

Upcoming Events:

September 17

Annual Fall Family Picnic at
North Memorial Regional Park
4:00pm-6:00pm

September 23

NAMI Walk at Minnehaha
Falls Park
Registration begins at
11:30am and walk starts at
1pm

October 1-7

Mental Illness Awareness
Week

October 21

Tasks has Talent at Tasks
Unlimited Offices
4:30PM – 5:45PM

Tasks Unlimited's Fall Campaign

We are kicking off our Fall Fundraising campaign focused on raising financial support for the new Transition Lodge. Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed envelope in support of this much-needed program!

So much to talk about...

After a bit of a hiatus, we are pleased to be sending out the newest edition of the UnlimitEdition. And while it has been some time since we last published, there has been much news to share. As you will read in these pages, we have opened the new Transition Lodge to increase housing options for people with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI). We are bringing the benefits of Tasks Unlimited's many programs to women with SPMI by increasing our recruitment and retention efforts. Our job placement program, started just last year, is growing faster than we ever expected – placing dozens of individuals in jobs throughout the Twin Cities. In addition, our Healthy Living and Stabilization Initiative is developing new opportunities for clients to improve their physical, social, financial health – all of which help improve mental health.



Karen Johnston, Executive Director

We are also working to spread the word about the incredible outcomes we see in our clients here at Tasks Unlimited. In the past couple months, we have presented at dozens of community organizations and faith-based groups to share the mission and impact of our work for individuals with SPMI. We are reaching out to individuals and foundations in new and innovative ways to support that work and bring our services to even more of the estimated 93,000 individuals in the Twin Cities with SPMI.

THE WASIE FOUNDATION

A Philanthropic Legacy

One of those opportunities to increase support for Tasks Unlimited is happening right now. From September 1 through November 26, any donations from new donors, or donations that are over and above previous gifts from past donors **will be doubled** through a generous matching grant from the Wasie Foundation. We hope that you will take time to consider a gift to Tasks Unlimited at this time, knowing that it will create twice the impact in improving the lives of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness throughout the Twin Cities.

Sincerely,

Karen Johnston
Executive Director, Tasks Unlimited

Increased Housing Options through the Transition Lodge

By Lindsey VanElzen, Transitions Lodge Lead Coordinator

We are excited to announce that the Transition Lodge opened its doors on August 1st and momentum for this new housing model is gaining! We currently host 4 clients (50% capacity), with several inquiries coming in weekly.



The Transition Lodge is a key answer to the challenge of how to best serve our clients after they graduate our Lodge Training Program (LTP). The level of independence between LTP and the Lodge Program is significant. Our goal at the Transition Lodge is to provide a mid-way option for people that would like more time to refine their skills and promote a more fulfilling lodge experience. Key focus areas for Transition Lodge Clients will be the ability to recognize an increase in mental health symptoms, to obtain or maintain stable employment, and to build positive relationships with peers in the group.

While the initial focus of the Transition Lodge looked to people completing their time at LTP, we know that other people in the community are looking for this type of support as well. One of the great aspects of this new housing model is that we have the freedom to adapt our programming to meet the needs of its participants. Some of the current participants are working within Tasks, while others have outside employment. While this can create a challenge in aligning schedules, it also provides an opportunity to practice group problem solving and encourage group input on scheduling and programming to ensure that everyone can be involved in lodge life.

We are off to a great start and look forward to what this first year of operation has in store!

Interview with first client at Transition Lodge, Michael Taylor

Interviewed by Jessi Drake, HR and Development Coordinator

Where were you at before you came to Tasks Unlimited?

I was living at Prairie Harvest in Grand Forks, ND (a Mental Health facility similar to Tasks), and was with that program for more than 15 years. I lived in a co-ed lodge with 5 other house mates, with them all taking turns doing weekly chores, cooking, and grocery shopping, and was a janitor for an office at Prairie Harvest (*Cool side note: Michael made the paper in Grand Forks, ND for his janitorial work with Prairie Harvest. He was even mailed a copy of it and it is posted in the lodge.*)



How has it been transitioning to Tasks Unlimited?

I started at Tasks on August 1st. One thing that has been an adjustment making sure I made it to the Med group times. I'm not a morning person, so having to get up early to do them is sometimes a struggle, but I am adjusting well.

How has it been living in the Transitions Lodge so far?

One thing that I appreciate about the program is that I am not obligated to drive the van and that a ride is provided for him each day to work. I enjoy the members at the lodge and the environment (even though there is no TV upstairs yet, ha!). I want to stay where I am comfortable and stable.

For work, I am currently working part time at the Family Justice Center from 2-6pm. I rotate floors each day, which I like as it is something different for me and I do not have the same route each day. I like the variety.

What are your plans for next steps?

Since moving to the Minneapolis area, I have been able to connect with family on a more regular basis and hang out with my brothers. I want to stay in the area. I plan to stay with the Transition Lodge and then move into another one of Tasks' lodges.

Expanding Female Recruitment and Retention

By Paul Vliem, Development Manager

For the past four decades, Tasks Unlimited has responded to mental health needs of our clients using the Fairweather model of peer-supported housing, stable employment, and wrap-around mental health services. However, while women are more likely to seek treatment for mental illness, we are not seeing that trend reflected in Tasks' clientele. Women currently comprise only 13% of clients in our Jobs Training Program and only 18% in our Lodge Training Program.



Tasks clients earn \$2,000 to \$6,000 more a year than their peers entering other mental health vocational programs. We want to share that success equitably across all people who are living with severe and persistent mental illness. That's why we are so grateful to have the support of **the WCA Foundation**, who recently gave Tasks Unlimited a \$15,000 grant to expand our women-specific outreach and increase employment and social supports for women throughout our lodge and job training sites. With their support, we are creating a targeted program of outreach and retention activities for female clients.

Tasks Unlimited seeks to build a community of support among our female clients that is fed by a vibrant community of women in the program, and nurtured by peer support specialists who can address individual concerns. We look forward to growing this recruitment and retention program, and expanding the number of women benefiting from all the services we provide!

New Job Placement Program!

by Kim Coleman, Job Placement Coordinator



Credit: <http://grindstonedev.com>

Beginning in September 2016, Tasks Unlimited Job Placement Program provides employment assistance and career development services to individuals with disabilities. This program is for anyone ready to work in competitive employment. There is no requirement other than having a verified disability by the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Even if you do not receive SSI or SSDI benefits, you may be eligible.

Since the first referrals began in September 2016, we have had 42 enrollments and 18 job placements. Clients have been very successful in their career development.

In May 2017, we began our Work to Win Job Club for people in our Job Placement Program. Attendees enjoy meeting other job seekers, networking and discussing skill building topics that will help them in the workforce. Work to Win is held every Wednesday from 10:00 am to noon.



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Fall 2017