

Summer 2008

Dear Friends:

The summer has brought many exciting opportunities for LARS to continue serving the community, while adding new programs. In July, LARS received the first installment of a two year grant from ***The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation*** to fully fund a full-time Spanish speaking outreach worker. We are extremely thankful for the award, and appreciate the opportunity to better serve the members of our community who speak Spanish as their first language. LARS is currently in the process of interviewing for the position, and we hope to have the person on board in August.

To further enhance the services we offer, LARS is in the process of finalizing a new partnership with the office of ***Housing and Urban Development*** (HUD) to provide housing and intensive support to six chronically homeless individuals. We anticipate the project approval will come from ***HUD*** in the very near future, and are internally preparing to be able to quickly begin the program implementation. The opportunity will bring an additional full-time staff person on board while removing six people from the streets, and supporting them to be successful in the community.

With all of the wonderful program opportunities on the horizon, we have outgrown our current space located at 311 Laurel Avenue, and have been brain-storming ideas so we can continue to pursue opportunities to enhance the community resources we offer. ***The Home Builders Care Foundation*** (HBCF) happened to hear that LARS was looking for a larger space, and they approached us about a potential partnership. We are exploring the opportunity at this time, and expect that ***HBCF*** will either demolish and rebuild or renovate and expand our current facility at our present location. HBCF has generously donated their time and money to fund projects throughout the community that benefit local non-profits. This is an amazing opportunity for the LARS and the entire community.

Last but not least, there are so many amazing individuals, businesses, congregations, civic groups and foundations who generously contribute to support our work. Although funding for “operations” is not glamorous, it is needed to keep us going. I have focused my time on applying for funding opportunities that create resources and programs for the community, but few of the grants we receive help us with paying the utilities, making the payroll, repairing the building or the other behind the scenes needs for an operation like LARS. **If you are able, please consider making a contribution.**

I thank you all for this amazing opportunity to serve this community.

Fondly,

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