

## Building Community

For participants in Simpson Housing Services' supportive housing programs, having a safe, stable home opens up a world of possibilities. Simpson partners with multiple developers and agencies to provide these homes. One current partner is Trellis Co.

Simpson works to provide supportive services to housing participants, ensuring that they can develop their inherent strengths and skills as they establish stability in their lives.

### Belfry Apartments, South Minneapolis

Located on the site of the Calvary Lutheran Church building in South Minneapolis, Belfry Apartments offers deeply affordable homes for families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness. Belfry Apartments is a partnership between Simpson Housing Services, long-time partner Trellis Co., and Calvary Lutheran Church.

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“The sky is the limit. But the people that are going to make the decisions need to be the residents. That’s the way Simpson’s stance has been with this whole project. It’s about what community [residents] want to build and how we can help them build it alongside each other.”

**Kristi Becker**

Resident Engagement Coordinator and Family Support Specialist at Belfry Apartments



SUMMER 2024

**500**  
households served annually

**74%**  
of households exited to stable housing



“I’d never experienced having to need housing or services before. It was quite a change having to be patient and let others help.”

Jennifer, Belfry Apartments resident



Belfry Apartments

Simpson Housing Services supports 15 formerly homeless households at Belfry Apartments, including six families and nine single adults. The agency also provides resources and engagement for all residents in the 41-unit building.

Kristi Becker is the Resident Engagement Coordinator and Family Support Specialist at Belfry Apartments. Kristi plans community activities, such as crafts, birthday celebrations, and bingo events, and partners with residents as they work to achieve their housing and personal goals.

“It is a vibrant, lovely community. There’s so much potential and so many ideas,” she says. She emphasizes the resilience, strengths, and initiative of Belfry Apartments residents. Residents are eager to share knowledge and resources with each other, including how to make dreamcatchers, cook homemade ramen, or find supportive tools.

“They’ll take each other under their wings and say, ‘I know where you could get this resource.’ That knowledge doesn’t have to come from [Simpson alone]. It can come from the [Belfry Apartments] community,” Kristi says.

Jennifer has been living at Belfry Apartments for the past two months, which has enabled her to focus on improving her physical health and to reimagine her future. She says, “I’d never experienced having to need housing or services before. It was quite a change having to be patient and let others help.”

“I’ve learned so much through watching Kristi,” Jennifer says. “I have vowed that somehow, when I’m capable, I’m going to try and do something like Kristi. Because

if I can help others not have to go through what I had to go through to get help, I’m going to do it.”

### Dale Street Place, St. Paul

Trellis Co. recently renovated Dale Street Place in St. Paul, which offers 150 deeply affordable homes for elderly, disabled, and special needs residents. Simpson’s on-site staff empower residents to build self-confidence, leadership, and community together. Program Manager Mia Masterpole and Case Manager Ray Cannard provide necessary resources, supportive services, and community activities.

New resident Rachel says, “I like it here, I think it’s great! We do shopping trips and meal trips, play bingo, have the TV room upstairs, sit and talk to people...it’s really nice, not having to be outside in the cold sitting on a park bench.”

“Sleeping outside, jumping from house to house... I just couldn’t do it anymore.”

Rachel  
Dale Street Place  
resident





Dale Street Place



**"My housing coordinators, Mia and Ray, have been so great and positive. I appreciate y'all so much."**

**Taffa, Dale Street Place resident**

Having her own place again is a tremendous relief. "Sleeping outside, jumping from house to house...I just couldn't do it anymore," she says, especially after being diagnosed with cancer. "And you can't have friends or your family come see you, because you don't want them to see you like that."

Living at Dale Street Place means Rachel can better recover from chemotherapy. Her nurses come to her home, her sister visits with homemade baked goods, and Simpson staff support her with resources.

Taffa, another new resident, lost her job early in the pandemic. When she moved into Dale Street Place, Simpson staff supported her through challenges with rent and chronic pain.

"My housing coordinators, Mia and Ray, have been so great and positive. I appreciate y'all so much," Taffa says. She's currently employed as a PCA, but her health makes

the job difficult. "I've been working since I was 13 years old. Now I'm trying to get on Social Security. Mia and Ray, they're helping me out."

With the stability and opportunities provided through Dale Street Place, new resident Rich can focus on meaningful growth and developing a positive mentality. He says that the Simpson staff offer great resources and hope for people who need both. "They really are here if you want to talk, need therapy, need to cry, need a shoulder to lean on."

He's determined to become a mentor and motivational speaker to young adults. "Where I come from—I'm from Detroit—it's tough. I want to tell kids to stay focused, stay with your family, stay a part of meaning something."

The need for affordable housing and supportive services is growing in the Twin Cities. In response, Simpson Housing Services hired more staff and is adding 200 supportive homes, including Belfry Apartments and Dale Street Place. Simpson continues to develop relationships with new partners across the Twin Cities to meet the needs of people who are unstably housed.

Dale Street Place resident Rich wants to encourage people who may be struggling alone with housing instability. "There's many resources out there, there's different people you can talk to, to achieve any goal that you want. Whatever you need, it's out here. Every day above ground is a new day."



**"They really are here if you want to talk, need therapy, need to cry, need a shoulder to lean on."**

**Rich**  
Dale Street Place resident



**Ending homelessness takes a community.**  
 We appreciate the **900 volunteers** who shared **6,220 hours** with Simpson.



160 Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55405 | [simpsonhousing.org](http://simpsonhousing.org)



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## Volunteer



Serve a meal at the  
 Simpson Shelter  
*this summer!*

We invite you to volunteer with your group to serve a healthy, filling meal at the shelter. Volunteers are vital to feeding shelter guests. However, the number of meal group volunteer hours **decreases by over 50%** during the summer as compared to winter.

**Will you help the Simpson community meet that need this summer?**

Experience the impact of our work firsthand, get to know the shelter guests, and make a meaningful contribution –all while having fun!

To sign up, contact Aaron Ramos,  
 Volunteer Engagement Manager,  
 at [aramos@simpsonhousing.org](mailto:aramos@simpsonhousing.org)  
 or visit [simpsonhousing.org/volunteer](http://simpsonhousing.org/volunteer).



### Why volunteer?

*"To give to guests in a very direct way. To be connected with each other, tell stories, be part of Simpson culture."*

**Patricia Harmon**  
 Board President