

SUMMER WISH LIST

Summer is a dangerous time for people experiencing homelessness. Please help us meet urgent needs by donating any of these items.

- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Bottled water
- Financial contributions to help operate our cooling center

Contact Lily Black at lblack@sienafrancis.org or 402-341-1821, ext. 1113, for more information.



Your generous donations can help keep guests safe this summer.

THANK YOU FOR GOING OVER THE EDGE WITH SIENA FRANCIS HOUSE

Because of the incredible — and fearless — efforts of our community, **we raised more than \$40,000 at our Over the Edge event this spring!** Those funds will directly support vital programs and services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

We are so grateful to everyone who participated — for their courage, enthusiasm and commitment—as they literally took a leap of faith for Siena Francis House, rappelling down 20 stories to raise funds. Thank you for helping us kick off our 50th anniversary year in such a breathtaking way!



Supporters prepare to repel down 20 stories of the Highline Building in downtown Omaha.



SIENA FRANCIS HOUSE 1975-2025 50

Fifty Years of Impact & Inspiring Hope

Celebrating 50 years of hope, empowerment and extraordinary community!

HOPE NOTES

SPRING 2025

‘EVERY MEAL, BED AND SUCCESS STORY HAS THE COMMUNITY’S FINGERPRINTS ON IT’

In this anniversary year, Executive Director, Linda Twomey, reflected on where Siena Francis House has been and where it’s poised to go, in no small part thanks to its dedicated supporters, volunteers, and other champions.

How did the organization evolve over the years to meet the challenges of Omaha’s unhoused population?

Our mission to welcome, shelter, and empower individuals experiencing homelessness as they navigate their path to housing has been our guiding light through decades of change — anchoring us in compassion while calling us to grow, adapt, and lead with resilience.

Since 1975, we’ve acted with open hearts and bold steps. What began as a shelter for women and children quickly expanded to welcome men in 1977. Our move to a new campus in 1994 represented a renewal of purpose, allowing us to offer more than shelter by launching the Miracles Program to support individuals in addiction recovery.

In 2003, we built a dedicated men’s shelter. In 2012, we developed Siena Apartments, empowering individuals to move toward independence. In 2019, we opened a new shelter with 460 beds. The next year, we expanded our capacity to provide recovery services. And in 2023, we introduced The Cottages — 50 tiny homes offering a stable, supportive environment for people ready to rebuild their lives.

What is unique about Siena Francis House’s approach to addressing the problems chronically unhoused people face?

We’re a low-barrier shelter, open 24/7. It’s not just about offering a bed or a meal. It’s about creating a space where people always have access to services, are respected, and supported — sometimes for the first time in a long time.

We meet people where they are, without judgment, and help them take steps forward when they’re ready. That kind of unconditional presence is at the heart of what makes our approach different.

What are some of the accomplishments made possible with the help of volunteers and donors, and why is their ongoing support critical?

Their support has helped us grow from a small shelter into one of the largest service providers in the region. We’ve expanded our emergency shelter capacity, built permanent supportive housing units, and developed vital programs like our Miracles addiction recovery program.

What makes this even more meaningful is that less than 15% of our funding comes from government sources. That means every meal served, every bed made, every success story — you name it — has the community’s fingerprints on it. This support isn’t just helpful; it’s absolutely critical.

What does the 50th anniversary mean to you, and what would you like to see happen in the next 50 years?

It’s a testament to the power of compassion, resilience, and community. It means we’ve spent five decades showing up for people who are often overlooked. I feel pride and gratitude to be part of something that’s had a lasting, life-changing impact on so many.

I’d love to see Siena Francis House continue to lead with compassion and innovation, rethinking what effective, person-centered support looks like. I hope we keep pushing for creative solutions that meet people where they are, expand access to permanent supportive housing, and strengthen mental health and addiction services. Ultimately, that we remain a place of healing and transformation — and that one day, we can say we played a key role in ending chronic homelessness in our community.



Linda encourages friends of Siena Francis House to make a special gift in honor of 50 years of hope and transformation.

SIENA FRANCIS HOUSE MISSION AND VALUES

Siena Francis House is Nebraska’s largest provider of services to individuals experiencing homelessness and is committed to achieving our goal to end homelessness by helping every guest secure positive housing. This list of values is the “moral compass” we use to not only set policies, but to guide our staff daily as we serve our neighbors in need.

- 🏠 Advocacy
- 🤝 Collaboration
- 🕯️ Stewardship
- 🌱 Integrity
- 💡 Innovation
- 🕊️ Compassion

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'HE'S A GREAT ADDITION TO THE COMMUNITY'



After years living on the streets, Craig is proud to call the Cottages home.

When Craig was released from prison, he knew he couldn't return to his former home. Grappling with the overwhelming uncertainty of homelessness, he spent years living on the streets.

Craig occasionally visited the Siena Francis House Emergency Shelter, but stable housing remained out of reach — until he connected with case manager, Jalissa. With her help, Craig qualified for permanent supportive housing. Soon, he was selected to move into his own cottage.

"People like Craig, who are chronically unhoused, often deal with severe mental health issues, trauma, addiction or other challenges," Jalissa said. *"Many places have barriers that can make it hard for them to get help, but we don't turn people away."*

Today, Craig enjoys simple pleasures like cooking, watching TV, and proudly calling his place "home." He also works closely with his current case manager, Michelle, to build on his newfound stability.

"Craig has been doing incredibly well since arriving at The Cottages," Michelle said. *"He's a great addition to the community."*

Anyone who's met Craig knows his optimism and gratitude are contagious — and that he loves sharing how much life has improved since moving into his own home. His story proves how a supportive community can transform lives.

As of 2024, more than one in four inmates released from the Nebraska Department of Corrections returned to prison within three years. Your support provides critical resources and guidance to address underlying issues and set people like Craig on a more positive path.

VOLUNTEER & DONOR SPOTLIGHT: JEFFREY BROWN



Thank you, Jeff, for 15 years of unwavering support. Your commitment is helping us serve hope — one meal, one moment, and one life at a time.

For the past 15 years, Jeffrey Brown has been a dedicated volunteer at Siena Francis House, initially serving meals with his men's prayer group from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. What began as a monthly act of service soon became a lasting commitment. Moved by the impact he was making and the relationships he built, Jeff began volunteering weekly — a routine he has faithfully maintained for years.

Since 2018, Jeff has also been a generous donor. After years of volunteering, he saw firsthand the great need within our shelter and the powerful impact Siena Francis House has on those we serve. For Jeff, giving financially was a way to double his impact — and see the reward of his contribution every week he volunteers.

"As a volunteer and donor, I feel like I make a double impact," Jeff shared. *"I see the need up close, and I know my donations help us keep meeting it."*

Jeff's dedication extends beyond the kitchen. He often brings his grandchildren with him to volunteer, instilling in them the values of compassion, service and community.

"The guests here have truly touched my life, as much as I hope I've touched theirs," Jeff said. *"I'm tickled to know that my time and resources are needed and used."*

Known for his signature phrase, *"I'm tickled to be here,"* Jeff reminds us all of the joy that comes from serving others. His consistent presence and generous heart are a shining example of what it means to be part of the Siena Francis House family.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

In 2024, Siena Francis House's holistic approach delivered life-changing results for men and women on the path to safe, permanent housing. A year of hope and empowerment, we not only provided essential shelter and resources, but we also helped more people successfully complete recovery programs and maintain safe housing. Here are a few highlights.



EMERGENCY SHELTER

136,874 bed nights



MEALS

400,000+ meals served



PERMANENT HOUSING

500 individuals exited programs for housing in the community



STREET OUTREACH

300+ individuals helped — 81% moved to safe housing

MIRACLES ADDICTION TREATMENT & RECOVERY PROGRAM



- Program graduation rate is 45% — higher than the national average of 43%
- 82% of participants secured housing in the community

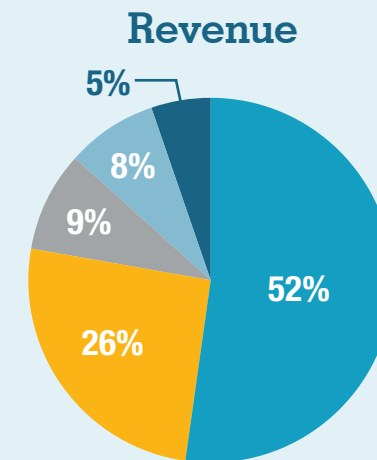
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



- 80% retention rate
- 73% of individuals maintained or increased their cash income

WE SERVED 3,150 INDIVIDUALS

2024 FINANCIALS



● Contributions and other grants \$6,599,464	● In-kind contributions \$3,208,274	● Program services \$13,170,228	● Fundraising \$1,114,647	● Management and General \$1,017,350
● Government grants \$1,105,642	● Net investment return \$1,028,776	● Other, net \$648,248		



50TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

OCTOBER 22, 2025
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

SCOTT CONFERENCE CENTER
6450 PINE STREET, OMAHA

TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR SPONSOR A TABLE VISIT: sienafrancis.org/sfh50

