



# *The Lazarus Foundation*

*P.O Box 8031- Janesville. Wisconsin 53547-8031*

Sept 1, 2017

## **1. Project description/overview:**

The Lazarus Foundation provides long-term assessment, transitional housing for up to 24-months, long term case management, essential services and life skills training for homeless adult men with alcohol/chemical addictions and professionally 'dual-diagnosed' with non-violent mental health conditions. The Foundation's facility, the Lazarus House, is a 'Single Room Occupancy' (SRO) living facility for up to five individuals with shared kitchen, laundry and restroom/bath/shower facilities. County agencies, mental health professionals and Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) professionals typically refer new residents for admission. The Foundation's Case Manager interviews and assesses each resident upon program entry, works with each resident to develop their individual recovery options and personal Individual Integration Plans (IIP). For each client, an IIP is written outlining goals, achievement strategies, responsible parties, time-lines, and evaluation measurements. These IIPs are reviewed with the resident weekly as a 'progress overview' and on a quarterly basis 'in-depth'. Each goal is updated in response to the resident's demonstrated progress. In addition, all individual Case Management contacts, and all individual life skill training sessions are in response to the goals identified on the IIP. The Foundation's case manager also works with each resident's medical and mental health professional and, if required, each resident's social services, legal advocate and other community care agencies. The Foundation's volunteers, including former homeless individuals, assist with our Case Manager's counseling, individual planning, current and "after-care" questionnaires/surveys plus advocacy duties whenever possible for both current and former "graduated" residents if no conflict exists with "medical/client-patient confidentiality" or other personal information protective constraints.

It is the Lazarus Foundation's mission that we provide clients with a safe, affordable and caring environment in which to make the necessary transition to a 'fully functioning' and contributing member of society with sufficient emotional, medical and financial stability to continue to be so without 'relapses'. The initial support we provide is a safe place to live, away from the extreme difficulties, and actual dangers, of 'living on the street'. This decrease in anxiety results in the beginning of emotional stability for the resident and allows us to perform the needed case management and connections to appropriate services for them. This increases the resident's capabilities to work beyond just trying to survive and actually allows them the ability to foresee their future in a subjective way. They can now work on making the 'course corrections' needed to remain sober, get and keep a job and ultimately live on their own without the fear and self-loathing that accompanies addictions and homelessness.

## **2. Who will benefit from this project and how will this help persons in need of life's basic necessities.**

27% of the our nation's "Chronically Homeless" were identified as "Dual Diagnosed" with both Mental Illness & Substance Abuse needs in a 2007 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development national study. The above percentage reflects the Lazarus Foundation's interpretation of subsequent data within that report and our ability to provide services for the identified sub-populations. In other Midwest regional reports, the percentage of "Chronically Homeless" identified as "Dual Diagnosed" with both Mental Illness & Substance Abuse conditions reaches as high as 44%.

The Lazarus Foundation's primary mission, since the Foundation's founding in 1997, is to provide a rehabilitative transitional living environment, life skills assistance training and case management for recovering substance abusers 'dual-diagnosed' as having non-violent mental health conditions and are experiencing homelessness. Many persons with these issues are trapped, mostly by improper diagnosis and/or treatment of their medical/mental health conditions, plus a lack of employ-ability or finances, and are at risk of 'falling back' into the same negative living environments (often surrounded by alcohol, drugs and other forms of addiction) from which they came. Unfortunately

efforts by ‘unsupported’ individuals to continue seeking medical or emotional help plus try to remain sober, tend to fail more than 90% of the time based on national averages. The Foundation’s goal is to help these individuals re-establish themselves in the community.

The Lazarus Foundation’s Transitional Living facility, the Lazarus House, opened in 1999 near downtown Janesville, providing easy access for our residents to transportation, multiple AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) and NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meetings, low-income medical and counseling services, food pantries, clothing and basic needs resources plus easy access to the local VA and Social Security offices. Other community resources are accessible by public transportation located within easy walking distance.

The Lazarus Foundation, Inc.’s only paid staffing is the Foundation’s part-time Case Manager, who holds a Masters Degree in Social Work, is licensed in both AODA and Mental Health Care in Wisconsin and has specialized in AODA recovery, Mental Illness assessment, family demographics and inter-personal issues for over twenty-five years. The balance of the Foundation’s staffing and administrative team is voluntary, including formerly homeless persons active in their own addictions recovery, who assist with the day-to-day operations of the Lazarus House and help each resident to fulfill their individual sobriety, mental health and life skill goals. The Foundation’s voluntary administrators have performed federal, state and local grant management from governmental and private sources for over 12 years.

**3. Project goals and steps to achieve these goals; including relevant time frame and planned evaluation procedures.**

Activity	Measurable Goal	Measurable Outcome	Tool
Permanent Housing	50% of recipients will be in permanent housing after receiving assistance.	60% will be in suitable housing 12 months after program exit	Surveys, Interviews, Physical mailing address
Job Readiness	Employment Stability	12 sustained months of suitable employment after program entrance	Surveys, Interviews, Copies of employment check stubs
AODA/Mental Health Stability	Sobriety / Mental Wellness	Successful integration into appropriate community service delivery networks within 90-days of program entrance. Continuation of therapy and counseling. Regular attendance of AA Meetings	Surveys, interviews with individual and councilors, Service Episode Indicators
Increased Income Level	Financial Stability	75% will have Available Funds, Fiscal Responsibility and Lack of Indebtedness within 12 months of program entrance	Surveys, interviews, Copies of bank statements - Individual CMI % rank

*Further “Goals/Outcomes” Description:*

The Lazarus Foundation utilizes the above Goal and Measurement Indicators in our current Results Process (also called an Individual Integration Plan or “IIP”). Since January 1, 2014, three (3) clients who were formerly homeless have permanent housing after graduating from the program, two (2) clients who were unemployed upon program entry now have full-time jobs at roughly 60-80% County CMI (Current Monthly Income) average, 1 (1) client who was unemployed upon program entry now has a full-time jobs at roughly 110-120% CMI average and fourteen (14) former clients in recovery have continued in their sobriety and mental well-being.

The Lazarus Foundation has strict rules and accountability requirements that not all homeless persons recovering with addictions and/or mental health problems are willing to abide by. If the individual feels that they cannot, in good conscience, live or receive case management in an environment that has such requirements, we will not accept them. The Foundation is not equipped to provide services for women and/or children. The Foundation will, with their consent, make efforts to find suitable alternate living arrangements and connections with other community agencies for these ‘un-served’ persons.

#### **4. Summary Organization Budget – Available Upon Request**

*Further Organizational Budget Description:*

The majority of the Lazarus Foundation's total funding request is allocated for partial costs of leasing, insuring and maintaining our transitional housing facility, the Lazarus House. The balance is allocated for partial costs of professional Case Management. The majority of the administrative time, audit fees, government fees and office supply costs, "Life Skills" training and all the 'operational' labor is donated.

#### **5. Detailed specific program budget, including other sources of funding and plans to secure funds for future efforts.**

The Lazarus Foundation, Inc. normally has a total operating budget of approximately \$30,000 per year, which includes collected fees from each resident at the rate of \$360 per month (although not all residents have the capacity to pay this amount until suitably employed and financially stable). Due to the ongoing poor economic conditions in our area, we regretfully reduced our budget in 2013 to under \$27,000.00 by cutting non-essential resident services and facility upgrades. The majority of our foundation's service income, grants, donations and other funds are allocated for leasing, insuring and maintaining our transitional housing facility, the Lazarus House. The balance is allocated for Case Management and Life Skills training. As the majority of the administrative and all the operational labor is donated, and other than minor expenses such as audit fees and office supply costs, there are no other disbursements besides the above. This current grant funding request from various sources would be allocated to Case Management and Utility costs. Previous funding from other sources no longer fully available due to area financial climate has allowed the Lazarus Foundation, Inc. to continue our paid professional Case Management for the current residents and the "graduated" residents we serve in an "aftercare" capacity. This funding has also provided financial assistance for our transitional shelter's operational costs that allows us to maintain a stable comfortable environment, conducive to addictions recovery and mental health well-being, for our residents.

Confidence in the current fund-raising environment had dropped significantly as reflected in the Lazarus Foundation's efforts to secure operational, essential services and administrative capital in the last thirty-six months. The outcomes of our historically successful fundraising campaigns targeting individuals and private groups, corporations, religious entities, government sources and private foundations has declined. The normally consistent resident rents and contracted service fees paid by referring agencies is at about 65% that of previous years due to the high unemployment and 'under-employment' rates in Rock County plus the absence of funding through our referring agencies.

These factors, of course, have limited the Lazarus Foundation's ability to provide the adequate and needed services to a wider group of individuals, plus severely constrain services to our existing clients and residents.

In response to these dangerous financial issues, the Lazarus Foundation has embarked on a wider campaign to secure new funding from a more diverse cross-section of possible contributing entities that aren't normally recognized as contributors to 'Homeless or AODA Services' programs. Some small successes have been made in these efforts, however continued funding from these alternative sources is in doubt as their own resources dwindle and increased competition for funding from other agencies is realized.

Historically, the 'Life Skills' training, Job Search assistance, Personal Finances training and addictions recovery mentoring has been and will continue to be performed for our residents by volunteers from the community. In addition, our entire business structure and fundraising effort is administered and performed by volunteers. The Foundation's only paid staffing is a part-time Case Manager who deducts a good portion of her normal fees as a donation to the Foundation. By the use of an almost 'volunteer only' business model, the Lazarus Foundation has been able to maintain very high level of services for our residents and the community at a much reduced cost. The Foundation will continue to operate as efficiently and economically as possible, yet maintaining the necessary facilities and case management for our residents.