



Presentation
Partners in Housing



Fall 2025

THE LANTERN

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A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

At Presentation Partners in Housing, we believe that every person deserves not only a roof overhead, but also the stability, dignity, and support to thrive. That is why I am excited to share with you **our newest permanent supportive housing program: Cooper House.**

What is Cooper House?

Cooper House, a 42-unit apartment building, provides supportive housing for individuals who have experienced long-term homelessness and often face the most complex barriers to stability.

Cooper House is a partnership with Beyond Shelter (the building's owner), MetroPlains (property management), the Fargo Housing Authority, the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Division (grantor), and a network of care providers. **PPIH serves as the contracted supportive service provider, walking alongside tenants as they take steps toward stability and healing.**

Cooper House is a true Housing First program, and what makes it so special is its sense of community. Some tenants have called it home since it first opened in 2010, while others stay just long enough to gain housing stability skills and build a strong rental history before moving on to more independent living. Regardless of how long they stay, every tenant is welcomed into a place where they belong and where support is always within reach.

Housing like this is deeply needed in our community, especially as homelessness continues to rise. Cooper House fills an essential role in the continuum of care, offering safe and affordable housing with wraparound services for those who are most vulnerable.

Even in moments of chaos or challenge, there is wonderful energy in the building, because the tenants know they are not alone.

As you read through this newsletter, you'll find stories and voices from Cooper House that remind us why your support matters. Together, we are not just preventing and ending homelessness; we are building lasting communities of hope and stability.

Sarah

Sarah Kennedy, LMSW
Executive Director



"I love working with the Cooper House residents.

Building relationships with the people who live here helps us give better support and connect them with services they need. It's great to see residents stabilize and begin to live life again."

— Leah Siewert-Oberg, Program Director, Cooper House



COOPER HOUSE FAQ

Why is Cooper House called a “Housing First” program?

Housing First is a simple yet powerful idea: **people are more successful in navigating recovery, health, and employment once they have a safe and stable place to live.** That's why housing at Cooper House is provided to people experiencing homelessness right away—without preconditions such as sobriety. With a supportive community and home, residents can focus on healing and rebuilding their lives.

Why is homelessness growing in Fargo/Moorhead?

Our community is facing a shortage of affordable housing. Long housing voucher waitlists and limited access to mental health and substance use treatment can keep people stuck in homelessness—even when they are working hard to move forward.

Who lives at Cooper House?

Cooper House residents are individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness, meaning they've been unhoused for a year or more and often face complex barriers to housing. They are mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, veterans, and workers ... people with hopes, talents, and dreams, just like us.

What is PPIH's role at Cooper House?

PPIH walks alongside residents by offering critical supportive services and coordinating with their care teams. **PPIH's team ensures residents have what they need to stay in housing, stabilize, and thrive**—from navigating health care to building daily living skills.

How can I support Cooper House and other life-changing programs at PPIH?

Your support makes it possible for our most vulnerable neighbors to have safe housing, caring support, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Whether through donations, volunteering, or simply sharing the mission with others, you are helping to create a community where everyone has a place to call home.



Get Involved!

- Host a **meal**
- Lead a **wellness or art class**
- Organize a **game night**
- Assist with **resident move-in**
- Do a **service project** in the space
- Conduct a **household goods drive**



Your Generosity Helps!

\$50 = a **month of coffee** for the community room

\$100 = **recovery & wellness** engagement opportunities

\$200 = **move-in essentials** for new residents.

MEET JAMES

From the Streets to Stability

When James arrived at Cooper House, he carried more than his few belongings—he carried the weight of months without a stable place to call home. **“I was sleeping anywhere I could,”** James remembers. Each day was a battle for safety and rest.

That began to change when James walked through the Cooper House doors. For the first time in a long time, he found shelter, stability, and people who cared about his future.

“Since coming to Cooper House, I have been improving,” he shares. The safe environment allows him to take steps forward, though the journey has not been without its struggles. When asked what makes the most significant difference in his life at Cooper House, James doesn’t hesitate: “The staff.” **The staff’s patience and care are giving him the strength to persevere.**

James knows that without Cooper House, “I’d still be homeless.” Instead, today he is focused on hope—hope that he can move forward, build stability, and continue growing stronger. His desire is simple but powerful: “To move on in life.”



MEET DANIEL

I lived down by the river.

For months, Daniel called the rough riverbanks home. Life by the river was harsh, unpredictable, and unsafe—not just for Daniel, but also for his loyal companion, his dog Prince.

In February, everything began to change. Daniel and Prince moved into PPIH’s Cooper House, finally finding a safe, dry place to stay. **“Since coming to Cooper House, I have a place for me and my dog,”** Daniel shares. Daniel’s home has given him room to breathe, to rest, and to begin looking ahead with hope.

Life at Cooper House has also given Daniel a supportive community. “The best thing about living here is my neighbors and the staff,” he says. Their care has helped him feel less alone as he works on his personal goals. The challenge closest to his heart right now? “Finishing my art.” Having a warm place to call home allows him to focus on what he loves: his talents and his faithful companion.

Daniel knows that without Cooper House, “Me and Prince would still be down by the river.” Instead, **they now have a foundation for the future.** Daniel’s hope is simply, “To better my life for me and my dog.” At Cooper House, that dream is beginning to take shape.



Three easy ways to give



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Call us at **701-235-6861** to discuss giving options



Thank you for providing **housing, community, and stability** to those who need it most.