

MEDIA RELEASE



Siena/Francis House Homeless Shelter

*The region's largest shelter serving individuals
experiencing homelessness, providing food,
shelter, clothing and hope for over 40 years.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:

Tim Sully
Development Director
Phone: 402-341-1821
tsully@sienafrancis.org

UNITED WAY OF THE MIDLANDS AWARDS \$198,600 TO SIENA/FRANCIS HOUSE; GRANTS TO FUND EMERGENCY SHELTER, MEALS AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Omaha, Neb. – Siena/Francis House Homeless Shelter is pleased to announce it was recently awarded a \$198,600 renewal grant from United Way of the Midlands. Thanks to the generosity of the United Way donors, the Siena/Francis House Homeless Shelter will continue meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness by providing emergency shelter, meals and case management.

Each day, the Siena/Francis House provides more nights of shelter and serves more meals to people experiencing homelessness than any other organization in the Omaha metropolitan area. The shelter has 262 emergency beds, serving homeless individuals. On average, 379 homeless individuals received emergency shelter each night in 2017—145 percent of total capacity.

The Meal Program is the second program aimed at meeting emergency basic needs. Through in-kind and monetary support, the program prepared and served 424,380 meals to homeless individuals in 2017.

The third program funded by the United Way is the Rehousing and Reintegration Services Program. Once guests' basic needs are met, case managers work with them to develop a plan to address barriers to housing and move forward in rehousing as many of the homeless as possible. Case managers met with 1,471 homeless individuals in 2017, and helped rehouse 233 individuals.

With the help of this grant, the Siena/Francis House is able to continue to meet the demand for homeless services in the Omaha community. The availability of Siena/Francis House programs is especially important to former guests like Morgan. Morgan fled from her abusive husband and came to Siena/Francis House on the recommendation of a convenience store clerk. She had nothing with her but the clothes she was wearing when she arrived. Our Emergency Shelter staff completed a housing and needs assessment and set Morgan up with a bed, food and clothing. With assistance from our Rehousing and Reintegration Services Program case managers, Morgan was connected with employment resources and accessed medical care. Case managers also worked with her to find affordable housing in the community.

“United Way’s support for our programs is greatly appreciated by Siena/Francis House, and many lives will change in a positive way. Thanks to all who made a contribution,” Linda Twomey, Executive Director/CEO of Siena/Francis House, said.

-end-

About United Way of the Midlands

We focus the efforts of many to help our neighbors stand strong – by addressing basic needs, and fostering success in the classroom and the workplace. www.UnitedWayMidlands.org

About Siena/Francis House

The Siena/Francis House is Nebraska's largest shelter serving homeless men, women, and children for over 40 years. The Siena/Francis House offers food, shelter, and clothing, as well as outreach and addiction recovery services to those who are in need. It is open to the community 365 days a year. In 2017, the Siena/Francis House served 424,380 meals and provided 182,724 overnight stays to our community’s homeless.

The Siena/Francis House is located at 1702 Nicholas Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102. The Siena/Francis House’s telephone number is 402-341-1821, and the fax number is 402-341-5270. Our website is www.sienafrancis.org.