

Lenawee United Way
1354 N. Main St.
Adrian, MI 49221
517.263.4696
www.lenaweeway.org

Publish Date: October 26, 2008

Lenawee United Way Donors Fund LEAHC's Largest Program

By Khristine Henson-Jones

Allow me to introduce you to Lenawee Emergency and Affordable Housing Corporation (LEAHC), located right here in Adrian, Michigan, next to Frosty Boy. Even though LEAHC was founded back in 1990, it seems that it is still one of Lenawee County's best kept secrets. You may ask yourself, what does LEAHC do? The answer is in the LEAHC mission - to advance housing stability and affordable opportunities for low-income people, especially those in crisis or at risk.

To be specific, LEAHC provides three main programs for families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless; they are: 1) Housing First, 2) Emergency Shelter, and 3) Transitional Housing. Even though, many of our community members have not heard of LEAHC, the number of people being served by LEAHC is just staggering!

The Housing First program is LEAHC's largest program and has served more than 1,000 individuals in just the past five (5) months. The Housing First philosophy is fairly new to homeless providers and has a primary goal of reducing or eliminating the amount of time a family is homeless by supporting permanent housing options immediately. Statistically it has been shown, if we stabilize families with permanent housing first and then go back to provide the support services necessary to keep that family housed, more families will be successful and remain in permanent housing, thus reducing our homeless numbers. In this program, families are provided with case management including, housing search assistance, landlord mediation, other support services and follow-up. And for eligible participants, financial assistance may be provided. During the past 12 months, LEAHC has provided more than **\$117,000 in financial assistance for 265 families in housing crisis**. In addition, LEAHC case managers have coordinated with other human service agencies and churches for an additional \$35,000+ in financial assistance for families in need.

The Emergency Shelter Program is a 90-day program provided at no cost to the participants. Daily case management, support services, food, monthly life skills training, laundry facilities, telephone service and transportation assistance is provided. Did you know that LEAHC is the only agency providing an emergency shelter in Lenawee County for families? Did you know that LEAHC also provides emergency shelter for single adults? During the past 12 months, LEAHC has provided **5 families with 22 children** emergency shelter, while providing **16 single adults** with emergency shelter services as well.

The Transitional Housing program provides affordable housing for up to two years with weekly case management, support services and monthly life skills training. The goal of this program is to assist families with transitioning from temporary to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. LEAHC currently operates seven transitional housing units located in Adrian, Britton, Riga and Tecumseh. During the past 12 months, LEAHC has provided **14 adults with 16 children** in transitional housing units.

LEAHC is a partner in our Lenawee County community that is dedicated to making a difference for our very own neighbors who are in housing crisis. The state of our economy and the unfortunate consequences of such have left many families in turmoil and desperate. LEAHC may be able to help. In the past five (5) months alone, LEAHC has worked with more families in housing crisis than the entire 2007 calendar year! Please spread the word, that families and individuals who are homeless or on the brink of homelessness are not alone! Share the LEAHC name and services provided and please refer anyone who is homeless or at risk of being homeless to LEAHC for help. For more information, please call LEAHC at 517-264-0782.

Khristine Henson-Jones is the Executive Director of Lenawee Emergency and Affordable Housing Corporation (LEAHC)

LEAHC is a newly funded program of Lenawee United Way. For more information, contact Lenawee United Way at 263-4696 or visit www.lenaweeunitedway.org.