

BE CLARE HOUSING'S  
FRIEND ON FACEBOOK



## CLARE MIDTOWN

Open House

Wednesday, May 18, 2011  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

We invite friends, supporters and neighbors to join us for a community event to celebrate the opening of Clare Midtown - Clare Housing's second housing development providing 45 homes in the Corcoran neighborhood for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Additional information is available at [www.clarehousing.org](http://www.clarehousing.org) and on our facebook page.

## THE PROCESS OF OPENING CLARE MIDTOWN



With the opening of Clare Midtown in March, the 45 residents of the new apartments will quickly increase the number of people Clare Housing serves by 59%, totaling 145 individuals including 10 families.

"That's a huge increase in a short time and we are elated for each new resident," said Executive Director Lee Lewis. "We worked to bring this building to reality for nearly three years. When you know what these apartments mean to the lives of people, this goes way beyond brick and mortar. It can be life changing." Read the story about Michael, a new resident at Clare Midtown, on page 4.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on a sunny day in May 2010. Since then Lee Lewis has been giving tours as the building started to take shape at 3105 23rd Avenue South near the light rail station at Hiawatha Avenue and Lake Street. The last building project for Clare Housing was the 32-unit apartment building, Clare Apartments, in Northeast Minneapolis that opened in 2005. When Clare Apartments opened, the waiting list was four times the number of apartments available. The application process for new residents at Clare Midtown began in October

2010. "We started with a waiting list of 80 people, but half of them could not be located. By the time the application process closed in November, we had over 200 people apply for an apartment," said Program Director, Michele Boyer. After 45 people move into their new apartments this spring, there will still be 170 individuals and 17 families on the waiting list looking for safe and affordable housing.

Among those moving in are HIV positive individuals who are low-income, homeless or at risk of being homeless. Fifteen of the residents will receive assisted living services. Those services include nursing care, medication administration, hands-on assistance with activities of daily living and help with building independent living skills. The opening of Clare Midtown added five new full-time and five part-time jobs. Three nurses will work between Clare Apartments and Clare Midtown.

The months of March-May will be joyful months for those moving into new apartments. The amazing group of quilt makers at Zion Lutheran Church, in the Lyndale neighborhood of South Minneapolis, has made a new quilt for each new resident. Also, through the contributions of Northeast Community

Lutheran Church and Grace Center, each person moving in will receive a laundry basket filled with sheets, mattress pad, blanket, and pillow. In addition, Walgreens has graciously donated toiletries and cleaning supplies.

**Every resident will get off to a wonderful start in a new home!**



Members of the Zion Lutheran Church: (left to right) Steve Peters, LuAnn Giles, Thelma Lewis (front), Carla Hofland (back), Joyce Jensen

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**THE CLARION**

is a publication for friends of Clare Housing, a 501(c)3 non-profit provider of care, services and housing for people living with HIV/AIDS.



**A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**GREETINGS**

As you are undoubtedly aware, there has been a sea change in the political climate in St. Paul and Washington D.C. The state legislature and the new Congress convened in January. Both are grappling with very difficult budgets.

For the first time, Clare Housing's recent strategic plan identifies public policy as an area for staff and board activity. Of course, we have been involved in advocacy, to some extent, for several years. For example, I am on the board of the National AIDS Housing Coalition [NAHC] and chair the Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition.

**But, now we will ramp up our efforts. Here's what's happening:**

- We have initiated a board and staff public policy work group. This group will start its work by gaining a thorough understanding of the policy environment as it affects Clare Housing and will recommend goals and strategies to the board later this year.
- In my role at NAHC, I met with Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan in January and will be meeting with our congressional delegation in March.
- I will continue to serve on Minnesota AIDS Project's public policy committee, the Association of Residential Resources of Minnesota's [ARRM] public affairs committee and continue my involvement in the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless.
- In February, Clare Housing hosted a meeting of providers and public administrators to hear a presentation by Arturo Bendixen, vice president of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, about his research connecting high use of Medicaid and social structures such as housing and homelessness. It is my hope to generate interest in having Arturo do a similar study in Minnesota.

**Why get involved in public policy and resource allocation? It's simple: it helps our mission.**

It helps us learn how to educate our elected officials. In addition, you – as a supporter of Clare Housing – can learn how to advocate among your friends and family about the benefits of Clare Housing's work and how the programs are funded.

Our vision is that "all persons living with HIV/AIDS have affordable, safe and stable housing with access to the supportive services they need to lead satisfying lives with dignity." In order to continue to create housing options for PLWH/A, those who make decisions about allocating public resources need to understand the issues and solutions that have proven effective in AIDS housing.

We know that being housed improves health outcomes for PLWH/A. We know that being housed is a structural intervention of the first order in preventing the spread of HIV. We also know that providing shelter and supportive services to people who are homeless or unstably housed saves money in the health care system.

And the need is real. We had over 200 people apply for the 45 apartments at Clare Midtown. As Michele Boyer, our program director, said as she watched the waiting list grow, "Getting a roof over your head shouldn't be a lottery." We estimate that there are 400 PLWH/A who are homeless on any given night in the Twin Cities.

Public officials need to hear that, and so do members of the general public whose support and understanding we need. The fact that resources are very tight makes it all the more important to be in conversations with elected officials and their staff.

**Our work continues and I look forward to the discussions ahead!**

*Yours truly,*

**Lee Lewis**  
Executive Director



**CLARE HOUSING THANKS TWO BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR BOARD LEADERSHIP**

Last December, Clare Housing said farewell to two board members – Hudie Broughton and Jodi Pritchard. Hudie and Jodi both inspired the board of directors and staff with their passion for Clare Housing's mission and willingness to advance our efforts in the community.

Jodi joined the board in 2002 with the goal to help grow the agency and utilize her skills as a social worker. Jodi served as the board secretary for three years. "Jodi's expertise as a social worker and her ability to help us understand the full range of the residents' needs were important to the board's ability to govern wisely," said Board Chair Nancy Lee.

Hudie began his volunteer service at AIDS Care Partners (ACP) in 2003. He was instrumental in leading the merger between ACP and Clare Housing. Hudie served on the executive committee for five years and served as board chair for two years. "Hudie inspired a climate of careful listening, thorough discussion, and decisive action, all of which helped Clare Housing realize its dream to build Clare Midtown and become the largest HIV/AIDS housing provider in Minnesota," said Nancy Lee.

Both Hudie and Jodi brought strength, commitment and passion to their board roles and were instrumental in making Clare Housing's board of directors a stronger governing group. We thank them for their board leadership and volunteer commitment!

**MEET ANGIE MUSICH THE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING MANAGER AT CLARE MIDTOWN**

Angie Musich joined Clare Housing in December 2010 to serve as the Supportive Housing Manager for Clare Midtown. Prior to joining Clare Housing, she worked at Minnesota AIDS Project for six years as a case manager. There she was responsible for working with 40 plus clients. She developed individual plans to meet her clients' needs in housing, medical issues and connect them to resources in the community.

"It is an honor to join the Clare Housing team and continue working in the HIV/AIDS community. I enjoy helping people who live with this chronic illness and help each of them to develop a healthy and independent plan where they are living in a safe place and focusing on managing their illness," says Angie.

Angie plans to work with residents to develop connections in the Corcoran neighborhood and Midtown area. She believes it is important that her clients do not isolate themselves but participate in positive experiences. "Angie brings a wealth of experience and knowledge working with people living with HIV/AIDS. We are excited for her to manage Clare Midtown and work with the residents to adjust to their new housing environment," says Michele Boyer, program director.

Angie is also completing her masters in social work at the University of St. Thomas and plans to become a licensed social worker.



**MEET TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS**



**SARAH WALKER**

Sarah has a long history of community involvement through her work and board services related to the justice system. She is currently the COO of 180 Degrees, Inc. There she is responsible for adult transitional living for men returning from prison. Sarah brings experience in public policy efforts and non-profit governance.



**SAM INGRAM**

Sam joined the board of directors with an interest in helping to create and provide housing opportunities to low-income individuals. Sam serves as project manager at Aeon and is responsible for a new development next to Clare Apartments. These townhomes will offer homeownership opportunities for eight low-income households.

Michael's Story

THE JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENT LIVING

When people meet Michael they are instantly drawn to his positive outlook on life. Michael has had low points in his life but he accepts them for what they are, does not look back and learns from the choices he has made.

Michael has been HIV positive for sixteen years. He was in a relationship for many years and was the primary caregiver to his partner before he lost his battle to AIDS. "My partner was my support network and all I knew. We had a great life together," says Michael. In 2006, Michael made the decision to go off his HIV medication. "I call that my med holiday period and would not recommend it to anyone," says Michael. Not able to take care of himself, Michael became extremely ill, and lost his home and job. "I ended up living in a nursing home for 10 months and lost who I was."

As he struggled to get better, his sister knew that the nursing home was not the place for him. She contacted Maureen Wells, a case manager at Clinic 42 for help. Maureen educated Michael and his sister on what his options were and introduced him to Clare Housing's community group homes. The minute Michael stepped into Agape Home he knew it would be a place where he could reclaim his life. "I knew I was home and just fell in love with Agape Home." Although his sister wanted him to live outside of Minneapolis, they both knew that Clare Housing's supportive services and 24-hour care would be the best for him.

Michael moved into Agape Home in 2008 and his health soon began to stabilize. Michael is an active volunteer at the Aliveness Project and attends Park House. "I take responsibility for every bad choice I have made but I don't live in the past. I know how to ask for help. I don't want to hurt myself or the people who love and support me," says Michael.

Michael has continued to benefit from the programs of Clare Housing. He was a pioneer in the Buddy Program. The Buddy Program matches residents with volunteers who provide support and companionship. Michael was the first person to request a buddy.

He was matched with Will Whelan and the two of them hit it off. "I had been cooking at Grace House II for a little over a year and I wanted to find other ways to become more involved in helping the residents. When I met Michael, I was drawn by his positive energy and loved how willing he was to try new opportunities," says Will.



Michael (left) with Will his buddy and Agape Home cat, Alfie.



Michael knitting a blanket for his new home.

*"I knew it was time for me to leave Agape Home and begin the next phase of my life by living on my own."*

— Michael

Their first "buddy outing" was volunteering at the Aliveness Project's volunteer picnic. "I had so much fun with Michael and he was so gracious to include me in something that was important to him," says Will. From there, Michael and Will decided to meet every other Friday and have been for the last six months. The first Friday of each month, Michael goes with Will to cook dinner at Grace House II. "I like going over to Grace House. It is fun to cook with Will and socialize with the other residents and caregivers," says Michael.

Anyone who meets Michael and Will can see the connection they have and how they both provide so much for each other – friendship, laughter and the willingness to do new things. This spring they are going to try the paddle boats at Lake Calhoun. "Michael has helped me get out of my comfort zone and take a positive outlook on opportunities. After visiting with him I am always in such a great mood, sometimes I think I get more out of this than he does," says Will.

Michael's first step toward independent living was his application for an apartment at Clare Midtown. When the application process for Clare Midtown began last October, Michael decided he was ready for independent living. "I knew it was time for me to leave Agape Home and begin the next phase of my life by living on my own," says Michael. Michael will move into Clare Midtown in March. This will be his first time in six years he will be living alone. "I am really excited to move to Midtown and have my own home. As much as I love the caregivers and residents, I am looking forward to my privacy."

Michael will be enrolled in the supportive service program at Clare Midtown. The services that will be available to him are nursing care, medication administration, hands-on assistance with activities of daily living, and building independent living skills. Additionally, Will and Michael will be able to continue their Friday night outings in the Buddy Program. "Clare Housing brought Michael and me together and we will always be friends. I think we both get something special out of this and I want to be there for him to succeed in his new housing," says Will.

"When I entered Clare Housing I said this is only the beginning of me living a healthy life. I want to create new memories and positive experiences. Moving to Clare Midtown I want to find out what I am capable of doing and take care of myself in a positive way," says Michael.

Will believes Michael will not fail in his new housing environment and Michael's friends, family and the staff at Clare Housing want him to succeed. "I am really looking forward to meeting other residents at



Angie Musich, Clare Midtown's Supportive Housing Manager, visiting with Michael and Will at Agape Home.

Midtown. We all have stories and I want to learn from them and live my life to the fullest," says Michael. Michael is going to be 39 this year and welcomes the future with open arms.

Michael's story is a wonderful example of the continuum of care that Clare Housing offers. Over the next few months, we will share with you Michael's transition to Clare Midtown and his journey to independent living. Visit our facebook page and website to get updates.

Are you interested in being a buddy like Will?

Clare Housing Buddies are paired one-on-one with a resident to provide friendship and companionship. Enjoy a walk, go to the movies, visit a local library, play a board game, or visit over a cup of coffee. A 3-hour training is required, as well as proof of a valid driver's license, insurance, and background check.

To learn more about the Buddy Program or other volunteer opportunities with Clare Housing, please contact Debbie Wyman at [debbie.wyman@clarehousing.org](mailto:debbie.wyman@clarehousing.org) or (612) 236-9528.

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank each and every volunteer for dedicating time and resources to help us provide compassionate care to the residents of Clare Housing.

We appreciate and value your generosity!

**Over 225 volunteers collectively provided 3,500 volunteer hours in 2010. Thank you!**

### Agape Home Cooks

Mey Chov & Robert Osburn | Deborah Doleshal | Deidre Druk | Mary Kay Duquette | Elizabeth Dussol | Steve Figge | Britt Forsberg | Jesson Hunt | Jeannine J. Johnson | Katy Kelley | Carolyn L. LeMieur | Selena Leonard | Theresa Leonard | Colleen O'Connor Toberman | Joe & Charmaine Owens | Valli Palanisami | Daniel Popelka & Nicholas Eckstrom | Nadine Reiser & Diane Kelley | Gretchen & Paul Sabel | Connie Scheer | Martha Thompson | Jeff Walkowski & Jeff Wyant | Andrea Wentworth | Dorwatha Woods

### Agape Dos Cooks

Terry Abram | Sonja Amberson | Michelle Bahr | Michael Barry and Matt Griffin | Emma and David Bowman | Jennifer Brenning | Diana Engebretson | Randy Ferguson | Gina Garding | Peg Garding | Andrew Hanson | Mahva Jones | Theresa Jorgenson | Paul Lubinski | Jill & Ken Patterson | Peg Van Wyk | Marsha Wagner | Nancy Walker

### Clare House Cooks

Tom Bartl | Mary Biebl | Mark Bishop | Lori Brostrom | Tanuja Dixit | Aideloje Elakhe | Rachel Gunsalus | Sivamani Jayaraman | Katherine Kudzy | Michael & Barbara M. LaMotte | Terry Larkin | Mary A. Logan | Lauren Mackinac | Derek Ochi | Ben Otopalik | Betsy Russomanno | Colleen Schroeder | Francisco Velasquez | Jillian A. Wright



### Damiano Cooks

Victor Barge | Carole Bersin | Jill Brinkman | Anna Dadabo | Michelle Hillestad | Connor Hodges | Kelly Krantz | Liz Lehmann | Sally Olsen | Tom & Cecka Parks | Nathan & Alison Peabody | Holly Petersen | John Pikala | Linda Quinn | Georgia Rubenstein | Sarah Schmidt | Emily & Drew Virtue | Aubrey Weger | Lisa Wilcox

### Grace I Cooks

Tammi Jo Baltazar | Chris & Kendra Caduff | Judy Giacabazi | Ray Goettl | Terry Haugan | Marsha Henderson | Christopher Hermann | Jean & Craig Jentz | Mary Jo & Marty Malecha | Tom & Terri Middleton | Vicki Nipper & Jim Miller | David & Diane Rasmussen | Thomas Richardson | Linda Schirmer | Jane St. Anthony & Louis Allgeyer | John L. Sullivan | Pat VanErt | Bonnie Walsh | Douglas Wayman | Shirley Wilson

### Grace II Cooks

Rondi Atkin | Jean Breitenbucher | Chris & Kendra Caduff | Dana Chartier | Jeffery Flynn & David Kohn | Lynda Frayne | Patricia Garrett & Vicky Skorich | Louise Hall | Mishel Horta | Marilyn Irwin | Scott Jacobson | Blaine Larson | Tom & Michelle LaSalle | Mary Jo & Marty Malecha | Kathleen & Donald Olson | Tracey Oxborough | Chris Patnoe | Sydney Patnoe | Emily Pechacek | Teddy Pechacek | David & Diane Rasmussen | Thomas Richardson | Krista Shevlin | Barbara Thompson | Bonnie Walsh | Will Whelan | Mick & Helen Wooley



### General Volunteering

Terry Abram | Grant & Beccy Adams | Jessica Aho | Mikayla Althaus and Matthew Slimmer | Peter & Julie Bodurtha | Todd & Karen Borman | Jennie Boudreau | Cleone Brazil | Cindy Buckett | Maureen Cannon | Lesley Cappelli | Carolyn & Maggie Coleman | Barb Courtright | Ashley Dee | Mark Feder | James Ferguson | Shayna Forster | Joe Gomez | Liz Gregor | Sarah Gregor | Tamara Harmon | Mark Holmberg | Dorothy Holmers | Jesson Hunt | Kayla Iverson | Aaron Jaccard | Sivamani Jayaraman | Jaquelyn Johnson | Blaine Larson | Laura Larson | Blair Kelly | Jenny Kelly | Ray & Pat Koski | Colleen O'Connor Toberman | Gail Olson | Shannon Preble | Jake & Tori Reis | Jeffrey Reis | Anna Reiter | Georgia Rubenstein | Ken Schaefer | Susan Schirber | Sheila Shevlin | Krista Shevlin | Aria Souder | Kayli Staubus | Sydney Sweeney | Kayla Tam | May Vang & Denise Harris | Emily Virtue | Bonnie Walsh | Jonathon Weaver | Adam Wells | Dianne Wilkie | Nate Williams | Dan Woodward | Jillian Wright | Tsiang Zeches

### Buddy Program

Elizabeth Gardner | Tamara Harmon | Joey Huppert | Heidi Jones | Bryan Mayfield | Derek Ochi | Steve Schmitz | Pat VanErt | Will Whelan



**Listing current as of January 17, 2011. Please contact Debbie Wyman at (612) 236-9528 or [debbie.wyman@clarehousing.org](mailto:debbie.wyman@clarehousing.org) if your name was omitted. Our apologies for the error.**



### FRIENDS DINING WITH FRIENDS

***Because everyone deserves a place at the table!***

*Friends Dining with Friends* is a series of house parties that connects friends, families, neighbors and colleagues to raise awareness and critical funding for Clare Housing's mission.

Each year, we recruit hosts to participate in this important fundraiser. A party can range from a small neighborhood dinner to a catered gourmet affair. Guests are provided the opportunity to make a donation.

Because there are very few direct expenses for Clare Housing, all of the proceeds will directly support our housing and services programs.

We hope you will consider being a *Friends Dining with Friends* Host! It is easy and fun.

**If you need to talk to an expert party planner for some ideas or have questions, contact Lee Haugee at (612) 236-9527 or [lee.haugee@clarehousing.org](mailto:lee.haugee@clarehousing.org).**



### How to Host a Festive, Fun Friends Dining with Friends Party

- **Commit** to host the party – at your home, work or any venue!
- Pick a **date** – Any date that fits your schedule!
- Put your **invite list** together – think friends, family, colleagues, book club, church group, bowling team, wine tasting group!
- **Send the invitations** - Clare Housing provides printed and electronic invitations.
- Clare Housing staff will provide you with a **host mentor** – someone who has hosted a party and can help you with questions or suggestions.
- **Tell your guests** why you support Clare Housing and ask them to join you in this support through a donation. Uncomfortable doing this? A representative of Clare Housing will be happy to stop by to help you with this.
- **Send the donations** to Clare Housing. We will send out a thank you letter to each of your guests who makes a donation.
- **Relax and have fun!**