region

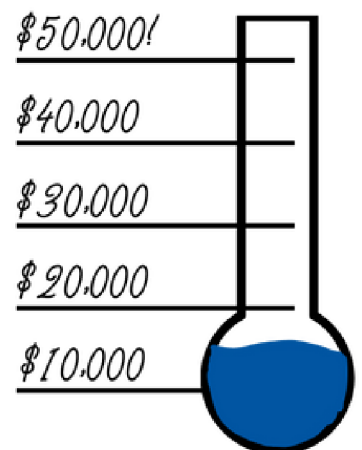
MHDS of ECR provided funding for staff training and infrastructure upgrades for additional cyber and building security. With their support, all Willis Dady staff were trained in CPR First Aid in June of 2023. Thank you for supporting our agency's security, and equipping our staff to respond to health emergencies!



## Housing is The Solution Campaign

The common thread that ties all 8 of Willis Dady's programs is our belief in the Housing First model. Housing First theorizes that before someone experiencing homelessness can address the barriers that are impacting their stability (such as financial, health, or social wellness), they need a safe and reliable place to sleep at night. We summarize this model into a simple statement, that "housing is the solution to homelessness". This statement is the spark that Willis Dady staff pass along to our clients as we empower them to gain housing stability.

This fall, we have an ambitious goal to fundraise \$50,000 to meet increased operational costs at our agency. Will you join our mission to empower all experiencing homelessness to build futures of self-sufficiency?



Donate Today!  
[willisdady.org/donate](https://willisdady.org/donate)





In conjunction with Willis Dady Emergency Shelter

1247 4th Ave SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

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Have you heard?



Benefitting Willis Dady Homeless Services



October 7th



Prairie Park Fishery

Register online at [givebutter.com/DadyDash23](https://givebutter.com/DadyDash23)

Join us at



**The Funky Zebras**

102 16th Ave SW Ste A,  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

**on September 12th  
from 5pm - 7:30pm**

**20% of proceeds will be donated to**

WILLIS DADY  
HOMELESS SERVICES  
SUPPORT • STABILITY • OPPORTUNITY