



MICAH House Message

The MICAH House Mission:

to provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment for families and single women who are experiencing the crisis of homelessness.

WE MOVED!!!!



The front door of the NEW MICAH House.

After years of planning, building, hoping, and dreaming, the first guests of the new MICAH House on the Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus have moved in. Without the help of the community, this would not have been possible. Thank you for helping us make it happen!

The changes you will see will touch your heart. Most notably, our capacity has increased from 48 to 90 people, which means we will be able to say “Yes, we have room for you” nearly twice as often. At our former facility, we turned away over 100 people each month because we didn’t have



Our first guests

room to shelter them. It is a wonderful gift to be able to touch the lives of more families who need us! In addition, our new Resource Center will soon be ready with refurbished computers for our guests’ use, enabling them to learn basic computer skills, write resumes and apply for jobs online. Our Career Clothing Closet will be open to the entire community: Anyone in need will receive professional clothing and help preparing for a job interview.

All this, plus countless opportunities to work together with other agencies on the Campus!

While the new MICAH House facility allows us to provide more vital services to those in need, the “good stuff” - the things that have made MICAH House the life-changing place it has always been, remain the same. Guests are always greeted warmly upon arrival, shown to their private room and given their key. Soon after, they meet with a case manager to make a plan to quickly get back on their feet. They still attend daily classes to learn the skills they need for the day they move



Deciding who gets the top bunk!

into a place they call home.

As we look forward, it seems natural to also look back to where we come from. Below and scattered throughout this newsletter are excerpts from “MICAH - The Beginning”, written by Larry Knotek. Larry and his wife Marianne founded MICAH House in 1986 and dedicated the next 10 years of their lives to its Mission. Their vision and dedication to service has changed the lives of many people in need, and our community is better for it.

We’re excited to show off our new home! Please call for a tour - we would love to show you around!



Loyal volunteers, Jean & Bennie, making our first meal in the new shelter.

“To get into MICAH House there is really only one rule: If you are a family or single female and you don’t have a home, you are eligible. We call our people “guests” and try to treat them that way while increasing their self-image and maintaining their dignity.”

- Larry Knotek, 1994

Volunteer Spotlight—Roger Graeve

Volunteering is sometimes a hard responsibility to sell. It demands time, energy, and long-term dedication. With our daily lives moving as quickly as they do, it becomes difficult to commit to help people you do not even know. For this reason, it is essential to illuminate those individuals who stand above the rest; those who not only find time, but consistently help with a smile on their face.

One such volunteer is Roger Graeve, who comes to MICA House once a week to answer phones and sort through donated clothing before it is distributed to clients. Famous for his unwavering love of Nebraska football and quirky nicknames he gives to staff members over the telephone intercom (“Rosey-Posey, call on line one!”), he brings welcomed enthusiasm to MICA House. “Roger has a positive outlook on life, is dependable, easy going, and likes to have fun,” says Tasha Jones, Heartland Family Service Outreach Worker. “He’s a great volunteer and MICA House is lucky to have him, even though he is a die-hard Nebraska fan!” No matter the day, we can always count on Roger to arrive with a helping hand and a smile. His positive attitude, so solid and contagious, is something we could all aspire to. Although it is always impossible to put into words all that you mean to us, thank-you, Roger, for everything that you have done in the many years you have been a part of the MICA House family!



Roger at his usual post, sorting donations and greeting everyone with a smile.



Would you like to be a part of the success of MICA House?
Contact Sara Hanshaw at 712.323.4416 or shanshaw@themicahouse.org.

*“In the next month, 3,000 volunteer hours were donated for remodeling of the building to meet the requirements of the building code.”
- Larry Knotek, 1994*

Other Ways to Help:

A bigger shelter means more needs!

- Financial Support
- Career-oriented clothing. The new Career Closet will be free to anyone who needs professional clothing for a job interview. We need clean, professional clothing in good repair.

Other Needs:

- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent
- Trash Bags
- Diapers
- Frozen & canned meat and fish
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned & fresh fruit

Do You Have Skills???

We hold classes daily to help our guests prepare for the day they move out of MICA House into their own home. Do you have a specialized skill or knowledge that may help our guests become independent? If so, we would love to add you to our curriculum! Below is a list of topics we are looking for, but if you can think of others, please contact us. Knowledge is power!

- Financial Literacy / Banking 101
 - Basic Computer Skills
 - Interviewing Skills
 - Resume Writing
 - Basic Cooking Skills
- Meeting Spiritual Needs

*“The Gospel mandate of Matthew 25 to
“feed the hungry, clothe the naked and house the
homeless”*

*always seemed to me to be a very basic tenet of the
Christian faith. This understanding had apparently been
working on me for a number of years because....the Spirit
moved my wife Marianne and I to make a commitment as
Christians that would change our lives for many years to
come.”*

- Larry Knotek, 1994

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**Check out our website:
www.themicahhouse.org
to learn more about
MICA House,
upcoming events, our
current needs, and much
more!**