



The Key

DeLaCerde House, Inc. Newsletter

WINTER 2019

The Key is Back!

The Key has been an important part of DeLaCerde House, Inc. communicating with our community. For many of you, The Key was the best way of knowing what is happening at DeLaCerde House, Inc. and what is coming up in the future for the agency. Well, we are thrilled to bring The Key back to you on a quarterly basis. If you prefer The Key emailed to you, please either call our office at 309-786-7386 or drop us a quick email at Delacerdahouse@gmail.com.

New Faces at DeLaCerde House

2018 was a year of changes at DeLaCerde House. We said goodbye to Tiffany Norwood and Andrea St. Clair and thanked them for their leadership, experience and skills they brought to the agency and the housing programs. In July 2018, Cathy Jordan joined our agency as the new Executive Director. Cathy has worked in the homeless services field since 2005 and brings a renewed commitment to keep the mission of DeLaCerde House alive in our community. In November 2018, Nick Wissing joined our agency as the new Service Coordinator who will provide case management and other supportive services to the program participants. They join our Supportive Services Specialist, Tammy Skovronski, in the program office. Please feel free to stop by the office and say hello to the team.

“Stable housing is critical to promoting full engagement in HIV care from diagnosis through attaining a suppressed viral load. Through these mechanisms, stable housing helps contribute to national HIV care and prevention of transmission goals.”

- Edward M. Gardner, M.D.



DeLaCerde House is thankful to the John Deere Classic for providing an 8.2% bonus to this year's Birdies For Charity pledges. Congratulations to the John Deere Classic for generating over \$13 million dollars this year for nonprofits. DeLaCerde House celebrates with over 500 nonprofits that received money from the Birdies For Charity program. Thank you our generous donors and community for supporting the work of DeLaCerde House.



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FUND-RAISING FOR DeLaCERDA HOUSE

SAVE THE DATE!

The 17th annual Hearts For Housing Dinner will be Saturday, May 4, 2019. Mark this date on your calendars as you do not want to miss this great night featuring an interactive comedy whodunits from "It's A Mystery".

Stay tuned for more details in the future!



DID YOU KNOW

Twenty-five years ago, in the earlier years of the AIDS epidemic, health care and housing providers figured out that without housing, the health of people living with AIDS deteriorated far more rapidly than for those who had stable homes.

There is tremendous evidence demonstrating that housing is a critical aspect of care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Since 1996, DeLaCerde House has known that housing is healthcare for individuals and families that are living with HIV/AIDS.

Our mission is to provide housing, advocacy and supportive services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.



Everchanging landscape

Ever heard the saying, “The more things change, the more they stay the same?” Well, whether you believe this statement or not, things are changing here at DeLaCerde House.

The federal government has been changing its position on how best to meet the needs of people that are experiencing homelessness. For years, emergency shelters and transitional housing were the model of care, a housing solution that could provide assistance for prolonged lengths of time. For many people, these were the best and sometimes only housing options when they found themselves experiencing homelessness.

On September 30, 2018, the federal grant that supported transitional housing at Robb’s House came to an end. This funding was from the Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Collaborative Grant. While this federal program can no longer provide the funding for Robb’s House, it does not mean that there isn’t other funding options available. The Executive Director in conjunction with the Board of Directors is working strategically to obtain more sustainable funding for DeLaCerde House so that the mission can continue to be accomplished in our community. So while Robb’s House is closed temporarily for some needed renovations, the hunt for new funding sources continues.

Since 1994 when a dedicated group of individuals began DeLaCerde House to honor the legacy of Jim DeLaCerde, our community has known the importance of providing safe, affordable housing to those living with HIV and/or AIDS. It’s with this determination that the first property, Robb’s House, opened in 1996. Robb Dusliere, for whom the house is named, died in 1996. It’s with his vision and legacy that DeLaCerde House expanded in 2003 with the opening of Steven’s Place, named after Steven Rosen, and in 2009 with the opening of Longview Place. With our community’s support, DeLaCerde House has provided exceptional housing and supportive services to these individuals and families to help them remain safe while connecting to essential healthcare treatment. There is no other housing program like DeLaCerde House in the region. We are uniquely positioned to remain a leader in our field.

Since 2000, 69 individuals have lived at Robb’s House. Their average length of stay was 168 days. Of these 69 individuals, 57% transitioned into permanent housing. So what does this data mean? Assisting people experiencing homelessness that also have a chronic health condition is not easy. Robb’s House is a necessary and vital step to move people out of emergency shelters and off the streets so they can begin to address their health concerns as well as look for permanent housing options.

So, here is the tough news. No level of federal or state funding will provide everything that DeLaCerde House needs to remain strong in the future. We must have a continued commitment and generous financial support of our donors, stakeholders and community to stay strong during these times of change. Jim DeLaCerde is best remembered by his friends as “a real fighter, especially for other people’s rights”. People who are experiencing homelessness and living with HIV and/or AIDS have a right to safe, affordable housing while accessing the medical care that they need. With your commitment and generous financial support, DeLaCerde House will continue to be a leader in this field.

Please join us to continue this important work in our community and send your tax-deductible contribution today in the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.delacerdahouseinc.org.



- *Cleaning products*
- *Personal hygiene items*
- *13 gallon garbage bags*
- *Towels and washcloths*
- *New pillows*
- *Coffee maker and toasters*
- *Pot and pan sets*

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information, to make donations or to volunteer with us.

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delacerdahouseinc.org

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