

# Community Rebuilders

Working to end homelessness through prevention



*Helping those facing a **housing crisis** will become **easier and more efficient** by bringing three agencies together.*

In the past, local housing agencies focused on managing homelessness by creating shelters and transitional housing. As a result of a community-wide Vision to End Homelessness planning process supported by the Community Foundation in 2004, that focus has shifted to prevention and rapid re-housing. The goal is to provide safe, affordable, permanent housing to people facing a housing crisis. The Coalition to End Homelessness is working on the transition to a prevention model through services delivered by Salvation Army Booth Family Services, Community Rebuilders and other community partners.

In early 2009, these agencies embraced the prevention approach and brought a new service online to address housing crises. Booth Family Services expanded a pilot effort called the Housing Assessment Program (HAP) to provide a centralized assessment and referral process for all households in Kent County facing a housing crisis. The HAP staff complete a housing assessment during intake and then make a referral for assistance, often to a Housing Resource Specialist (HRS) at Community Rebuilders. The HRS works to ensure safe affordable permanent housing for the family or individual.

Due to this integrated approach, Community Rebuilders, Booth and the Coalition

have been looking for the right opportunity to relocate to realize efficiencies, increase access and avoid duplication. In early 2010, the City of Grand Rapids was identified as a potential partner and has willingly agreed to lease the agencies space at 1120 Monroe.

### **This is Community Leadership.**

Throughout the process of the Vision to End Homelessness and the current systems shift, the **Community Foundation has influenced and leveraged support for a prevention focus**, which will ultimately lead to a **dramatic decrease in homelessness.**

## Grant Facts

**Organization:** Community Rebuilders

**Grant amount:** \$200,000

**Grant Purpose:** To provide greater coordination between agencies working on housing and homelessness prevention by relocating together in a new space.

**Web site:** [www.communityrebuilders.org](http://www.communityrebuilders.org)

**Started:** 1993

**Location:** 1019 Wealthy SE, Grand Rapids MI 49506

**Estimated to serve:** 1,200 in 2010

**Area served:** Kent County

## Ways You Can Help

To help ensure the success of this grant you may give to address any of the needs listed below. Please call Community Rebuilders at 616.458.5102 to learn more.

- **3 Furnished “Family Rooms”** at \$5,000 each - To provide a comfortable, confidential space where families experiencing a housing crisis can meet with staff
- **Marketing** - \$8,000
- **Overhead Projector/Equipment for Training** - \$7,000

*To ensure the Community Foundation can make grants like this one in the future, please consider a gift to the **Fund for Healthy People**. Please call 616.454.1751 to learn the benefits of Community Foundation giving and how gifts can be made.*



**Grand Rapids**

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