



FOX VALLEY CARPENTER'S PLACE



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Without the interest and support of others like you, we could not help those in need. Learn how you can partner with FVCP to help keep the near homeless get back on their feet as productive members of your community.

Challenges, Changes, and Charging Ahead

Fox Valley Carpenter's Place

The staff and Board of Directors of Fox Valley Carpenter's Place are dedicated to reducing the homeless and near homeless population in the area. With a growing need area-wide, their roles are magnified.

We have two new staff members who've accepted this challenge.



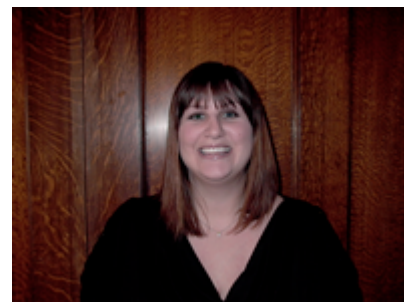
Formerly a United Methodist Pastor, **Doug Booth** is the newest member of the Fox Valley Carpenter's Place staff, taking the reins of **Executive Director** in November of this year.

With an extensive background in radio and television as well as service in the federal government as former Press Secretary to Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, Booth comes to his new role as an outspoken advocate of doing whatever can be done to assist the "near-homeless" of the area. His goals are to enhance the awareness of Carpenter's Place and to work with government, churches and private individuals to guarantee the organization's future in our community.



Joining us in September as our newest case manager is **Brandi Short**. Brandi is an **intern** from Aurora University where she is pursuing her Masters Degree in Social Work.

Brandi says she finds FVCP rewarding because she loves to see clients progress toward their goals. "I have a passion for working with people, so it's great that I can have such a great job doing what I want to, while changing someone's life as well," Brandi explains.



Lisa Sporer continues as **Case Management Supervisor** at Carpenter's Place. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work and is currently completing the requirements to be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Lisa says, "Some of the most rewarding experiences while working at FVCP have come when a client invites me to be a part of the celebration process and informs me that I have been an essential part in the recent positive changes they have made in their life."

The time, compassion and commitment contributed by this staff are testament to the vital role Fox Valley Carpenter's Place plays within our community.

Contact our staff at:

doug.booth@fvcp.org
brandi@fvcp.org
lisa@fvcp.org

Q&A

Getting to Know What We Do and How We Help...

I'm confused, what's the difference between homelessness and near homelessness? Aren't they looking for the same help?

A person or family is considered homeless if they have no permanent living arrangements. They may not have any place to go. Some find shelter in their car, in abandoned buildings as well as stay in emergency shelters. In contrast, the near homeless is either renting, living in subsidized housing or own a home, but are close to losing their shelter.

For the homeless, there are shelters and day centers that will house them on a temporary basis. The person(s) may hop from organization to organization, perpetuating the underlying source of the homeless person's problem. It is also expensive for a community and society to care for these people if they move in and out of homelessness.

In contrast, the near homeless have a place to live, but they may be in danger of losing it. Medical issues, lay-offs, building condemnations or foreclosures can all catapult a person into homelessness through no fault of their own. They are often defined as being one paycheck away from being homeless. For them, prevention is the key. Services are geared toward warding off homelessness, and finding long term solutions to their needs.

How do you help the near homeless, do you pay the rent for them?

The fundamental role of Fox Valley Carpenter's Place is to manage a client in a holistic way. We will help someone find emergency assistance if necessary, but our goal is assisting the person in returning to a normal lifestyle. A main focus is to manage the various services a person uses. Our collaborative approach eliminates many of the inefficiencies that occur when multiple organizations and agencies are assisting the same person. We provide the vital links between various services while evaluating the underlying reason(s) for a person's troubles. We find that by addressing the core issues, a positive outcome is more likely.

What do you mean by "holistic" management? And how do you keep track of every client?

Our program uses web based software housed on a secure server at Northern Illinois University. It is linked to an extensive community provider base which we use to coordinate services applicable to the goals of our client. Case managers assess 14 areas of life which include: Identification, Relationships, Health, Mental Health, Addictions, Education, Housing, Belongings, Employment, Financial, Legal, Transportation, Recreation, and Spiritual. Based on a client's information, individualized "Life Recovery Plans" are then developed.

Client goals are established with the client's input and acceptance. The case manager holds the client accountable for the goals that are set by providing them with action plans and steps. FVCP strives to maintain a unique balance of compassion with accountability. By taking a more active role in the process, a person is more likely to rebuild their life and sustain it. We provide them with the education and tools to take control of their life and be productive members of our community.

Who do you serve and how many do you help?

WHO WE SERVE	2007 JAN - DEC	2008 JAN - OCT
CLIENTS HELPED	361	340
WITH CHILDREN	268	262
WOMEN	40%	43%
VETERANS	14%	12%

THE ECONOMY AND NEAR HOMELESSNESS

Many of us are facing unprecedented economic times. We're hit with a daily dose of distressing economic news, creating angst. The reality is many families are in danger. They are teetering on the brink of homelessness. A job lay-off, a health issue, an eviction notice; any of these events could spell disaster for any number of Fox Valley residents.

This is where Fox Valley Carpenter's Place can help. We help people help themselves. And in these tumultuous times, more and more people are looking for help daily. We give them tools to fix their life, collaborating with other area agencies and churches to coordinate services. We'll work together so they can move forward. And though we offer compassion, we require accountability. We build faith: faith in God, faith in them and faith that their situation will improve. This gives them the hope to move forward.

Our goal is to reduce the homeless and near homeless population in our community and return them to a normal lifestyle. The road back from the brink is full of potholes – it is not a quick fix. To rebuild their life, we case manage utilizing a holistic "Life Recovery Plan." This technology savvy program is web-based and involves a comprehensive assessment incorporating 14 areas of their lives. Goals are established, each of which remove a potential roadblock on the road back to "normal."



Though not everyone becomes a "success story", we are happy to share those that are. "Steve" is a recent example.

Steve became a client of Fox Valley Carpenter's place in October 2008. He was referred from Wayside Cross Ministries, where he first started attending in August 2008. Steve came to Wayside because his house was condemned by the city. He was in desperate need for housing as well as legal information to understand why his house was taken from him. To gather information, his case manager reviewed multiple areas in his life. Many goals were established based on his assessed needs.

His goals consisted of: finding an apartment, continuing his college education, obtaining eye glasses, finding a legal advocate, getting medical treatment for his back and hip and paying his debts. As soon as Steve was given these goals, his

immediate reaction was to make an appointment and get started. On the same day of his intake, Steve made calls to achieve his medical and legal goals. He completed those two goals three days after his first intake! Steve is very dedicated to FVCP and he always keeps his case manager updated. He attends weekly appointments, because he said he feels as though his consistency with Carpenter's Place is helping him tremendously. To show how thankful he is for this program, he gave his case manager a card saying, "Thanks a million for all you have done for me". Steve always has a kind, humorous, and uplifting manner when he comes into FVCP. This positive attitude is helping Steve succeed and progress to his desired needs.

Through comprehensive case management, people such as Steve can be helped. Originally, Steve may have thought his only need was to find a place to live. But with the total evaluation he received, he is aware of other areas of his life to work on. He is fixing every pothole in his life, not just the biggest ones. And in the end, his total life will improve – much more than a simple roof over his head. This is what Fox Valley Carpenter's Place can accomplish.

THE FVCP 14 POINT LIFE RECOVERY PLAN

Identification	Addictions	Transportation
Housing	Legal	Belongings
Relationships	Employment	Recreation
Health	Financial	Spiritual
Mental Health		Education

- Goal and outcome based.
- Balances compassion with accountability.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Faith Marston, Waubonsee Community College
- Karen Yaggie, Universal Security Instruments
- Pastor David Zinn, Ginger Creek Community Church



FOX VALLEY
CARPENTER'S PLACE

Getting Involved Through Donating or Volunteering

Help Us Help Others

The road to rebuilding the lives of the many people we serve always needs patching. That means like every other non-profit, we are fundraising 365 days a year. The current economic upheaval has brought many new clients to our doorstep, straining our already limited resources. We realize donation requests are filling your mailbox, but we're going to ask anyway! If you have charitable funds available, please consider Fox Valley Carpenter's Place.

Volunteers are always being sought as well. Fundraising activities require people to plan and help at any events. From time to time, we are looking for administrative help as well. If you are really passionate about assisting, perhaps

you're a potential member of our Board of Directors.

In kind donations are another possibility. Items such as office supplies, technology tools and printing are needed to run our office. We also require tools to help our clients: bus passes, dental work, eye glasses, medical assistance and more. If you're not sure - give us a call - you may have something we can use. Please call us at 630-870-1004 or visit our website at www.fvcp.org to find out more and to donate!

Our outcomes are real. They are measurable. Call and donate today. Help us provide the tools to rebuild the lives of the near homeless of Fox Valley - before they become homeless.



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P.O. Box 766
Aurora IL 60507
630.807.1004