

Goodhue County

Outside Agency Funding Request Form

| Budget | | Requested 2025 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Revenues | | |
| | Fees: | |
| Local donors/City of RW | Grants | \$ 119,500 |
| State of MN | State/Federal Funding: | \$ 105,000 |
| Donations | Other Revenue: | \$ 6,500 |
| Total Revenues: | | \$ 231,000 |
| Expenses | | |
| 8 Hope and Harbor 3 Connecting Hope | Salaries: | \$ 183,984 |
| Vacation | Benefits: | \$ 4,480 |
| Payroll/Tax reporting | Professional Services: | \$ 4,000 |
| | Services & Charges: | \$ - |
| Guest supplies/office supplies | Supplies & Materials: | \$ 1,750 |
| Insurance, food, marketing,etc | Other Expenses: | \$ 36,786 |
| | Capital: | \$ - |
| Total Expenses: | | \$ 231,000 |
| Requested Funding From County: | | \$ 20,000 |
| Number of Staff | | 11 |

HOPE AND HARBOR CONNECTING HOPE

SEASON #6 HOPE AND HARBOR 11/9/24-3/15/25

CONNECTING HOPE

What is Hope and Harbor& Connecting Hope?

- Hope and Harbor is a cold weather, adult only, rotating homeless shelter serving adults in the Goodhue County area. We partner with local churches to offer safe, low cost, shelter each night.
- Hope and Harbor has chosen to focus on serving adults; as some guests seeking shelter have a past that excludes them from being in the presence of minors. Knowing those guests are harder to shelter in traditional shelters, Hope and Harbor is intentional in serving guests that may be excluded in other shelters.
- Connecting Hope is a new program under Hope and Harbor. It will be a community resource center where anyone from Goodhue County can receive information on how to obtain any social determinants of health (SDOH) they are lacking. It is through obtaining these social determinants of health that individuals and families become stronger and eventually rely less on social services.

Who have we served in past years?

- In the prior 5 seasons Hope and Harbor has served over 187 unique guests, with only a handful duplicated for 2 seasons.
- In those past 5 seasons Hope and Harbor has provided 3,277 nights of care in the 589 nights Hope and Harbor has been open. (In season #2 during COVID, Hope and Harbor was only able to shelter 10 guests a night due to house capacity of shelter).

Where do guests come from?

- Each season typically over 90% of the guests of Hope and Harbor have some connection to Goodhue County.
- Connections may be:
 - Lived here previously
 - Work in the area
 - Have family in the area—common to “couch hop” until it puts family/friend in jeopardy of losing their housing.
- Each season a few guests come from other states, but these guests generally stay only a few nights to maybe a few weeks. They rest, recharge, and move on their journey. These guests do not seek out Hope and Harbor as the end of their journey, but instead use Hope and Harbor as a short term refuge.

Who can shelter at Hope and Harbor?

- Quick answer: Any adult (or 16+ with law enforcement/social service approval) who is experiencing homelessness.
- Long answer: **ANY** person who is able to shelter safely. What this means is anyone who is experiencing homelessness either chronically or even 1 night, who chooses to “shelter safe.” Anyone who is willing to choose personal behaviors that keep themselves, the other guests, Hope and Harbor volunteers, and Hope and Harbor advocates safe.
- SAFETY is the crux of Hope and Harbor. Any person who agrees to safely shelter is welcome.

What is accepted

- There are false statements in the community that Hope and Harbor only accepts guests from Red Wing, only accepts guests from Goodhue County, does not accept guests with criminal records, does not accept guests with mental health issues either diagnosed or undiagnosed, does not accept guests with substance addictions, etc

These statements are not true. I am standing before you to clearly state for the record these statements are not true. I ask if you council members, city staff, others in this room or listening on line hear these statements in the community to send those saying them to talk with me. They are not true and these false statements need to stop. They are detrimental to our funding sources and our mission; they are simply not true.

Who is welcome?

- As said before—any adult experiencing homelessness is welcome. Our ask is they make choices to keep themselves safe and others safe while sheltering—that is all.
- **Background Checks:** Do we check criminal backgrounds? Yes, *if* we can. We can only check MN. The reason we do is to not get in the position of harboring a fugitive. We need to know who is sheltering with us and make sure it's OK they do. We use LOTS of things to ID someone, ID, insurance card, EBT card, mail, RX bottle, etc. Guests DO NOT need an actual ID—we'll work with them to identify who they are.

What is our ask tonight?

- Hope and Harbor/Connecting Hope is asking Goodhue County for a \$20,000 commitment for the upcoming shelter season and to help fund the initial year of Connecting Hope.
- Hope and Harbor will once again use over 1,500 of volunteer hours during the season, We are deeply grateful to the volunteers in the community who help with the mission of providing safe and dignified shelter each night. For the upcoming season we have 7 local churches as host sites and hoping to partner with 1 more. That is double the host sites then we started with 5 years ago. With each host site addition it brings the opportunity for more community members to become aware of the challenges the homeless in our community face each day.
- The largest expense each season is the overnight advocate positions. Past experience has shown that this position cannot be filled with volunteers on a consistent basis.
- Connecting Hope will have 3 navigators to help guests. Each will hold a specific role in the program and bring unique programming to the resource center.

What else do we offer in addition to shelter and resources?

- Hope and Harbor offers 2 warm meals each day—dinner and breakfast.
- We partner with the YMCA for the guests to shower daily
- We offer complimentary laundry at Red Wing Coin Laundry M-F.
- We offer assistance in removing barriers guests face in finding safe and sustainable housing.
- But the biggest resource we offer in addition to safe shelter is hope. We offer a place to be validated and seen. We offer a place for guests to build community. Being a part of something larger than oneself is critical for personal growth.
- We provide a place for community members to build community with each other. A place to be safe from the elements to include not only the cold weather but the extensive heat too. A place to learn from peers that hope for a better tomorrow is possible. A place with the tools and resources to move on to a more independent and fulfilled life for individuals and families.

Where do we go from here?

- Hope and Harbor recently submitted a large grant proposal to MN DHS that would help supply funding to the community resource center for 3 years. We will not know if we are selected for this funding until late summer. When funding is secured Connecting Hope will open in the lower level of Christ Episcopal Church. This was the location of the very successful pilot program the Goodhue County Resource Center. The community and several stakeholders engaged in the GCRC while open and has voiced the need for a community resource center to reopen. Connecting Hope will travel to the outlying communities 1x a week to bring the resource center programming to these other communities in Goodhue County.

In closing

- 6 years ago when Marc Eix approached me with the idea of starting Hope and Harbor while watching our son's play soccer I thought he was crazy. I cannot put into words how grateful I am to the community of Red Wing and Goodhue County for the support these past years. I've spent countless overnights at Hope and Harbor. Watching the guests sleep safe, warm, and soundly is an extremely humbling experience. This, truly, is a mission of servitude. With the expansion of programming to include Connecting Hope we truly will be able to offer wrap around services for our community members. What more is there than to help another human when in need?