



Emergency Fund
Helping people today for tomorrow

news from the *Emergency Fund*

Spring/Summer 2010



Together, We Make a Difference

Four years ago, Angela and her two children, Riley and Deagan, were forced to leave their home behind because of Angela's husband's drug problem. Soon, Angela had to move into a motel and was not able to pay her bills. As Angela shares, "I felt like I had nowhere to turn."

When Angela first discovered Bridge Communities, she knew it was the perfect solution for her and her family, "I didn't know organizations like this even existed." She explained that Bridge Communities helped her with debt management, education, and to build a life for her family.

Bridge Communities is committed to building better futures for homeless families. They not only help with housing, but also provide automobile donations, career training, tutoring for parents and children, and regular mentoring to help Bridge clients manage their money and build a sustainable life.

Two years after starting the Bridges program, Angela is in a completely different place both emotionally and financially. Her husband, David, is living with her and their two children again after receiving treatment for his drug problem. David is recommitted to his family and his new life. As he explains, "what we've gained...is financial responsibility. We didn't have that before. There's no class in high school that teaches you how to budget your money...Bridge has been amazing at teaching us."

Angela and her family will be graduating from Bridge this year. She feels ready to move on, and the odds have shifted significantly in her favor. According to a 2008 self-reporting client survey, 100% of Bridge graduates are able to find stable housing, 92% have stable employment, and 63% have stable or reduced debt. "I've learned so much" she says.

The Emergency Fund is proud to partner with Bridge Communities and to assist families like Angela's. Through our Flexible Financial Fund, we were able to cover day care and car repair expenses to help this family through their transition to a more stable life. Together, with your generous support, we are making a difference.

2009 Accomplishments

2009 was a year of strategy and innovation for the Emergency Fund. Despite the worst economic climate in recent history, our 2009 private donations increased by 23%, which illustrates your deep investment in our mission. As always, these contributions went directly to our Flexible Financial Fund. This Fund not only helped people in crisis, but also allowed heads of households to complete educational and career programs. Due to your generous support, many of these families were able to begin 2010 working toward self-sufficiency.

The Emergency Fund would not be able to achieve such tremendous results without the help of our partners. Each year at our Annual Board of Directors meeting we present two awards to honor our partners: the Wanda S. Morris Fund Manager of the Year Award and the Agency Service Excellence Award. This year's winners, Gladys Howell and Roseland Christian Ministries, demonstrate unwavering commitment to people in need. Like many of us, both Howell and Roseland Christian Ministries suffered significant setbacks in 2009. However, both were able to rise above the challenge, and they continue to exemplify our mission.

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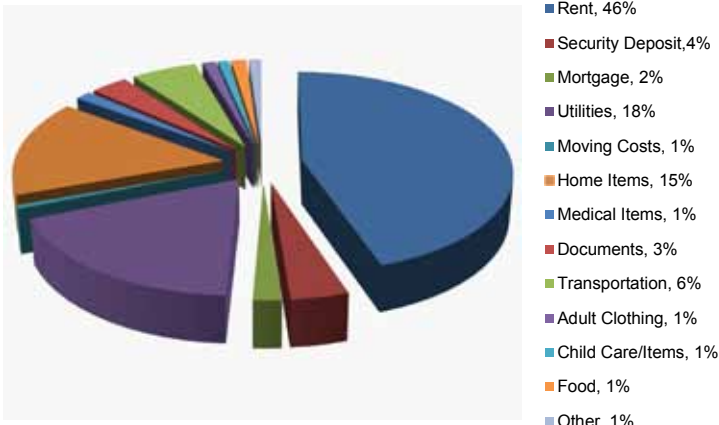
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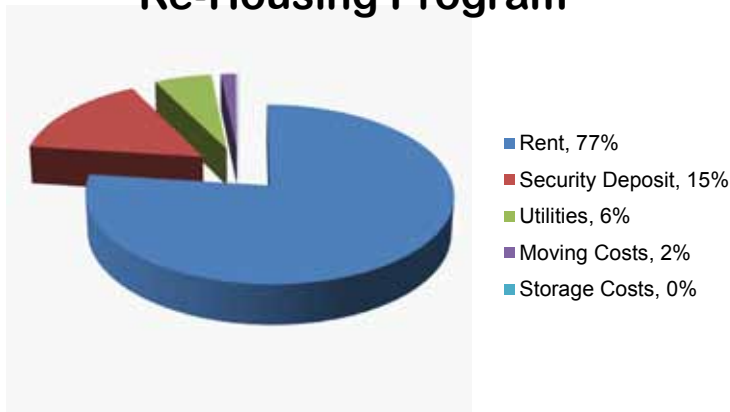
Mid-Year Report

January - June, 2010

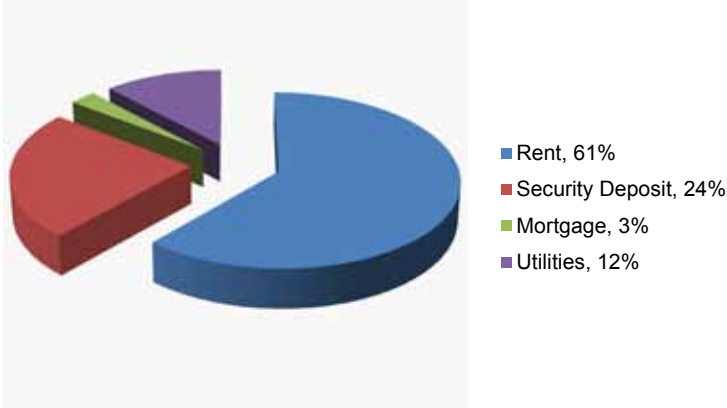
Flexible Financial Fund



Homelessness and Rapid Re-Housing Program



State Homeless Prevention Fund



4,000+
people were helped by the
Emergency Fund during the
first half of 2010

161
dollars was the average crisis
solution grant amount during the
2009 year

4,360,420
dollars has been distributed by the
Emergency Fund to the Chicago
community so far this year

73
percent of clients sought our
assistance due to reduced work
hours or lost employment

100
percent of your donation goes
toward our Flexible Financial Fund

Because of supporters like you, the Emergency Fund made a significant impact in the lives of individuals and families facing a crisis or transition. Together, we made a difference.