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From Shelter to Stability

BRINGING BACK HIS SMILE

When Vincent first began working with Willis Dady in late 2017 he would greet you with a big smile and the kindest hello. While Vincent had a job, the inconsistent hours of the position caused him to fall behind on rent. Through the struggles and uncertainty, he was still optimistic about where he was going in life.

Willis Dady provided rental assistance through our Homeless Prevention Program and he was able to maintain his housing for another year.

In 2018 a family member of Vincent's passed away in another city. Upon his return from their memorial, Vincent learned that his job was no longer waiting for him. After losing his job, Vincent searched for another place to work, but nothing was working out. Before he knew what was happening Vincent was evicted and needed a place to stay. Willis Dady's Emergency Shelter was here for him in his time of need.

Even through his time in shelter Vincent kept his signature smile on his face. He was actively working on his goal of finding employment and housing. An opportunity to work through Willis Dady's employment program came about for Vincent, but another situation stepped in his way. Due to a physical health problem he had to leave that employment opportunity. It seemed that everything was getting in his way to success.

After this setback Vincent bounced in and out of literal homelessness, Willis Dady's Emergency Shelter, and the overflow shelter. During this period Vincent's mental health began to take a toll on him and he eventually turned to alcohol to self-medicate.

Throughout the next two years Vincent continued to work with Willis Dady case managers in Street Outreach and at our shelters. There was a time when he was briefly housed, but it didn't work out, and he ended up back on the streets. It was at that point that Vincent no longer greeted you with a smile.

When he spoke, negativity covered every word, and we could feel him giving up hope.

Vincent eventually started back in Willis Dady's Employment Program and began working in gardening.

We saw Vincent's iconic smile and hope begin to return little by little. Having a job made him feel good about himself and began building his self-esteem back up. Vincent moved back into Willis Dady's Emergency Shelter from the streets. He slowed his drinking down, as he didn't need it to self-medicate the way he did when he was sleeping outside.

When an opening came

up at Welborn House, one of our Supportive Housing units, Vincent jumped on the opportunity. Unfortunately, more bad luck came Vincent's way, as the day he was supposed to move into Welborn the Derecho hit. However, this time, Vincent did not give up hope.

One week later, on August 18th, 2020 Vincent moved into housing. He has stopped drinking, he continues to work with Willis Dady's Beautification Program through gardening, and he is working towards other goals that he has set for himself. Vincent's smile, kind hello, and hope for the future have been restored. Vincent is one of the kindest individuals you will ever meet, and we are glad to not only have met him, but to be a part of his journey.

-Emily Zimmon,

Support Services Director



Director's Notes

Introducing, Alicia Faust!

The Board of Willis Dady Homeless Services is pleased to announce the selection of Alicia Faust as its new Executive Director. Faust replaces previous Executive Director, Phoebe Trepp, who returned home to Minneapolis to be closer to family. After leading the agency to measurable growth and development, Trepp now serves as Executive Director for Clare Housing, an affordable housing and health organization serving people leaving homelessness who have HIV/AIDs.

The Board selected Faust after an extensive regional search led by a team of current Board Members, staff and the local search firm Skywalk Group. "Since joining the Willis Dady team, Alicia has shown remarkable leadership in bringing many projects to successful completion. Her energetic work ethic combined with her strong ability to bring people together behind a common cause makes her the ideal leader to take Willis Dady to the next level, pursuing our vision of empowering our clients to break the cycle of homelessness and become self-sufficient." said Board President Mike Schulte.

When asked about her long-term goals for the agency, Faust responded, "It is my hope to continue supporting and building the Willis Dady legacy as our Executive Director."

"Our agency has changed and grown so much in the last five years that it's hard to imagine how we used to be. Willis Dady has always been committed to filling gaps in the community in order to best serve our clients in innovative ways. It is my plan to work with our staff to build programs for gaps we have already identified in the community including, affordable desirable housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, intensive mental health and substance use supports, Veteran services, and employment training and opportunities. I want to identify the "why" in our work in order to continuously improve the who, and the what".

Faust graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work from Wartburg College in 2012. After four years as a Housing Support Specialist with Friends of the Family in Waverly she joined Willis Dady as the Veteran Housing Case Manager. In 2017 she moved into the role of Support Services Manager where she developed both short-term and long-term rapid re-housing programs, new Permanent Supportive Housing initiatives through Welborn House, Cedar House and Crestwood Ridge and Veteran programming through a new Grant Per Diem contract with the federal Veterans' Administration. She began her most recent role with the agency in 2019 as the Housing Programs Director where she supervised those newly developed programs, hired and managed the staff to provide the direct client support, and continued identifying new funding opportunities to expand Willis Dady's housing services.



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WillisDady.org
319-362-7555

To Find Shelter:
319-366-7999

Our Mission

To provide shelter and prevention services to the homeless and near-homeless.

Our Vision

To empower clients to break the cycle of homelessness and become self-

How You Can Help ...

Volunteer With Us

Volunteers with Willis Dady provide essential duties and much-needed program support every day. Our current openings are in our Overnight Assistant position and our Receptionist position. We will be relaunching our Client Callback Program soon, and we will need eager volunteers for that as well.

Check our website www.willisdady.org/volunteer for the most up-to-date information as our needs grow and change. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator at 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 willisdady.org/donate, search Amazon for our Wish List, or follow us on Facebook for the most updated needs!

Leave a Legacy

When you leave a legacy gift through Welborn Society, you provide housing stability for future generations. Please contact Jana DeBrower 319-362-7555 or development@willisdady.org for more information.

Thank you to our caring donors:

We are proud to display the names of those memorialized and honored by our donors June 1 - August 31, 2020

In Memory:

Deborah Levin

John (Jack) Patton

JP Ranck

Theodore Kubieck

Agnes and Charles Gradoville

In Honor:

George Floyd

Phoebe Trepp

Aaron & Sylvia's 60th Anniversary

Barry Cook

Diane Orsini

Deloreis and Lyle Blumck



Welcome, Inductees!

Chris Shimon

Larry & Ruth Neppl

Kevin Slater

Lois Hruby

Deborah Levin

Rissi Reed

Volunteer Spotlight!

Gaby Lee

Gaby has been a Willis Dady volunteer since June of this year. Her incredible dedication to our mission and vision has already made her our Volunteer of the Month! She began in our donation room helping us stay organized and then transitioned into our receptionist position. After a summer of volunteering, Gaby applied for an internship and is now interning with our Street Outreach Case Manager.



Gaby is a senior at Coe College with a major in Social Criminal Justice and a triple minor in Anthropology, Asian Studies, and Religion. She might even be caught fire juggling from time-to-time! We appreciate all the hard work and enthusiasm she continues to bring to Willis Dady.

We appreciate everyone who has provided goods and services during the COVID and derecho crises. Your kindness has allowed us to remain focused on the safety and support of our clients, and in turn, our community.

Thank you.



After rallying their friends and family, Haley and Jessica brought in two separate donations and a financial gift for our clients. Thank you so much for your support of our clients!

Make a Financial Gift

We couldn't keep our doors open without you!

Thank you!

More than a quarter of our annual operating budget is funded by YOU, our generous Willis Dady family.

Give securely at willisdady.org/donate or

**Mail a check payable to Willis Dady to
1247 4th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403**



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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

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WILL YOU HELP EXPAND OUR SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM?

We understand that without steady employment it is nearly impossible for our clients to maintain stable housing. That's why we're creating partnerships with local businesses, and providing essential case management support to our clients, to help them successfully return to work.



In 2019 our Employment program helped **74** individuals return to work through supportive staffing at local businesses and our Ambassador programs! These jobs are made possible by local businesses giving our clients a chance.

Interested in bringing supported staffing to your business? Go to willisdady.org/employment or call **Emily** at **319-651-8798** for more information.

HOPS FOR HOUSING 2020!

YOUR
\$30 TICKET
GETS YOU
10 PINTS
GET YOUR TICKET TODAY AT
GIVEBUTTER.COM/HOPSFORHOUSING2020

A stylized illustration of several beer glasses filled with golden beer and topped with white foam. The glasses are arranged in a row, with some overlapping. The background is dark blue.

Pick up your Ticket & Pint Glass at the shelter through Oct. 31st!