

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Spring 2013

Volume 48, Number 1

A Monument to Freedom,
a Monument to All:

Restoring the
*Johann Christoph Friedrich von
Schiller Memorial*
in Como Park

Colin Nelson-Dusek

—Page 11

Rooted in Community

One History of Service:
The Guild of Catholic Women and Guild Incorporated

Hayla Drake

Page 3



Internationally known artist Jason Najarak's "Ladder of Hope" mural, the centerpiece of Guild Incorporated's donor wall, was inspired by others whose "genius and mental illness played out in many ways." Najarak gifted the organization with his painting. Photo courtesy of Guild Incorporated.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

President

Chad Roberts

Founding Editor (1964–2006)

Virginia Brainard Kunz

Editor

John M. Lindley

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul A. Verret

Chair

Cheryl Dickson

First Vice Chair

William Frels

Second Vice Chair

Julie Brady

Secretary

Carolyn J. Brusseau

Treasurer

Thomas H. Boyd

Immediate Past Chair

Anne Cowie, Joanne A. Englund,
Thomas Fabel, Howard Guthmann,
Douglas Heidenreich, Richard B. Heydinger, Jr.,
John Holman, Kenneth H. Johnson,
Elizabeth M. Kiernat, David Kristal,
Carl Kuhmeyer, Father Kevin M. McDonough,
Nancy W. McKillips, Susan McNeely,
James Miller, Robert Muschewske,
Richard H. Nicholson, Jeffrey Slack,
Ralph Thrane, Jerry Woefel.

Director Emeritus

W. Andrew Boss

EDITORIAL BOARD

Anne Cowie, *chair*, James B. Bell,
Thomas H. Boyd, John Diers,
Douglas Heidenreich, James Miller,
John Milton, Laurie M. Murphy,
Paul D. Nelson, Richard H. Nicholson,
Jay Pfaender, David Riehle, Chad Roberts,
Steve Trimble, Paul A. Verret,
Mary Lethert Wingerd.

HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

William Fallon, William Finney, George
Latimer, Joseph S. Micallef, Marvin J. Pertzik,
James Reagan, Rosalie E. Wahl.

RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rafael Ortega, chair
Commissioner Toni Carter
Commissioner Blake Huffman
Commissioner Jim McDonough
Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt
Commissioner Janice Rettman

Julie Kleinschmidt, manager,
Ramsey County

Ramsey County History is published quarterly
by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323
Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN
55102 (651-222-0701). Printed in U.S.A. Copy-
right © 2013, Ramsey County Historical Society.
ISSN Number 0485-9758. **All rights reserved.**
**No part of this publication may be reprinted
or otherwise reproduced without written
permission from the publisher.** The Society
assumes no responsibility for statements made by
contributors. Fax 651-223-8539; e-mail address:
info@rchs.com; web site address: www.rchs.com

RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 48, Number 1

Spring 2013

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 20, 2007:

The Ramsey County Historical Society inspires current and future generations
to learn from and value their history by engaging in a diverse program
of presenting, publishing and preserving.

CONTENTS

- 3 *Rooted in Community*
One History of Service:
The Guild of Catholic Women and Guild Incorporated
Hayla Drake
- 11 *A Monument to Freedom, a Monument to All:*
Restoring the *Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller*
Memorial in Como Park
Colin Nelson-Dusek
- 19 *Her Sky-high Career Started Here*
Aviation Pioneer: Phoebe Fairgrave Omlie
Roger Bergerson

*Publication of Ramsey County History is supported in part by a gift from
Clara M. Claussen and Frieda H. Claussen in memory of Henry H. Cowie Jr.
and by a contribution from the late Reuel D. Harmon*

Correction: In the Winter 2013 issue, which included the 2012 Donor Recognition Report, Myrna Weyer was incorrectly identified in the Report as deceased. On the contrary, she is very much alive. We greatly regret this error.

A Message from the Editorial Board

This issue brings us a diverse group of articles. We trace the history of the Guild of Catholic Women and Guild Incorporated: a compelling story of helping St. Paul residents through community support, especially housing. We watch as the Como Park statue of the German writer and philosopher, Schiller, is restored and rededicated. And we thrill to the airborne adventures of Phoebe Omlie, a pioneering aviator and parachute jumper who got her start in Ramsey County. As we welcome Chad Roberts, the new President of RCHS, I also want to thank John Lindley, our editor, who has recently served as Interim Executive Director. John kept us moving forward as an organization as he also handled responsibilities editing this magazine. We are thankful for his administrative experience and initiative, but happy to have him back applying his full expertise to this great publication.

Anne Cowie,
Chair, Editorial Board

Rooted in Community

One History of Service:

The Guild of Catholic Women and Guild Incorporated

Hayla Drake

When internationally-known artist, Jason Najarak, began work on his painting, “The Ladder of Hope,” a gift for Guild Incorporated, it was as if he was uncovering a story. Slow motion video captures him in the studio, day after day, brushing on every shade and hue—layering, embellishing, adding details, and taking them out—constantly responding to the story taking shape. The completed canvas depicts a modern-day Guild Incorporated, but the story began over a century ago.

Responding to Need

In 1906, two women, Caroline Beaumont and Mrs. Judson W. Bishop (Mary A. Bishop), and thirty women of St. Luke’s Roman Catholic Church started the Guild of Catholic Women (GCW) to respond to needs they were seeing in their communities. Concerned for the welfare of new immigrants arriving in St. Paul with language and economic barriers and few resources, GCW began helping them meet basic needs by sewing and distributing clothing and food baskets. Two years later, they expanded this work, establishing the Travelers Aid Bureau to further help new immigrants by providing tem-

porary shelter, loans, and assistance to those who did not speak English.

By 1911, others had taken note of GCW’s work and Judge Grier M. Orr asked them to assist young, “wayward” women, showing up in juvenile court to find work and homes. A similar request came just a year later when the YWCA asked GCW to help other young, Catholic, working women. The GCW responded by leasing a building and, “with much painting, scrubbing, and furnishing . . . the house opened . . .”¹ The home provided housing for thirty women.

GCW’s work was being observed on a larger scale and by 1915 the organization had received letters from Catholic women across the country asking how



Artist Jason Najarak. Photo by Peter Koeleman. Photo courtesy of Guild Incorporated.

they could start similar organizations. To fund the growing work, GCW hosted the first charity ball in Minnesota at the St. Paul Hotel in 1917, an annual event that continued for nearly 75 years. Funds from the ball were used to continue

Inspiring the Ladder of Hope: Will’s Story

In the course of describing his experience of untreated schizophrenia, which cost him his job as a top Analyst in a Fortune 500 company; his income and savings, resulting in poverty; and ultimately, homelessness; Will Susens, now a graduate of Guild services, said, “. . . It is very possible, in our society, for a person to get down to where there are no societal ladders to grasp and climb back out of the hole a person has fallen into. No ladders means, little hope. Guild came along and extended a ladder all the way down to me—a

custom ladder, offering a continuum of supportive services so that I had appropriate services going up the ladder from basic housing, medications and meals, to, ultimately, vocational assistance for employment.”

Susens’ words gave birth to Guild Incorporated’s “Ladder of Hope,” the name given to the organization’s Giving Society and its annual fundraising events. Today, in addition to the many roles Susens holds in the community, Susens serves on Guild Incorporated’s board of directors.

Jason Najarak heard Susens speak and became interested in Guild’s work. Najarak has worked and exhibited with some of the most influential artists in history, including Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, and Marc Chagall. He gifted Guild Incorporated with a “Ladder of Hope” mural, inspired by his association with others, he says, whose “genius and mental illness played out in many ways.” Visit guildincorporated.org/news-events to get the full story and watch a video of the creation of the Ladder of Hope Donor Wall.

GCW's work and by 1923, the organization had 800 members.

Despite tremendous growth, GCW sustained its commitment to helping those who most needed it, focusing on veterans' needs at the end of World War I, establishing the forerunner to Catholic Charities in 1920, opening a larger building, called Guild Hall, to expand housing for working women in 1930, establishing Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in St. Paul in 1931, and Our Lady of Good

Counsel Home for adults with incurable cancer in 1941.

By 1964, the Guild Hall property was needed for the new St. Paul Vocational School, so GCW sold the building and began fundraising for a new site. Two years later, a new building went up and continued to house young, working women until the 1970s when need for the service declined. The GCW then provided housing for elderly women until once again they were called on for assistance.

Changing Focus

Ramsey County Human Services asked GCW to provide boarding for people leaving Hastings State Hospital, a psychiatric facility that was closing. Always responsive, the GCW said "yes" and in 1974, Guild Hall became a board and lodging facility for eighty-five men and women with mental illness. The change in population served at Guild Hall marked a large organizational shift for GCW—a developing passion to improve the lives of people with mental illness—a commitment that later gave birth to Guild Incorporated.

"There were no public funds for community services in those days as there are now," said Grace Tangjerd Schmitt, President of Guild Incorporated. "GCW raised the resources needed to hire the first administrator for Guild Hall." By the early 1980s, funds were becoming available for staffing and new residents were assigned to one of three Program Consultants to get help learning or re-learning everyday living skills and to set goals toward recovery.

"I got to know clients and they began to share more openly. The power of trusting relationships had a strong influence on me," commented Jim Delaney, an early staff member now serving as Guild Incorporated's Administrative Services Manager. "We all had daily interaction with those living at Guild Hall, no matter what our job responsibilities," said Guild Incorporated's CFO, Ken Carr. "I appreciated the opportunity to directly get to know those we were serving."

Early relationships between staff and residents helped to form the values that would guide the organization for years to come: that people with mental illness had strengths, wishes, desires, abilities, and aspirations and those elements were of much greater importance than their diagnosis.

Individuals could stay at Guild Hall as long as they needed assistance, but the overall goal was to help them prepare to live in the community. Some residents moved to Guild Apartments, a transitional setting in a building nearby, to try living more independently before moving to other community settings. "We didn't have services in the community to follow



Guild Incorporated Timeline

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1990: Guild Incorporated established by The Guild of Catholic Women (GCW); Grace Tangjerd Schmitt appointed President.</p> <p>1993-94: Demonstrated effective alternatives to institutional living by helping residents of Guild Hall move into their own apartments.</p> <p>1994: Started the Community Support Program (including Employment Services).</p> <p>1996: Created permanent, supportive housing for people with mental illness (Shared Housing).</p> <p>1998: Developed a team to serve individuals at risk of involuntary commitment.</p> <p>2001: Established Maureen's House.</p> <p>2002: Developed Emerson House, a shared housing resource with 24/7 services.</p> <p>2003: Started the Delancey Street Program.</p> <p>2005: Approved to provide Assertive Community Treatment Services (ACT).</p> <p>2006: Selected as one of four organizations in Minnesota to model supported employment.</p> <p>2008: Opened Sandy's House.</p> | <p>2009: Opened Delancey Apartments with Project for Pride in Living. Partnered with Regions Hospital, Hearth Connection, and the State of Minnesota on Hospital to Home project. Created Community Access. Partnered with Dakota County and Medica on the Preferred Integrated Network (PIN).</p> <p>2011: Opened an office in Minneapolis. Named Provider of the Year by the National Alliance on Mental Illness—Minnesota (NAMI)</p> <p>2012: Selected by UCare to launch new Care Coordination services. Enhanced ability to provide integrated care for both medical and mental health conditions through partnership with Medica and Hearth Connection in the Medica Supportive Housing Project. Received funding to expand Hospital to Home permanent supportive housing initiative. Honored with the Department of Human Services Commissioner's 2012 Circle of Excellence Awards for participation in PIN Project.</p> |
|---|---|

"If you needed to go to a group home, Guild Hall was the one you wanted to be at . . . the staff was great. I appreciated that you were educated on your medications . . . they didn't just hand you a pill and say, 'here, take this.'"

—GRACE GRAVELLE,
Advocate, Graduate Student,
Former Guild Hall Resident

people," recalled George Broostin, Guild Incorporated's Development Director, who worked as a Program Consultant. "So, once we helped them move out, we never knew if they were successful or not. Sometimes they ended up coming back to Guild Hall."

In 1982, Guild Hall was the first to be licensed under new standards as a residential treatment facility and in 1983, Dakota County asked GCW (doing business as Guild Residences, Inc.) to develop similar services. The GCW opened the first residential treatment facility, Guild South, for people with mental illness in Dakota County. Guild South Apartments opened a short time later.

Establishing Guild Incorporated

By the mid to late 1980s, a major shift in approach was taking place in mental health services. Professionals responsible for providing these services moved from a continuum model of residential treatment to a supported housing model of service, which emphasized the use of regular, community-based housing and individualized, flexible support when and where needed. Looking back on the changes, Guild Incorporated President, Grace Tangjerd Schmitt, said, "Services were turned on their ear." Changes were prompted, in part, by families of those with mental illness who formed the Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) and requested more housing options. At the same time, voices from "consumers," the individuals using the services, were beginning to surface; they wanted "housing, jobs, income . . . and a place in the community."²

In response to this changing climate, in 1990, GCW formed Guild Incorporated,

a not-for-profit subsidiary corporation, to administer and expand the work. "While the changes being made seem commonplace today, at the time, they were not," said Tangjerd Schmitt, hired by GCW (doing business as Guild Residences Inc.) in 1986, and later appointed president of Guild Incorporated.

The mission of Guild Incorporated, as defined in 1991, was to "help people with mental illness enjoy optimal health and lead a self-directed life in the housing of their choice." This statement reflected not



Will Susens, former client and current board member, was among the first clients to interview prospective staff of Guild Incorporated. Photo by Peter Koeleman. Photo courtesy of Guild Incorporated

only the changing face of mental health care, but also the organizational values that were continuing to develop. This early mission statement included treating individuals served as "unique human beings with . . . strengths and needs" and ". . . tailoring services to meet individual needs, preferences, and aspirations." Later, when choice in housing and other aspects of mental health care became the norm, the statement was simplified: "We exist to help people with mental illness lead quality lives."

Working to achieve Guild's mission under Tangjerd Schmitt's leadership, staff involved residents in the services they were receiving, which promoted self-direction and autonomy. Residents participated in agency planning sessions and

work groups and also interviewed prospective staff. "I was extremely impressed that Will Susens, a client, interviewed me," said Sue Bollinger Brown, Clinical Director for Guild Incorporated. Though she had worked in mental health for some years prior to joining the organization, Bollinger Brown commented that she had never been interviewed by a client.

Ongoing Relationship with GCW

Though a separate organization, Guild Incorporated benefited greatly from a continued relationship with GCW who stayed deeply involved in the work. In 1991, recognizing the need to educate their members, GCW established an Education Committee and included a column on mental illness in their newsletter. "Our members were great philanthropists who supported the mission of Guild Incorporated, but many really didn't know a lot about mental illness," said Mary Kay Ryan, who chaired the committee. GCW expanded their efforts and in 1992, the organization initiated "The Puzzle of Mental Illness," a free, community education series. "We were like pioneers starting it out," recalled Ryan. "People didn't talk about mental illness like they do now." The series continued for fifteen years and featured speakers who shared their experience with mental illness including Kathy Cronkite, daughter of Walter Cronkite, author Tom Hegg, and actress Carrie Fisher.

A year later, the GCW instituted the "Angel Fund," a financial gift program to help individuals served by Guild, who often had very low incomes. Designed to "lift spirits and help people soar," the fund fulfilled many requests including paying for guitar lessons and art classes as well as utility bills, eye glasses, co-pays for medical appointments, bus passes, and new shoes and clothing.

The GCW also remained committed to assuring individuals had an opportunity to celebrate the holidays. The tradition began with a Christmas celebration for the residents of Guild Hall and continued with an annual dinner for clients of Guild Incorporated and their children. The candlelight dinner featured a formal, sit-down meal served by GCW members and

their families. The event also included music; for many years Guild's president, Grace Tangjerd Schmitt, played the piano as an accompaniment to caroling. Each client received a cash gift and Santa Claus delivered a gift to every child.

Shifting to Supportive Housing Services

In 1993, Guild Incorporated implemented the "housing first" concept in Ramsey County through Dr. Paul Carling's Supported Housing Services model. Resulting, in part, from the shift in the approach to delivering mental health care that had begun years earlier, research was demonstrating that client choice in housing was a significant predictor of stability. This research also showed that the support and treatment that clients needed could be delivered in the community with favorable outcomes. Carling's model was a rehabilitation approach to housing that had three central processes: assessment, planning, and intervention. It also called for "an exploration and understanding of each individual's desires in relation to his or her living situation."³

Using this new approach and with community support and partnership from many including government leaders and family members, Guild Incorporated became the first organization in Ramsey County to demonstrate that individuals with a serious and persistent mental illness could live successfully in the community. From 1993 to 1994, Guild staffers helped all of the residents of Guild Hall move in to their own apartments, converting the program to Supported Housing services. At a time when people with mental illness were often "placed" in institutions and hospitals—the only available options—Guild was at the forefront of helping people choose, get, and keep affordable, community-based housing.

One of the challenges of closing Guild Hall was identifying and obtaining funding sources. "Ramsey County was very involved and helpful in identifying new funding, such as housing subsidies and other funds to provide supportive services as individuals moved to the community," said Guild Incorporated's CFO, Ken Carr. "We

"... the Guild CSP gives me a place to go... I've taken classes on Illness Management and Recovery and healthy eating. Taking classes is a HUGE help in my recovery and stability of symptoms."

—HEIDI NORDIN,
Manager of Network Operations,
Motorcycle Enthusiast, Guild Client

were able, along with Ramsey County, to pilot 'flexible funds' which enabled clients to pay for apartments, furnishings, and food. This was helpful in enabling individuals to not only have choice in where to live, but also autonomy in their everyday decisions."

Outside of financial considerations, helping to prepare all of the residents to move was a logistical feat. "We had a big chalk board in the lobby that indicated who was moving each month and on what date and the ballroom was set up with sections of household furnishings for each client who was moving," said George Broostin. After one year, 91 people were living in their own apartments in the community and on April 1, 1994, Ken Carr closed the doors of Guild Hall for the last time.

Developing Community-Based Services

Closing Guild Hall and converting it to community-based services was a significant event in Minnesota's mental health system. Despite the changes, Guild Incorporated's values remained, growing into "Values and Principles Guiding Guild's Supported Housing Programs," a document that included: "Recognize clients as whole people and help them use their strengths; Respect an individual's right to make choices; Challenge the status quo; ... give people hope and inspiration."

Guild staff went to work in the community as Supported Housing Specialists and later Case Managers, providing services where and when clients needed them, which often included visiting them in their apartments or accompanying them during psychiatry and other appointments. Services were ongoing, flexible, customized, and provided "in vivo" or in life. As an individual's needs changed, so did services. "Most of the clients were very excited and happy to have their own apartments," recalled George Broostin. For others, especially those who had been institutionalized for many years, the change was difficult. In those cases, staff "wrapped services around them," working with landlords



Jim Delaney, an early staff member, now serving as Guild Incorporated's Administrative Services Manager, helping move furniture for clients in the early 1990s; the task was a common responsibility of staff. Photo courtesy of Guild Incorporated.

and other community resources to assure clients had the tools they needed to retain their housing and avoid hospitalization. "What we really tried to do was match what the person needed and wanted and provide it or try to figure out where to get it," said Julie Grothe, who worked as a Program Consultant and now serves as Guild Incorporated's Director of Delancey Services.

Using ingredients derived from the Assertive Community Treatment model, which at the time was not yet the standard in Minnesota, Guild de-emphasized individual "caseloads" in favor of a multi-disciplinary team including Nurses and later Employment Specialists. The team approach assured availability of staff members, while encouraging clients to form multiple relationships. Staff partnered with clients, working side-by-side, to build skills including medication management, cooking, cleaning, budgeting, and self-care. "Doing whatever it takes" was a common sentiment and staff developed a reputation among themselves and in the local community of going above and beyond to help people succeed at community life. The work evolved into the Guild St. Paul Area Program.

In that same year, 1994, Guild Incorporated started a Community Support Program (CSP) to help people further integrate into the community. "The program resulted from the effort of community leaders striving for resources to support the clients in all of life's areas," said President Grace Tangjerd Schmitt. "Just as it is today, the CSP Center became a place for individuals to spend time with friends, take classes, pursue job interests, and get support." Rules for the CSP, part of Guild Incorporated's Rehabilitation Services, are established by its members.

Employment Services began as part of the Community Support Program when Guild Incorporated was awarded a grant for the services. Promoting work as part of the recovery process, Employment Specialists helped clients meet employment-related goals in the competitive labor market. "I remember one of the first clients I met with when I started at Guild Incorporated in 1994," said Peggy Darmody, Director of Employment Services. "He was surprised

Meet Jajamie

I graduated from high school in 1988. I felt very tired all of the time. I lacked energy and a sense of purpose. I'd get up every day and think, "When will this day be over?" I was just surviving. I moved to Guild Hall, a residential program for people with mental illness. First, I was diagnosed with depression and then with schizoaffective disorder. I was really sick. It wasn't the smartest thing, but at the time, I just didn't want to take the medications I needed to get better.

Guild staff helped me realize why I needed medications and how they could help me. And, I started working with a great psychiatrist, Dr. Baumer. Guild helped me find, move in to, and maintain my own apartment. Then, they helped me look for a job.

Guild helped me prepare for interviews and coached me on how to present myself. In the spring of 1999, I started working at local foods co-op, Mississippi Market—a job that combines two of my favorite things: healthy products and serving people.

I've been living in my own apartment for over twelve years. And, I've been working at the co-op just as long. I volunteer with the youth program at the Native American Center. Guild helps me to be more self-reliant. They've taught me how to balance my check book, manage my medications, explore my interests, and get through challenges at work.

Today, I have purpose. I'm thinking about my future and saving up for it. And, I'm doing the things that I love.



Jajamie where he works. Photo by Peter Koeleman. Photo courtesy of Guild Incorporated.

at my suggestion to call an employer about a job lead. . . . He did so and was offered an interview and subsequently offered the job." Not all clients got work so easily, but early successes created excitement about getting a job for individuals who thought they could not or had been out of work due to illness.

Two years later, Guild Incorporated responded to requests they had been receiving for several years from individuals, families, and the Dakota County Alliance for the Mentally Ill. In 1992, the Alliance asked Guild to develop a "long-term community housing alternative for their adult sons and daughters who could not live alone due to loneliness, isolation, or the reality of repeated hospitalizations." Guild began raising funds and, in 1996, with sig-

nificant financial assistance from GCW and other contributors, they acquired two single-family homes and began Shared Housing, the first of its kind in Dakota County. Offering a combination of housing and flexible services and support for people who chose to live with others, the development of Shared Housing involved many: consumers, families, mental health professionals, other service providers, Dakota County Community Services, and community members.

Preventing Hospitalization and Homelessness

By 1998, Guild Incorporated had experienced the success of the "housing first" approach and community-based treatment and was seeing positive outcomes

related to housing retention and recovery. That year, they furthered their efforts to keep people in the community, partnering with Ramsey County to develop a new team to help divert people from civil commitment—involuntary hospitalization and treatment—for mental illness. The “Jade Team,” now the intake team, worked closely with Ramsey County Crisis Services to provide short-term services to people at risk of commitment, working with them to create and implement voluntary, community-based treatment plans.

Two years later, Guild Incorporated became one of the first behavioral health programs to be accredited by CARF International, an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. Over the next decade, the organization would earn accreditation for nearly all of its services.

At Dakota County’s request, in 2001 Guild established the Maureen G. Heaney Guest House, the first non-hospital, community-based residential psychiatric service for individuals living in Dakota County. Named after Maureen Heaney, a Dakota County Services employee and strong advocate for mental health consumers until her death, Maureen’s House helps individuals in psychiatric or other crises to stabilize in the community without becoming homeless and without hospitalization whenever possible.

To offset the loss of residential treatment beds due to the start of Crisis Stabilization and to respond to continued need for a variety of housing options for individuals with mental illness, Guild developed specialized shared housing, now Rick’s House, in Ramsey County in 2002. The new site provided a shared housing resource with staff available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for those clients who wanted to live in the community and otherwise would likely end up in nursing homes and residential treatment facilities due to their need for a higher level of services. The goal of this service is to help people avoid hospitalization and reach optimal health.

The following year, Guild started Delancey Street, one of the initial providers in the Supportive Housing and Managed Care Pilot Project, to demonstrate the potential to reduce long-term



Meet Antrinita

As a child, I wanted for nothing, but I experienced a lot of sexual abuse. I became pregnant my last year of high school. My boyfriend joined the Marine Corps; we got married and had four kids.

At 35, I began having flashbacks of the abuse. I took anti-depressants, but I thought they might harm me, so I didn’t stay on them for long. After a while, my connection to my kids was just gone. I still did my motherly things, but that connection you feel wasn’t there. Drinking became my way of medicating.

A friend encouraged me to get treatment for drinking. I went in for an evaluation; they recommended Guild. Sara, from Guild, came to see me. I was afraid to go out and couldn’t keep up with everyday tasks. Sara listened and helped me fill out the forms to get in to treatment.

After treatment, I was homeless. Once I found transitional housing, Sara helped me get furnishings. She helped me set goals for myself, too. I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and major depression. At the end of my stay, Guild helped me get an apartment, identify local resources, and set up appointments.

I’ve been in my apartment for over two years. I see the difference medications make. I enjoy a close relationship with my kids and my grandkids. I still see someone from Guild, but only once a month now. I volunteer for Guild and for Emma Norton, the housing program I lived in. I have a very good outlook on my future.



Antrinita is both a Guild client and volunteer. Photo by Peter Koeleman. Photo courtesy of Guild Incorporated.

homelessness for the “most marginalized single adults.” The work was part of a five-year demonstration project, which grew out of a state-wide, public-private collaborative planning effort to address the complicated needs of those experiencing chronic homelessness. Hearth Connection contracted with Guild to provide services and supports to individuals and the project was later folded into the Metro Long-term Homeless Supportive Services Project in the seven-county metropolitan area in Minnesota. The Delancey Street team is multi-disciplinary and uses a “housing first” approach to help individuals meet basic needs, find and keep an affordable place to live, access physical and mental health care, make community connections, and achieve other goals including employment.

In 2005, having used the principles of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model on their case management teams for over a decade, Guild Incorporated was one of sixteen initial providers in Minnesota approved to provide ACT Services. Both Ramsey and Dakota counties contracted with Guild for the evidence-based practice. Designed for those with the most severe and hard to manage symptoms, ACT services, often referred to as a “hospital without walls,” due to the program’s round-the-clock availability of services and its multi-disciplinary team that includes a psychiatrist, provide all of an individual’s mental health services. ACT clients receive help in finding and keeping affordable housing, managing symptoms, maintaining an effective medication program, and exploring and pursu-

ing vocational opportunities, so they can achieve housing stability, optimal health and community connections.

The following year, in 2006, Guild Incorporated was selected as one of only four organizations in Minnesota to model the evidence-based practice of supported employment, a model funded through a grant from the Johnson & Johnson–Dartmouth Community Mental Health program, a private-public academic initiative. Established in 1994, Guild’s Employment Services had grown and were demonstrating that people with mental illness could be successful in the workplace.

By the fall of 2007, Guild Incorporated was once again seeking property: this time, a single-family home to respond to Dakota County’s continued need for supportive housing. Guild purchased and renovated a home adjacent to Emerson House, their Adult Foster Care site, and created permanent, affordable housing for women experiencing homelessness and mental illness. Guild’s founder, the Guild of Catholic Women, stepped in to decorate and furnish the home. Initially called Emerson Place, the program was later renamed Sandy’s House in honor of a long-time supporter and donor. Modeled after Guild’s successful Shared Housing sites of the mid-1990s, Sandy’s House provides an opportunity for those with similar experiences to live together with access to flexible services and support.

Partnering and Innovating

As the pilot work that Delancey Street started in 2003 progressed, Guild staff and others serving those experiencing chronic homelessness observed that approximately 15–20% of people they were serving had more difficulty maintaining their housing. During a meeting aimed at finding a solution for this group of individuals, the participants decided that a specialized, supportive housing option might offer the necessary help. Guild Incorporated and Project for Pride in Living (PPL) stepped forward to form a partnership and in 2009, they opened Delancey Apartments. Delancey Apartments provides a safe environment and easy access to information, support, and assistance for tenants. Using an innovative service model, staff engages participants with flexibility and creativity,



Guild Incorporated opened Delancey Apartments in 2009. Delancey Apartments is specialized, supportive housing for individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness and other challenges. Photo by Matt Schmitt. Photo courtesy of Guild Incorporated.

helping individuals reach the goal of housing stability.

Later that year, Guild Incorporated partnered with Regions Hospital, Hearth Connection, and the State of Minnesota on “Hospital to Home,” a project that identifies effective ways for individuals with mental illness experiencing chronic homelessness and chronic health conditions to get the care they need without relying on high-cost emergency room care. The Hospital to Home team assures access to permanent supportive housing and services that follow participants wherever they are, keeping them engaged and providing continuity in care.

Guild also became a partner in the Preferred Integrated Network (PIN) in 2009, a joint project with Dakota County and Medica to provide integrated health care to clients. The purpose of the project is to support and improve the health and well-being of clients by helping them access mental and physical health care as well as social services. Guild Case Managers assume the additional role of “Wellness Navigator,” by coordinating care for members, in this innovative project.

While Guild Incorporated had long integrated nursing into its services, in 2012, they increased their level of resources by creating a Director of Nursing position. Commenting on the change, President Grace Tangjerd Schmitt said, “This struc-

ture will help us to maximize the potential of better health overall for folks we serve through the integration of physical health-care with our work.” The change was prompted in part by UCare, which selected the organization to provide new Care Coordination services for their UCare Connect members with mental health disabilities. Guild staff coordinates care for members’ medical and mental health conditions while helping them reach wellness goals by promoting access to primary and preventive care and assuring members get the right care at the right time.

CARF surveyors documented Guild’s commitment to integrating physical care in the organization’s 2012 accrediting report stating, “[Guild Incorporated] is recognized for its commitment to new healthcare initiatives. It is evident that healthcare is truly integrated and a part of all areas of service delivery.”

Expanding Access

While Guild Incorporated had been working toward a vision of “practical, responsive, cost-effective services that are easy to access” for many years, in 2009, they took their efforts further by creating Community Access. Community Access increased the organization’s capacity and access to services by providing a dedicated Mental Health Professional, fully funded by the board of directors and



Guild Incorporated's administrative and program offices, located in downtown St. Paul, where the Ladder of Hope Donor Wall is on permanent display. Most employees leave the office daily to serve clients in the community. Photo by Jen Kelly. Photo courtesy of Guild Incorporated.

fundraising, to respond to new individuals calling for help—calls beyond their typical referral sources. Creating access to short-term services for people who previously would have been turned away due to lack of capacity, the program provides short-term services regardless of whether or not people can pay, the metro area county they live in, and whether or not they have a professional referral. The goal is to help individuals access care quickly and easily in order to improve mental health symptoms and prevent them from escalating into a crisis. As part of this approach, in 2011, Guild opened an office in Minneapolis, progressing toward their strategic goal of erasing geographic barriers and increasing access to services.

Moving Forward

At the end of 2011, Guild Incorporated's founder, the Guild of Catholic Women (GCW), made the difficult decision to close GCW. GCW's last president, Alison Enestvedt, noted, "We are proud that our mission of supporting those who struggle

with mental illness will be carried forward by Guild Incorporated, 'our offspring.' For more than thirty years, we have worked together both for individuals and for a change in community acceptance and improved care. In the future, we look to Guild Incorporated to continue this important work with the same spirit of service and offer of hope." GCW's support continued to live on through a joint endowment fund established by both organizations with The Saint Paul Foundation in 1998 to help support services for people with mental illness—a fund that, following the closing, was in Guild Incorporated's name only.⁴ Although GCW had closed, Guild Incorporated proudly carried its predecessor's mission forward as it was named Provider of the Year by NAMI, the National Alliance of Mental Illness.

The following year ushered in continued expansion and innovation for the organization. They were awarded grant funds to support expansion of the Hospital to Home project and they also became a partner in an additional collaboration, the Medica Supportive Housing Project. Launched by Medica and Hearth Connection, Guild's Delancey Services team offers an array of mobile supportive services and rental assistance to Medica members experiencing homelessness and health challenges. The project's goal is to help members secure housing, stabilize, and improve their health.

At the end of 2012, Guild Incorporated was honored with the Department of Human Services Commissioner's 2012 Circle of Excellence Awards for their participation as one of the direct service providers in the Preferred Integrated Network (PIN), a joint project with Dakota County and Medica.

By 2013, the organization was serving 1953 people in the metropolitan area on any given day, up from the 125 served when they formed in 1990.

Outcomes published by the organization that year included:

- 75% of individuals receiving Community Treatment Services were living in their own homes and maintained stable housing as of December 31, 2012.
- 91% of individuals, leaving their homes to be admitted for services at Maureen's

House, stabilized their situation without hospitalization for psychiatric care.

- Emergency Department use by participants in the Hospital to Home project decreased (81% in two years); and all participants moved into stable housing within three months of enrollment. (Wilder Research, November 2012)
- Response to 448 new individuals who called Community Access for help, a 30% increase over 2011.

In their final report, following Guild's 2012 accrediting review, CARF surveyors concluded, "The organization is a vital component in the fabric of the local community."

Like the canvas at the center of the donor wall in their boardroom, Guild Incorporated is layered, not with paint, but with people, experiences, partnerships, innovations, successes, and challenges. For Guild's president, Grace Tangjerd Schmitt, the wall is "a celebration of what we've accomplished together in the past and what we will accomplish together in the future."

Hayla Drake joined Guild Incorporated in 2002 as the organization's first Human Resources employee. Since that time, she has worked in both Human Resources and Communications capacities and currently serves as the organization's Staff Writer. She has a degree in English from the University of Wisconsin–River Falls.

Endnotes

1. Virginia Brainard Kunz, "The Guild of Catholic Women And Their 'Constant Effort To Brighten Lives . . .,'" *Ramsey County History*, 23, no. 1 (1988): 29.
2. Priscilla Ridgway and Anthony M. Zipple, "The Paradigm Shift in Residential Services: From the Linear Continuum to Supported Housing Approaches," *Psychosocial Rehabilitation Journal*, 13, no. 4 (April 1990): 15.
3. Paul J. Carling et al., "A Psychiatric Approach to Housing," adapted from W. A. Anthony and M. D. Farkas, eds., *Psychiatric Rehabilitation: Programs and Practices* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), 16–17.
4. Nick Ferraro, "The Guild Is Gone, But Still Giving," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, December 11, 2011, 1:6A; Judy Woodward, "Century-old GCW Disbands, But Its Good Works Continue with Endowment, Guild Inc.," *Villager*, November 23, 2011, p. 1.

R.C.H.S.

RAMSEY • COUNTY • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

Published by the Ramsey County Historical Society
323 Landmark Center
75 West Fifth Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 3989

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



From August to October of 2012, the Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller Memorial in St. Paul's Como Park underwent restoration. Here the restored statue once more welcomes visitors to the park. For more on Schiller and the restoration of this sculpture, see page 11. Photo courtesy of Robert Muschewske.