We believe homelessness is a systemic social injustice — a reversible circumstance and not a personal characteristic.

OUR MISSION:
Humility Homes and Services, Inc., is committed to ending homelessness by offering housing opportunities and supportive services in the greater Quad Cities area.

SPRING 2019
WELCOME ASHLEY VELEZ
HHSI’S NEW CEO!

Ashley Velez has worked with individuals experiencing homelessness for over eleven years, specializing in fields involving people who have experienced trauma and violence as well as housing for those with barriers to success.

After earning her Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Ashley began her career in September 2008 at Humility of Mary Shelter, Inc. (HMSI) as a caseworker. While at Humility, she was given the privilege of working with and assisting individuals in the transitional housing program, empowering and assisting them in achieving long-term sustainable housing. Hearing participants stories and having a passion for the work Ashley was inspired to pursue further education.

She left HMSI in 2011 to work towards her Master’s Degree in Public Administration again at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. While pursuing her master’s degree Ashley worked for St. Louis-based Project COPE. There, she managed a transitional housing program geared toward individuals experiencing long-term incarceration in Missouri State Prison system.

Ashley dreamt of returning to Humility one day.

Where national statistics state nearly 70% of prisoners will become incarcerated again within three years of being released from prison, only 3% of inmates experienced recidivism in the program Ashley managed.

Upon her return to Quad Cities in 2013, Ashley went on to begin managing programs assisting individuals who have experienced violence or trauma. First in child welfare and foster care, she moved on to Family Resources to manage domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking programs in Illinois. Ashley is excited, thrilled and humbled to be able to come back to Humility Homes and Services to serve in the CEO capacity in which she had the dream to be when she left almost 11 years ago.

The CEO search committee, consisted of board members: Paula McNutt, Michael (Bud) Kelly and Rita Sterling, along with COO, Christie Adamson. Of 140 applicants, only 3 met our unique criteria. Ashley displays an intuitive nature, is very personable, knowledgeable and came with glowing references. Ashley’s interview led us to believe she was the perfect candidate to lead HHSI into the future.
Honoring Fr. John Hynes  
September 26, 1928 – April 4, 2018

One year after the passing of Fr. John Hynes, his thirst for social justice and kinship with the marginalized endures in the daily work of Humility Homes and Services, Inc. Fr. Hynes’ legacy gift to HHSI ensures that his 63 years of ministry will continue to inspire and sustain HHSI’s vision for a community where everyone has a home.

John Hynes was born in 1928 within the shadow of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport’s Cork Hill neighborhood. Like most of his generation, the Great Depression and World War II deeply impacted his very being. The young John Hynes witnessed the aftermath of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing. According to his close friend Fr. Robert McAleer, John’s witness to the destruction “indelibly marked” his calling to the priesthood and the ministry of healing and social action. On June 4, 1955 Fr. Hynes was ordained at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The relationship between Fr. Hynes and the congregation of the Humility of Mary runs deep and spans decades. Growing up in Davenport and serving Ottumwa’s St. Mary of the Visitation as his first assignment, Fr. Hynes had many opportunities to meet and work with CHM Sisters. Sister Margaret (Maggie) Bennett, CHM and Fr. Hynes shared a 45 year long friendship. Sister Maggie reflects “When he met you, he would remember you. If you had a problem, he would help you solve it. If you were upset, John would help you calm down.”

Fr. Hynes is remembered for his inspiring and studious preaching, his love of golf, his loyal companion dog “Bona Puella”, and for playing Bridge.

Sister Maggie shares, “You could play two hours of Bridge…and John would be able to recall everyone’s hand from the beginning of the game.”

Fr. McAleer remembers Fr. Hynes’ last hospitalization. Twelve nurses circled Fr. Hynes as he drew his last breaths. Although they knew him only for a few days, the nurses remarked, “He was a kind and gentle man. We all loved him.”

HHSI is committed to ending homelessness in the greater Quad Cities area. We strive each day to embody a core practice of Fr. Hynes’ ministry as described by Sister Maggie and Fr. McAleer, ‘to meet people where they are, at whatever station they are in life’, and to ‘simply, love life’.

Fr. Hynes’ death on April 4, 2018 occurred on the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s death. Their shared vocation of working for a more loving and just world remains with us.

Fr. Hynes was assistant pastor at St. Mary of the Visitation in Ottumwa, Iowa, St. Boniface’s, Clinton, and St. Joseph’s, DeWitt, Iowa. He served as pastor at St. Joseph’s, Davenport, St. Ann’s, Long Grove, St. Paul the Apostle, Davenport, and Our Lady of the River, Le Claire. He was a member of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission, and the Priests’ Senate, serving two terms as president.

Fr. Hynes retired July 7, 1998. He had also assisted at St. John Vianney, Bettendorf for 13 years.
The origins of the Fresh Start Benefit Sale started with one woman, working to make a difference in the lives of our participants. Gertrude Vogel held a garage sale at her home 29 years ago. That simple idea has become what we refer to today as the Fresh Start Center--10,000 sq. ft of donation space devoted to supporting our participants as they walk into a new life.

Twice a year, we hold the Fresh Start Benefit Sale, that is open to the public. Any items not utilized by participants can be bought--the bargains are great, the quality is fabulous (thanks to our wonderful donors) and all the proceeds are put back into the programs to support our participants.

The little known fact about the Sale is the clientele who shop! People from all over the QC and surrounding communities attend this event and many of those are people who also need access to these goods at our fabulously low prices! The ‘footprint’ we leave in the lives of so many more individuals and families beyond those we house is amazing--all because one woman found a way to change the face of her world, an example we can all learn from.

Thank you Gertrude!

HOW-YOU-CAN-HELP

SPRING TO-DO LIST

*Like us on Facebook.
*Give us your email address.
*Become a subscriber to HHSI E-news.
*Share with others.
*Help us get the word to all Quad Citians about our efforts to end homelessness!
*Pick up sale flyers and pin up at work, church, school-- everywhere!
*Remember us when ‘spring cleaning’.
*Don’t forget to SHOP the FRESH START BENEFIT SALE

SEPTMBER

SEPTEMBER 27 & 28
Fresh Start Benefit Sale

SEPTEMBER 29
10th Annual Jazz Brunch

Quality new and used items, furniture, household goods, bedding, toys, books, dishes, jewelry, collectibles, antiques, gifts, clothing, and LOTS of miscellaneous. Most children’s clothing just 50 cents each!

Donations are welcome through April 17 and can be dropped off at 3805 Mississippi Avenue, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. No after hours drop offs please.

We ask that all items be clean and in working order.

Cash and MC/Visa accepted.

Volunteers Welcome! Call Patti for details 563-326-1330
SPRING NEEDS LIST
--in order of importance--
Always Needed: Coffee, sugar, dry creamer

Laundry detergent
Hand dish soap
Toilet paper, paper towels
Deodorant, razors
Pull-ups size 2, 3 & 4

In addition, the following items are also in short supply:
Multi-surface cleaners, magic erasers, bath cleaners,
toilet bowl cleaners, kitchen size trash bags, paper
towels, facial tissue, and bus tokens.

Make your donation count twice! Use Amazon Smile for your purchases.
Amazon donates a portion of their proceeds to us.

Have you considered including Humility Homes and Services, Inc., in your long-term financial plans? Your gift makes a lasting difference in our community.